



## **Y-TAC Youth Leadership Camp Alaska, 2019**

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 young people, eager to develop their leadership skills to make a difference in their communities, attended a one-day Youth Leadership Camp experience. The Youth Leadership Camp was sponsored by the Alaska Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); Covenant House Alaska; the Alaska Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program; and the Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC).

Youth with disabilities between 17 to 23 years old, and interested in developing leadership skills while meeting other young people, joined Y-TAC in Anchorage to explore:

- the power of disability pride and getting comfortable with disability as part of an identity;
- deciding whether, how, why, and when to talk about a disability, how much to “disclose” to access needed services, and how empowering disclosure can be;
- how youth can advocate for themselves and others with disabilities: learn about disability rights and understand how laws and policies protect you;
- the connection between mental health and disability rights; and
- how to turn “stigma” into power.

To learn more about Youth Leadership Camps, contact Carly Fahey at [y-tac@iel.org](mailto:y-tac@iel.org).