



Autism Support Services

Youth Advocate Program, Inc. (YAP) works with over 13,000 youth and families annually in 20 states and the District of Columbia and over 100 communities. YAP's Autism Services, Support, Education and Training Center is grounded in research-based practices with a focus on fostering respectful and inclusive relationships that build community capacity, flexibility and unconditional acceptance of individuals on the autism spectrum.

YAP's Philosophy

YAP believes that people with autism are capable and intelligent family, friends, colleagues, and citizens: they are an asset to their families, schools, jobs, and communities. We also believe that autism is a natural aspect of human diversity likely to involve movement and sensory challenges and adaptations, and that it is understandable based on common human experiences. These beliefs translate into practice, shaping not only what we do, but most importantly, how we do it.

Services Overview

YAP's wide array of Autism Support Services can be summarized through two categories:

- **Direct Services**

YAP provides a number of services to directly support individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. We serve youth and adults with autism who are involved with behavioral and mental health, juvenile justice, child welfare and educational systems and specialize in supporting those who require intensive, strength-based interventions as an alternative to institutionalization. Our direct service programs are community-based and family-driven, facilitating developmental transitions from infancy through adulthood. Services also actively support and engage families and caregivers of individuals with autism.

- **Consultation, Training and Education**

YAP offers consultation and training to families, schools and other professionals and organizations. Conferences, webinars, and in-person trainings are presented from an "Inside-Out Perspective", meaning that people with autism contributed to the content through sharing their own experience on topics ranging from sensory-motor sensitivities, preferred interests, accommodations, transitions, anxiety and more. YAP has also worked with universities to develop specialized courses for students planning to work with individuals on the autism spectrum and curricula to help students on the spectrum adjust to college life.

Services

- Early Intervention
- Home & Community-Based Services and Supports from birth to age 21
- Job Coaching, Supported Employment & Job Exploration
- Post-Secondary Education Supports
- Community Living Supports
- Support & Coordination for Compensatory Education/ Special Needs Trust
- Respite Care
- Communication Assessments, Consultations & Planning
- Consultation to Families, Schools, & Community Organizations
- Training for Parents, Community Organizations, Students & Professionals

For More Information

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