



Aging Into Adulthood

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. provides services to young people on the verge of aging out of the system into adulthood. We have built our program model with an awareness of and sensitivity to the poor outcomes in various life domains that too many youth have faced in the past. With a dual emphasis on both skill development and relational connections, YAP's program uses a plan developed by assessing the youth's needs, strengths, and interests to guide the frequency of contact and balance of individual and group interventions.

Aging Into Adulthood Services

- Serves 14-24 year old young adults
- Populations served include; homeless, pregnant teens, parole re-entry, returning from residential, and truants.
- The length of stay is approximately 6 months
- Young people are referred from the local department of social services

Employment: Providing supported work and employment opportunities. Participants are connected with key industries within the community, creating community partnership as well as a lasting resource for the young adults.

Education and Vocation: YAP connects those in the program with the appropriate educational resources. We provide support to young people finishing their GED as well as those that need assistance with college or vocational education. Partnerships are developed with local educational institutions to build career tracks that support the development of vocational skills and certifications.

Independent Living Skills: YAP uses a number of curricula to help youth develop skills to manage all domains of their life. Often we use the Ansell E. Casey Life Skills Curriculum for general skill assessment, focus and intervention; however we have also piloted a

curriculum developed by a YAP Alumni called "The Affirmation Project" or TAP. YAP uses other evidence-based curricula to help with emotional regulation and self-awareness, such as the Peaceful Alternatives to Tough Situations (PATTS).

Leadership and Local Policy Development: Youth are grouped and led in the "Youth Justice Board Curriculum" developed by the Center for Court Innovation in NYC. Through this curriculum the young people will learn the skills to participate in local policy development and gain leadership abilities.

Advocacy: At the core of service delivery lies our community-based advocacy. Youth are matched with an Advocate from their community that works with them on their individual plan, offering weekly service delivery, case management, crisis intervention and other aspects of plan monitoring and youth engagement.

Giving Back: Youth are engaged in give back and volunteer activities while in the program. We incorporate the strengths, skills and interest of those involved in the program to create purposeful and lasting opportunities to volunteer in their community to further promote positive youth development: a sense of contribution, competency, caring, character and connection to the larger community.