



Child Welfare Programs

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) works with over 13,000 youth and families annually in 22 states and the District of Columbia in over 100 communities. YAP safely and successfully engages youth and families in the child welfare system across a wide-spectrum of needs with a singular focus: to safely stabilize the home situation by the development of skills and the strengthening of relationships between family members and the larger community.

OUR SERVICE MODEL

- ❖ **Services to the Most Challenging Youth:** YAP has a rich history of providing services and supports to the most challenging youth in the child welfare system including: Youth with a history of multiple foster placements; “cross-systems” youth (juvenile justice and child welfare); youth who have moved between foster care settings; youth who have been in care for greater than three years; and youth with no known family or network of adult supports to assist them upon discharge from care.
- ❖ **Intensive Advocacy Supports:** YAP provides intensive services designed to keep kids and communities safe. Paid advocates/mentors are recruited from the same zip code area where the youth and family reside. Advocates provide up to 30 hours of service per week, based on needs for supervision, structure and support. They work flexible hours including evenings and weekends and provide 24/7 crisis support.
- ❖ **Unconditional Caring:** We maintain a “no reject, no eject” policy: No one is ever refused services or discharged from service due to their previous history or reluctance to engage in the program.
- ❖ **Empowering Youth and Families:** We partner with youth and families to devise flexible, individualized interventions built on unique strengths and needs based on wraparound principles and strategies: When we first meet a family, we ask four basic questions: What do you need? How can we help? How can we work together as equal partners? How can you help your neighborhood and community?
- ❖ **Wraparound and Family Support:** We often assign advocates to assist parents and caregivers to address their service needs and help them better care for their children. We build engaged and sustainable family teams: This ensures that services occur within the community and neighborhood in which our families reside and that these supports continue long after YAP services end.
- ❖ **Investing in Local Communities:** We hire locally, support local businesses through subsidizing the wages of youth working in local businesses; create leadership positions for alumni and enhance local non-profits by involving youth in community service activities with or without a mandate from court.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Family and Community Reunification Services
- Prevention of Placement from the Home
- Preventing Disruption of Placement in an Adoptive or Foster Home
- Services to Families with Longstanding Child Neglect Issues
- Early Intervention and Parenting Support
- Support for Aging-Out Youth
- Recruitment of Permanent Family Resources

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stephanie Hart

President

shart@yapinc.org

518.651.4297