

Finding Families Program



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Finding Families Program works with youth who are lingering in foster care or residential facilities with no identified discharge options/resources. Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) staff use the never give up approach to find or create a resource for each youth identified whether it is a long lost family member or a person that shows interest in the youth and would be willing to become a resource – otherwise known as “fictive kin.”

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- **Inclusive Intake and Unconditional Care** - Every advocate program operates under a “no reject, no eject” intake policy.
- **Rapid Engagement** - Once a referral is made to YAP staff immediately, within 48 hours of receiving referral, begin to make phone calls and set up meetings.
- **Resource Finding** - YAP staff is committed to finding at least 5-6 resources for the youth referred. These can be family members or “fictive kin” with an interest in the youth.
- **Resource Planning** - A Resource Plan will be completed on the top three resources located and willing to accept the youth permanently into their home.
- **Resource Team Meetings** - Resource Team Meetings (RTM), comprised of the DSS Case Manager and other invested parties, will take place to discuss top three choices. The Resource Team will review the resource plan and a final resource will be identified and targeted.
- **GPS MAPPS Classes/Kinship Classes** – Credentialed YAP staff provide the foster/kinship care classes required for the home to be certified and fully prepared for the youth’s arrival in the home.
- **Visitation Coordination** - A visitation schedule will be coordinated which includes transportation and a safety plan for visitation. YAP staff monitors the progress of the visits and follows up on concerns or issues that need to be addressed.
- **24/7 Crisis Intervention** - Staff is accessible to families via mobile phone on a seven day per week/ twenty four hour per day basis.
- **Family Empowerment and Partnership with Parents** - Families, youth, resources and fictive kin are treated as equal partners in all aspects and stages of the Extreme Recruitment process.
- **Discharge/Case Closure** - Youth and families are discharged from the Extreme Recruitment Program once a viable and willing resource is located and agreed upon for the youth.
- **Ancillary/Flexible Funds** - YAP’s “whatever it takes” approach in Extreme Recruitment includes helping families obtain the extras that may be needed to return a youth to their home. Flexible funds are utilized when families have no other resources. Purchases may include extra food for visitation schedules until permanent custody is awarded, household supplies including additional beds and dressers, appropriate clothing for school, or assistance with security deposits for rental of safer, and more appropriate housing.



Timeline of Service Planning

