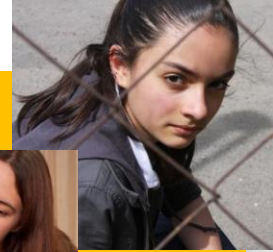


HOUSING AUTHORITIES



There are 16.4 million, or approximately one in four, American children living in poverty today, roughly the same amount as when President Lyndon B Johnson declared the “War On Poverty.” Childhood poverty is tied to a number of negative outcomes, such as poor academic achievement, school dropout, abuse and neglect, behavioral and socio-emotional problems, physical health problems, and developmental delays. One of the strongest determinants of ending up poor is being born poor. According to Charlie Mangiardi, of the nonprofit, Year Up, “Their destiny is too often determined by their ZIP code.”

Housing Authorities understand the importance of ensuring children and youth have safe, secure homes and communities. Many have further taken steps to bring opportunities to youth and families who reside in their communities through programming that promotes self-sufficiency, education and employment, among others.

With a 40-year history of working with the most high need and risk youth and families within their homes, school, and neighborhoods, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) is uniquely positioned to collaborate with Housing Authorities to successfully enhance or implement social service programming within even the most high crime and impoverished communities. With an approach that engages the Housing Authority, Resident Councils and Tenant Leaders as partners, YAP builds on existing resources within the community to reduce community violence and connect youth and families with positive role models and activities, supporting the family, academic achievement, and employment opportunities.

Program Components

YAP works with youth an average of 12 hours a week in one-on-one and small group settings, providing services in their home, school and community at times most needed by the family, such as after school, later evening and weekends. YAP will not refuse a youth service, nor will a youth be denied service for issues such as non-compliance. The program lasts approximately six months, and offers the following:

- Individualized Service Plans built on strengths, needs, and dreams/wishes
- Development of Child-Family Teams
- Safety Planning and 24/7 Crisis Support
- Case Management
- Community Service/Give Back
- Evidence-Based Group Based Activities and Curricula
- Supported Work Opportunities
- School Engagement
- Family Engagement and Support
- System Mapping and Connecting Families to Resources

FEATURES TAILORED TO HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

- ▶ Partnership with Housing Authority, Resident Councils and Tenant Leaders
- ▶ Hiring Tenants as Advocates Whenever Possible
- ▶ Drop-In Center Available to All Resident Youth
- ▶ Youth Engagement Councils