



JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) works with over 13,000 youth and families annually in 21 states and the District of Columbia in over 100 communities. YAP safely and successfully engages youth in the juvenile justice system across a wide-spectrum of needs with a singular focus: to safely integrate youth within their community by building their skills and positive connections to the 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 juvenile justice system, including: youth with cross-systems involvement; violent or gang-involved youth, youth with multiple offenses; youth who have sexually offended.
- **Support/Supervision/Monitoring:** High-risk youth are provided with intensive structure, supervision and support to avoid further juvenile justice involvement and out-of-home placement. As part of its evidenced-based practice guide, the National Institute of Corrections calls for 40-70% of high risk-offender's time to be engaged in structured activities. Advocates develop weekly schedules with youth to meet this goal.
- **Intensive Advocacy Supports:** YAP provides intensive services designed to keep kids and communities safe. Paid, trained and carefully supervised advocates 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 intervention services.
- **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? We work from the beginning of service to develop the family's transition assets, or skills in self-management, and increasingly shift responsibility for decisions onto them over time.
- **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, comprised of both professional and informal supports. 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.
- **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.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Alternatives to Detention
- Community Reintegration
- Diversion Services
- Services for Pre-Adjudicated Youth
- Gang Intervention/Prevention
- Truancy Prevention / Intervention
- Supported Work

Evidence-Based Curricula

- Girls Circle
- Peaceful Alternatives to Tough Situations (PATTS)
- Check and Connect
- Teen Outreach Program (TOP)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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