

# Reunification Program



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) provides intensive services to safely reunify families who have children in residential or other placement outside of their home. An extensive assessment is provided in collaboration with the placement facility/location, the local social service department, the family, community partners and local law enforcement.

The proactive planning includes:

- Detailed safety plans
- Supervision schedules
- Securing educational services
- Exploration of employment and vocational options as appropriate
- Referrals to appropriate services such as mental health and substance abuse
- Extensive work with family, youth and referring authority to find a viable discharge option if there is no current option.

Once the plan is approved by the family and the local Department of Social Services (LDSS), a discharge date is established for the youth. Upon discharge, the plan is implemented and intensive family and community work begins.

## PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Concentrate on the special needs of the youth returning to their home and community and their families
- Adhere to a “no reject, no eject” referral and service delivery policy
- Offer 24/7 crisis on call and response
- Ensure individualized service planning based on strengths and needs of youth and families
- Offer flexible hours to meet the family’s schedule and needs
- Provide mentoring/role modeling
- Develop life skills
- Connect with Community Supports to prevent or address unmet needs, such as anger management, conflict resolution skills and substance abuse
- Offer family guidance and support
- Enforce curfew checks, restitution and community service
- Support reunification and transition while rebuilding relationships



## Timeline of Service Planning

