

Who We Are

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization committed to providing cost-effective, community-based alternatives to institutional placement. For over 40 years, we have actualized our mission through advocacy, policy change, and the provision of cost-effective direct service programming. We serve over 13,000 families a year in more than 100 programs across 21 states and the District of Columbia in rural, suburban and urban areas. Since our beginning in 1975, 100% of our programming occurs in the home communities of the people we serve.

What We Do

YAP specializes in serving the most high and complex need children, youth and families (those most at risk of or currently in institutional placement) by providing intensive, unconditional support through our YAPWrap model. Our model is comprehensive and holistic, utilizing best practices and core principles found in the wraparound, mentoring, restorative justice and positive youth development fields. YAP has expertise in engaging system involved youth and families, ensuring compliance with all mandates and requirements while incorporating the youth and family's needs and interests into the service plan.

YAP's strength-based approach works with families to increase their ability to self-manage and safely problem-solve their needs by developing their competencies and network of community support. YAP seeks to (re-) connect families to services as well as to positive people, places and activities, and with opportunities to contribute to their communities in meaningful ways. This community connection is critical to long-term success, as these supports are more sustainable than our services, more naturally occurring, and often more meaningful than the services often assigned to them.

How We Do It

YAP provides youth and their families with intensive services in their homes and community that include case management, crisis intervention services available 24/7, skill development, educational and vocational work and connection with social and professional supports through the development of individual service plans.

YAP spends time with each youth and family and their team of professional and non-professional supports to develop a plan that identifies the youth and family's strengths, interests, challenges and needs. The plan is then implemented with the support of paid, trained and weekly supervised "Advocates."



OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

Individualized Service
Planning

Focus on Strengths

Unconditional Caring

Cultural Competence

Team Work

Giving Back

Partnership with Parents

Community-Based Care

Corporate & Clinical
Integrity

ANYTHING THAT CAN BE
DONE IN AN INSTITUTION
CAN BE DONE IN THE
COMMUNITY,
ONLY BETTER

YAP tracks outcomes for our youth. The following is information about our youth nationally at the time services end:

83.4% WERE NOT ARRESTED WHILE IN THE PROGRAM

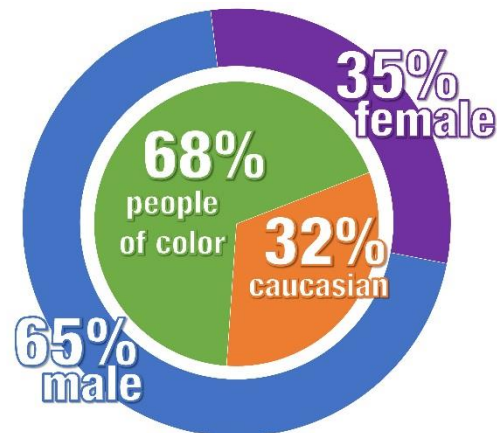
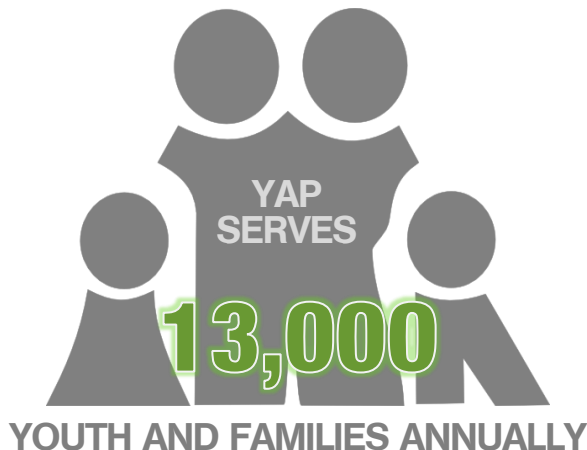
90.4% WERE LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY AT TIME OF DISCHARGE

85% OF YOUTH GRADUATED OR WERE ATTENDING SCHOOL

84.3% WERE NOT ADJUDICATED OF NEW MISDEMEANOR OR FELONY CHARGES WHILE IN THE PROGRAM

93.9% OF CHILD WELFARE-INVOLVED YOUTH RESIDED WITH BIOLOGICAL OR FOSTER FAMILIES AT DISCHARGE

88% OF ADDICTION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS REPORT A REDUCTION IN SUBSTANCE USE



National 2015 demographics of youth and families

External Recognition

YAP is a pioneer in juvenile justice reform and has been acknowledged by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and several other respected professional groups as a **“promising practice”** in providing effective alternatives to institutional care. The Research & Evaluation Center and John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York has recognized Youth Advocate Programs as a **“Gold Medal Program”** that is informed by the science of adolescent development and built around the concepts of the Positive Youth Justice Model. In 2009 and 2013, YAP received accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. YAP received the Gloria J. Jenkins Award from the Annie E. Casey Foundation for **“Outstanding Contributions to Detention Reform by a Community Provider”** in 2015.



Policy & Advocacy Center

YAP works toward our mission of deinstitutionalization in three ways: by providing direct services; by supporting adults, youth and families in their efforts to become self-advocates; and by informing legislative inquiries with the voices of the people we serve.

The YAP Policy and Advocacy Center facilitates the transfer of lessons learned from our four decades of work to policy makers at the local, state and national levels in order to ensure the evolving needs of the people and communities we serve can be met through innovative and community-based solutions.

The center launched in 2012 to crystallize the agency's longstanding commitment to advocacy, policy and systems change. In 2015, YAP launched the Safely Home Campaign (safelyhomecampaign.org) which focuses on redirecting resources from institutions to communities, and on reducing racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.



YAP International

Just like individuals and families, international communities have unique sets of needs influenced by culture, custom and challenging socio-economic climates. Guided by its unwavering commitment to cultural competency, YAP

works closely and in various capacities with international partners across five continents to address their endemic needs, goals and objectives in serving high risk youth and young adults.

From Ireland to Sierra Leone, communities abroad look to the YAP experience to inform their efforts in providing community based alternatives to institutionalization, bridging critical service gaps in highly challenged environments, and promoting civic engagement to spur social change.

The need for strength-based sustainable community-based supports for at-risk youth and their families transcends physical boundaries. The YAP Wraparound and Advocacy Model, with its multiple dimensions and strong commitment to client driven interventions, has proven an effective and adaptable response to this far reaching need within widely diverse international communities.

Our international work has seen significant growth in recent years. Pilots in Australia and Sweden continued to demonstrate reduction in reliance on institutional care, and our sister program in Ireland recently expanded to provide service in 20 counties.

ENDOWMENT FUND

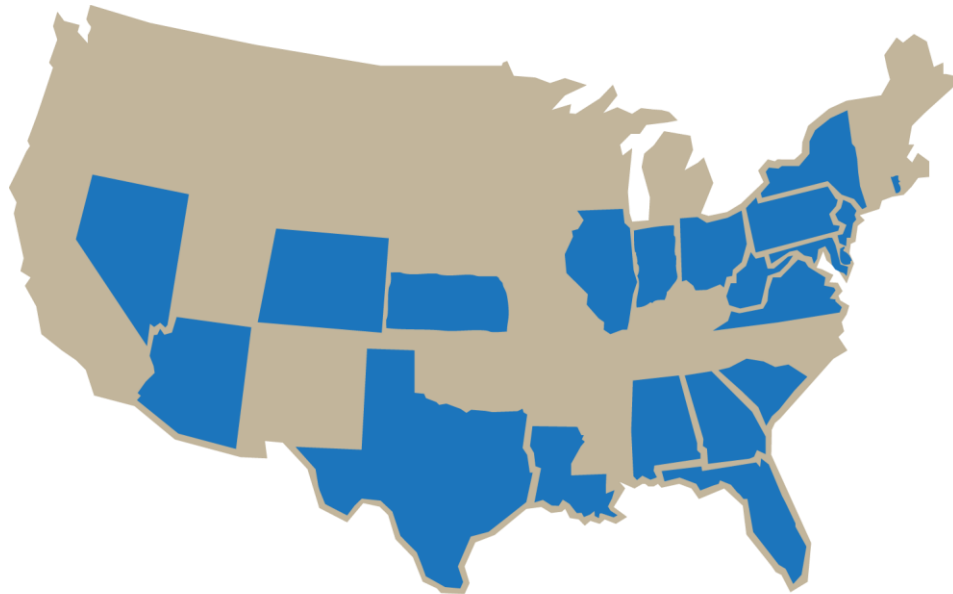
Since 2007, YAP has awarded over 100 scholarships to youth and families involved in our programs.

The Tom Jeffers Endowment Fund for Continuing Education has assets in excess of \$1 million, funded primarily by employees' fundraising efforts and weekly payroll deductions.

Whether the dream is college, vocational training, or any of a thousand other practical endeavors, the Endowment Fund helps young people take a first step.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, ONE BIOGRAPHY AT A TIME



**AL • AZ • CO • DC • DE • FL • GA • IL • IN • KS • LA
MD • NJ • NY • NV • OH • PA • RI • SC • TX • VA • WV**

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

-all services take place within the community-

Behavioral/Mental
Health Services

Juvenile Justice Services

Child Welfare Services

Services for Individuals with
Developmental and
Intellectual Disabilities

School-Based Services

Workforce Development Support

Substance Use Services

Health and Wellness Services

Gang Intervention and
Violence Prevention