

# Permanent Connections for Youth



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Youth Advocate Programs' (YAP) Permanent Connections for Youth services are designed to identify and engage permanency options for youth who are lingering in out of home care who have no identified viable discharge options. Incorporating elements of the National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness' *Family Finding* model, YAP staff employ our hallmark *never give up* approach to identify a resource for each youth, 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 intake policy** and a **no eject policy** for youth in the program.
- **Rapid Engagement** – Once a referral is made to YAP, staff immediately establish contact with the young person within 48 hours and begin the assessment process.
- **Resource Finding** – YAP staff is committed to finding at least 20 resources for each youth referred through a process known as *mobility mapping*. These can be family members or “fictive kin” with an interest in the youth.
- **Go-To Resource Planning** – YAP staff will develop a resource plan for the best three of the 20 resources willing to accept the youth permanently into their home.
- **Resource Team Meetings** – Resource Team Meetings (RTM) will take place to discuss top three choices. The Resource Team will review the resource plan and identify and select a final resource.
- **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 permanency planning process.
- **Discharge/Case Closure** – Once a viable and willing resource is identified and agreed upon, youth and families are discharged from the FIPS component. Discharge plans include recommendations/plans for referrals and ongoing services as may be required to ensure stability.
- **Ancillary/Flexible Funds** – YAP's “whatever it takes” approach in Family Identification includes helping families obtain the extras that may be needed to assimilate a youth into their home. Flexible funds are utilized when families have no other resources. Purchases may include extra food for scheduled visitation 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**



<p><b>1<sup>st</sup></b> <b>48 Hrs.</b></p>	<p><b>Referral Received</b> <b>Initial Contact</b></p>
<p><b>Week 1</b></p>	<p><b>Initial Genogram &amp; Mobility Map</b> <b>Assess Educational Needs</b></p>
<p><b>Week 2</b></p>	<p><b>Complete File Mining</b> <b>Identification of Supports</b></p>
<p><b>Week 3</b></p>	<p><b>Initial Contact with Possible Permanency Resources</b> <b>Update Mobility Map</b></p>
<p><b>Week 4</b></p>	<p><b>Continued Contact with Expanded Resource List</b> <b>Review Recruitment Progress with RA</b></p>
<p><b>Week 5</b></p>	<p><b>Continued Resource Identification &amp; Recruitment</b> <b>Establish Plan for Resource Team Meeting</b></p>
<p><b>Week 6</b></p>	<p><b>Conduct Resource Team Meeting</b> <b>Finalize Transition Plan</b></p>