



Juvenile Justice Programs



Youth Advocate Program, Inc. (YAP) works with thousands of families a year in more than 100 programs in rural, urban and suburban communities across the country. YAP safely and successfully engages youth in the juvenile justice system across a wide-spectrum of needs with a singular focus: to safely maintain or reintegrate youth within their community by building their skills and positive connections to their families, schools and community.

OUR SERVICE MODEL

Services to High and Complex Need Youth

YAP has a rich history of providing services and supports to youth with significant and complex needs, including: youth with cross-systems involvement; gang-involved youth; youth with multiple offenses; youth with trauma or mental health challenges; and LGBTQ+ youth.

Services that are Flexible Yet Intensive

The National Institute of Corrections calls for 40-70% of high risk-offender's time to be engaged in structured activities. Youth are provided with structure, supervision and support through frequent contact with their staff at the times, days and locations most needed, such as the youth's home, school and community. Youth are seen multiple times per week at dosages appropriate according to need. Individualized safety plans are developed with each family, and staff are available 24/7.

Holistic and Individualized Services

Each young person and family is engaged as equal partners in our planning and service delivery processes. We learn the family's needs, strengths, interests, preferences, and priorities. We then engage a team of community supports- made up of system and provider stakeholders, but also positive people, places, services and activities in the community- who help the family to achieve its goals. Some of the members remain in the family's lives even when our services end.

Services that are Culturally Responsive

Paid, trained and carefully supervised Advocates are recruited from the same neighborhoods where the youth and family reside. Advocates have GEDs to PhDs. They are carefully matched with their youth and families and often share attributes such as

PROGRAMS

- ▶ Alternatives to Detention
- ▶ Alternatives to Incarceration
- ▶ Aftercare/Re-Entry
- ▶ Diversion Services

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL INTERVENTIONS

- ▶ Supported Work
- ▶ YAPWORX
- ▶ Restorative Circles and Conferencing
- ▶ Peaceful Alternatives to Tough Situations (PATTS)
- ▶ Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- ▶ Thinking for a Change (T4C)
- ▶ Carey Guides
- ▶ ACRA
- ▶ Seven Challenges

ethnicity, race, language, and interests. They work closely with youth and families to help them achieve the goals in their individualized service plan.

Services that are Family-Focused

Respectful partnership with families is one of YAP’s guiding principles, and creates an environment that fosters youth and family active participation and engagement in services. Staff help parents work on meeting the needs of their young person and on meeting their own concrete and emotional needs.

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.