

Juvenile Justice Programs

Strengthening Communities
One Biography at a Time



Youth **Advocate**
PROGRAMS, INC.





Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization committed to providing cost-effective, community-based alternatives to institutional placement through direct service, advocacy and policy change.

18 STATES



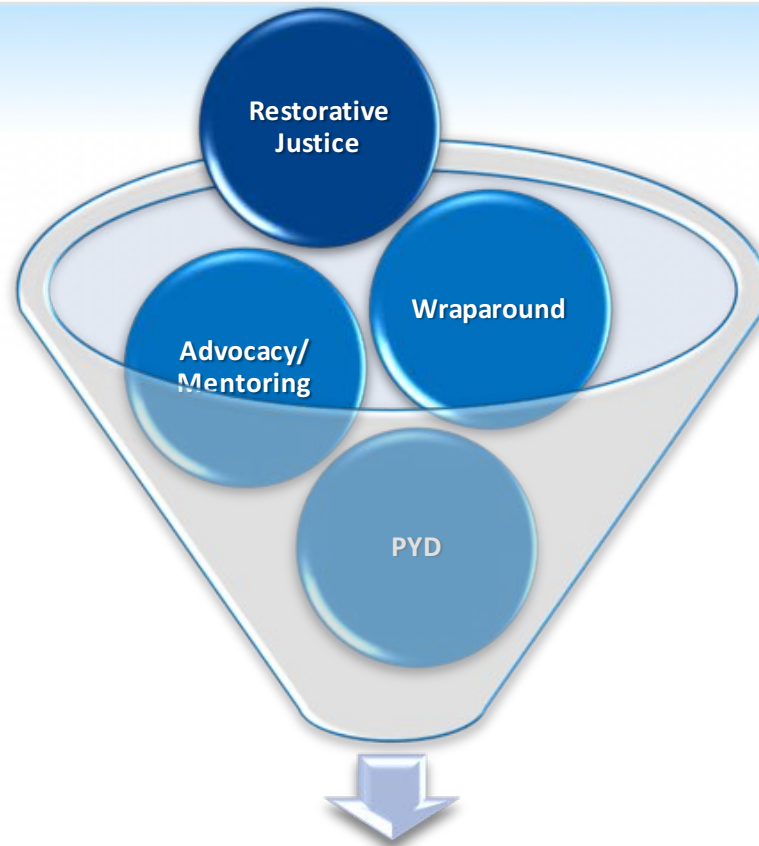
**12,000
FAMILIES**



5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

NO REFUSE POLICY
INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN
FAMILY FOCUSED
STRENGTH BASED
NEIGHBORHOOD
BASED RECRUITMENT

YAP-WRAP MODEL



YAP Wrap Model

ADVOCATE MODEL

Paid “natural helpers” recruited from the same communities as the youth and families

- ⦿ Provide supervision and develop a “trust relationship” with assigned youth/family
- ⦿ Caring, Positive Adult Role Models
- ⦿ Implement the ISP
- ⦿ Work in the home, school, community
- ⦿ Coach, Mentor, and Model through real-time experiential learning
- ⦿ Available 24/7



EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH/FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- ⊙ Supportive and trust-based relationship
- ⊙ Family focused
- ⊙ Zip Code Recruitment of staff
- ⊙ No refusal, No Eject, No Reject Policy
- ⊙ 24/7 staff availability
- ⊙ Cultural/ Linguistic Competence
- ⊙ Paid positive adult role models as “credible messengers” (ROCA)
- ⊙ Drivers of change are residents
- ⊙ Subsidized employment, paid work experience/YAP Works Model

ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- ① Serve high-risk/high need youth and their families
- ① No “wrong door” approach
- ① Voice, Choice and Ownership
- ① Individualized approach
- ① Family focused
- ① Strength and Interest-based

ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS CONTD.

- ⊙ Engage youth in meaningful work
- ⊙ Prioritize safety and crisis planning
- ⊙ Unconditional caring
- ⊙ Create opportunities for civic engagement/giving back
- ⊙ Available, accessible and flexible
- ⊙ 24/7 staff availability

SUPPORTED WORK



- YAP funded employment (average 3-4 months)
- Designed as a “gateway service” to normalized employment (Includes employment preparation, skill-building, support)
- Based on educational/vocational interests
- Job Coaching by advocate
- Monitoring of youth at site
- Safe, productive community employment
- Small Business Owner as Community Mentor/Role Model

SERVICE FLOW



REFERRAL & ENGAGEMENT

- Referral Received
- Initial Talk with JPO



ASSESSMENT & PLANNING

- Initial Assessments completed; includes needs, strengths, cultural inventory and safety planning
- Advocate services begin working on initial needs and priorities
- Host Child family Team Meeting
- Formal development of Service Plan; distributed to all team members



SERVICE DELIVERY

- Crisis support available 24/7
- Work on Goals in ISP
- Regular communication with Youth's Team
- Weekly Supervision of Advocate
- Ongoing Training



TRANSITION & DISCHARGE

- Final Family Team Meeting
- Ensure connections secure post-YAP

EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH JUVENILE PROBATION

- ① Lucas County, Ohio
- ① Tarrant County, Texas
- ① Harris County, Texas
- ① Clark County, Nevada

THE SAFELY HOME CAMPAIGN

- ① The Safely Home Campaign is a web-based, nationwide campaign which promotes the belief that community-based alternatives for system-involved young people should be the norm and out-of-home placements the exception, not the other way around.

SAFELY HOME CAMPAIGN GOALS

- ⊙ Engages youth and families to have voice and choice in what happens to them
- ⊙ Supports and develops policies that incentivize keeping families together
- ⊙ Promotes the re-direction of resources from out-of-home placements to effective community-based programs and interventions
- ⊙ Builds the capacity of the community and government agencies

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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