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 almost 40 years, we have actualized our mission through advocacy, policy change, and the provision of cost-effective direct service programming. We serve over 12,000 families a year in more than 100 programs across 18 states 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 YAP wraparound/advocate 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, ensuring compliance with all mandates and requirements while incorporating the youth and family’s needs and interests into the service plan.

YAP 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. Our approach is strength-based and seeks to (re-) connect families to community supports, 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 relationship with them and more naturally occurring 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 Programs

Juvenile Justice
- Alternatives to Detention
- Post-Adjudication Support
- Reintegration
- Gang Intervention
- Violence Prevention

Child Welfare
- Reunification
- Family Preservation
- Family Finding
- Infant and Toddler Services

Behavioral/Mental Health
- In-home, School & Community
- Outpatient
- Family-Based
- Respite

Developmental Disabilities
(including intellectual disabilities, TBI and Autism spectrum disorders)
- Respite
- In Home & Community

www.yapinc.org
YAP Advocates are caring adults who live in the same communities as the youth and families they serve. Advocates are positive role models to whom young people can easily relate. Their shared cultural identity is a natural bridge to developing the trusting relationship that is essential in engaging youth and families in a positive change process.

Advocates help implement the individual service plan that is developed with each family. Available 24/7, Advocates provide services at times and locations when they are most needed, allowing for highly individualized and effective intervention. During their assigned hours—up to 30 hours per week—advocates provide intensive supervision, mentoring, coaching, brokering and modeling through purposeful individual, family and, at times, group activities.

Advocates help youth and families meet their obligations to judges, probation officers, case managers and other referring entities, thus avoiding further penetration into the system. Advocacy services also include assistance with part-time employment, constructive use of leisure time, community service and connections with appropriate community resources. Advocates help young people and families expand their horizons and inspire them to set and achieve new goals.

The "how" of what we do will vary with each youth we work with because our plans are individualized. But overall, what we do is simple: we do whatever it takes.

Research and Outcomes
The University of Texas/San Antonio received one of five OJJDP Mentoring Best Practices Research grants to evaluate YAP’s model.

Ten external evaluations conducted by respected organizations have led YAP to consistently being considered a Best Practice Model. YAP programs were shown to have high program completion rates; low rates of placement into residential foster care; low numbers of young people who are AWOL; and residential stability.

YAP is recognized as a “Promising Practice” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Council on Crime & Delinquency.

View our documentary film “Safely Home” at www.yapinc.org or by scanning the QR code.

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