

St. Louis Pilot

Youth Advocate Programs

Overview

- Convened and facilitated by Deaconess Foundation
- Mission: to provide neighborhood-based support to youth and families so they can stay together and safely home, out of institutional placement.
- Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) will provide \$400,000 from our Safely Home Fund to support the first year of a St Louis YAP Pilot Program
- Program will serve 30 young people in St Louis City and County with complex needs, and who are in or at-risk of being separated from their families and placed out of the home.

Wrap-Around Services

24/7 Crisis Support

Family Focus

Cultural and Linguistic Competence and Humility

Individualized Service Plans

Crisis and Safety Planning

No Reject, No Eject Policy

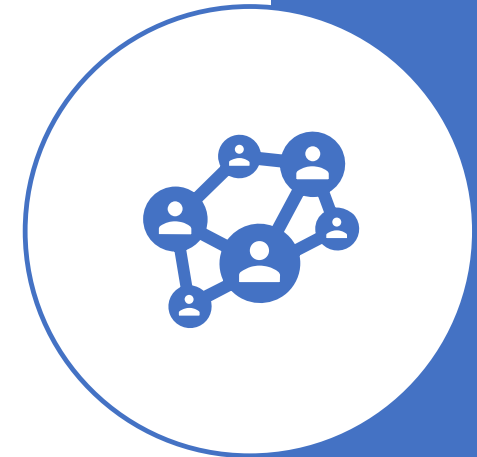
Strength-Based

Paid Mentoring

Trauma-informed

Advocacy

- YAP hires linguistically and culturally competent Advocates.
- Advocates often reside in the same neighborhoods or zip codes of the families they serve.
- Advocates build a positive rapport with youth and their families and help to carry out the goals of the Individual Service Plan (ISP).
- Advocates often have shared lived experiences of our young people and families and therefore are credible messengers, best able to engage and develop a trusting relationship with the people we serve.



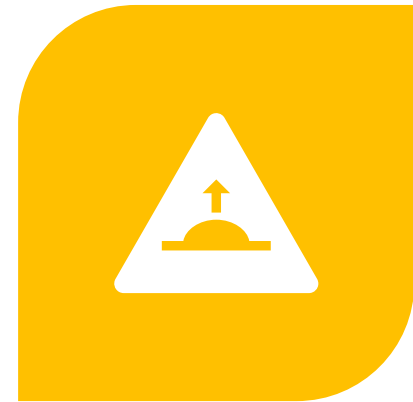
STL Pilot



SUPPORTED WORK: THIS IS A FORM OF
SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT



FLEX FUND



CRISIS/SAFETY PLANNING: SAFETY ASSESSMENTS
AND PLANS ON RISK ISSUES SUCH AS
ABUSE/NEGLECT, VIOLENCE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE,
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, EXPLOITATION, SUICIDE,
DEPRESSION OR RUNAWAY BEHAVIORS WILL
NEED TO BE A KEY FOCUS

Goals and Desired Outcomes



Reduce recidivism



Advance racial equity and justice



Keep young people out of placement and reduce the number in placement



Increase the number of positive adult role models in the lives of targeted youth/families



Enhance vocational/educational opportunities



Build capacity for youth to remain safely home

Population of Focus

Young people under 17 involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice system (and/or highest need young people)

Geographic Focus –

- St. Louis City:
 - 63118 (e.g., Benton Park West, Tower Grove East, Dutchtown, Gravois Park)
 - 63115 (e.g., Penrose, Mark Twain, Greater Ville; i.e., Hayden's rectangle)
 - 63112 (e.g., Wells-Goodfellow, Hamilton Heights)
- St. Louis County
 - 63136 (joint city/county: Castle Point, Jennings, Moline Acres)
 - 63138 (North Co, Spanish Lake)
 - 63121 (St. Louis Promise Zone)

Potential Partners

- Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG); Children's Division; Division of Youth Services (DYS); City and County Court Administrators; Behavioral Health @ BJC, Hopewell, Community Groups in Catchment Area; Youth Undoing Institutional Racism @ American Friends Service Committee; Metropolitan Congregation United; Children's Services Board; Mental Health Boards; One Hope United; Juvenile Justice Advocacy Group; Law enforcement, schools, Circuit Attorney's Office; Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Child Protective Services.

About YAP

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., (YAP) is a dynamic nonprofit organization that works deep in communities to keep young people and their families together and safely home, out of institutional placement. Founded in 1975, YAP operates over 120 programs in 26 states, and Washington DC, serving over 19,000 youth annually. YAP is a pioneer in juvenile justice reform and has been cited by numerous respected professional groups as a “promising practice” in providing effective alternatives to institutional placement. Youth Advocate Programs is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) for having the highest standards in service provision and overall agency standards.

Potential Role of SOC Council

1. Identify desired outcomes
2. Monitor those outcomes
3. Develop a sustainability plan

- Alignment with SOC Expansion
- Structure for stakeholder engagement
- Leverage SOC resources