

Youth Empowerment Support (YES!) Program

The YES Program is a collaborative between Adult System of Care, Children's System of Care, and Whole Person Learning. To meet the needs identified by Placer County Systems of Care and feedback received from youth and young adults in the community, we developed four components of the YES Program:

Direct Support

Through personal experience and professional training in mental health, child welfare, probation, and education services, a Youth Coordinator provides support and education to young adults between the ages of 12 and 26. Youth Coordinators can provide, but are not limited to, the following:

- Education about different systems, services, and/or placements and support in how to navigate them;
- Empowerment and support for young adults to participate in services they are receiving;
- Peer to peer mentoring;
- Information and referrals for resources, supports, and services;
- Information and referrals for appropriate leadership, advocacy, and policy change opportunities;
- Support and encouragement for young adults in identifying and/or building stronger support systems for themselves;
- Education and support for young adults to advocate appropriately for themselves.

Direct services are voluntary and individually tailored to meet the goals of each person referred.

Support, Leadership, and Advocacy Groups

These are groups that are designed and guided by youth and young adults in the community to provide peer support, skill building, leadership skills, and/or advocacy and solutions for a particular community challenge. We use the tools learned in the Youth Development Institute Training provided through the Youth Development Network (YDN) to facilitate this process.

Leadership Opportunities

We provide support before, during, and after various leadership opportunities to bring more TAY voice to the table. The following are some examples of possible leadership opportunities:

- **Boards/Committees**
- **Legislation**
- **Decision making meetings**
- **Conferences**
- **System Transformation Opportunities**

Awareness, Best Practice, and Cultural Competency Trainings

Trainings identified, developed, and/ or provided by youth and young adults that:

- **Will promote awareness about challenges and/or perspectives of youth who receive system of care services**
- **Teach best practices when working with TAY receiving SOC service**
- **Provide more understanding about system and youth culture**

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