



FY 2022 OJJDP Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative Grantee Profile

CYN Counseling Center

Program Overview and Background

Community Youth Network (CYN) expanded its current Therapeutic Mentoring program for Justice-Involved youth to include youth who are impacted by opioids and other drug misuses. CYN’s current Therapeutic Mentoring program serves youth 11-17 years of age from Lake County, Illinois. The 19th judicial circuit court, Division of Juvenile Probation/Detention Services (Juvenile Court), and the Lake County, IL State’s Attorney’s Office are partners in this program, providing mentoring referrals and collaborating on case coordination. Through this grant, CYN will expand its partnership with Nicasa Behavioral Health, an accredited substance use treatment organization, in order to effectively address the needs of youth impacted by opioids and other drug misuses through an array of services tailored to meet the needs of the youth and the family. CYN’s program seeks to provide equity to youth in under-resourced communities that otherwise would not receive the support youth in neighboring communities receive naturally (i.e., more school counselors and services provided/available).

Program Services

CYN aims to improve positive life outcomes through the Therapeutic Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioid and other drug misuse through the use of Transition to Independence Process evidence-based Model; connect youth to substance abuse prevention (Too Good for Drugs evidence-based program) or treatment programming with Nicasa Behavioral Health; and collaborate with stakeholders to ensure care coordination. Specific areas addressed are:

- problem-solving
- coping
- self-advocacy
- prosocial activities
- peer connections
- education progress
- employment
- case management
- parent communication
- mental/behavioral
- substance abuse
- delinquent attitudes



HQ: Grayslake, IL

Founded in 1978

40 Youth Served

1 Program Location

1 Sub Grantee

Grant: JJ FY22 Mentoring: Opioids

Award Number: 15JDP-22-GG-03731-MENT

Award Amount: \$681,819

Mentoring Model & Structure

- Community-based
- One-to-one, group, and community-based
- Partnering with juvenile justice agencies and substance abuse providers
- Programs focus on Academics and Substance Misuse and Impact



Target Population

We aim to provide mentoring under this grant to young people with any one or more of the following:

- Single Parent Household
- Academic Challenges
- Juvenile Justice Involvement
- Victimization
- Substance Impact or Misuse
- Facing Discrimination based on Race or Ethnicity

Mentor Recruitment & Training

- 96 youth to be served under this grant
- 3 mentors recruited under this grant
- 40 matches
- For mentor recruitment, we hire paid mentors 21+ years old.
- Duration of program services: 6-12 months
- Expected intensity of match contact: 1-3 hours per week
- Expected length of a match: 6-12 months
- Expected frequency of match contact: 1-3 hours per week in person, plus collateral and case management time
- Number of training hours required before a mentor is matched with a youth: 87.46 hours

Additional Program Information

The mentoring program utilizes an evidence-based model called, Transition to Independence (TIP). The TIP model was designed for youth (14-29 years old) “with, or at risk of, emotional/behavioral difficulties (EBD) who often have extensive histories of serious mental health challenges, multisystem involvement, out-of-home placements or homelessness, high prevalence of developmental trauma and delays, possible involvement with the court system and/or incarceration, and co-occurring substance use/abuse problems.” The TIP model’s seven guidelines provide the basis for a) engaging youth and young adults with behavioral health issues; b) advancing their goal-setting and achievement; and c) providing a framework for the program and community system to support and sustain activities and have been proven effective in six studies as helping emerging adults transition to adult roles in school or the workplace (Clark 2019)

Additional Resources

- [CYN Counseling Center](#)

This data is accurate as of April 1st, 2023.

For more information on our OJJDP grant:

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