ABOUT US
Youth Outreach Services (YOS) is a nonprofit human service agency dedicated to caring for youth in and around Chicago, inspiring positive development in their lives, families and communities. Founded in 1959, YOS has served over 400,000 youth through a wide variety of child welfare, counseling, juvenile justice and prevention services. We believe all kids are capable of excellence and are committed to providing the community-based support they need to overcome challenges and succeed.

OUR VISION
A society that treasures the safety, well-being and self-worth of every child.

OUR MISSION
Youth Outreach Services promotes the strengths and abilities of youth and families by providing community-based services that empower and enrich each to face life’s challenges with confidence, competence and dignity.

OUR SERVICES
YOS offers a wide variety of unique programs through four specific service areas, including:

Child Welfare
Child Welfare Services seek to ensure the safety and well-being of youth and their families. We strive to keep families together by providing support and education to those at risk of separation. When it is not safe for kids to remain in their biological homes, we connect each to a caring foster family able to meet their needs, as well as the life skills training they need to transition to adulthood.

Specific services include: Traditional and Specialized Foster Care, Intact Family Services, Extended Family Support, Transitional Living Programs, Independent Living Programs, Runaway & Homeless Youth Services

Counseling
Counseling Services help youth overcome challenges that lead to addiction, such as low self-esteem, drug and alcohol abuse, gang involvement, poor school performance, delinquency and family conflict.

Specific services include: Substance Abuse Intervention, Counseling, 24/7 Crisis Intervention and BSFT

Juvenile Justice
Juvenile Justice Services seek to prevent youth from entering the child welfare and juvenile justice systems by addressing obstacles that prevent their future success. Our highly structured programs provide a diversion from negative influences and offer alternatives to detention.

Specific services include: Pre-Trial Services, Detention Alternatives, Diversion Services, Juvenile Reentry Services, Day and Evening Reporting Centers, MST

Prevention
Prevention Services assist youth and families by providing the skills, opportunities and recognition they need to succeed, such as substance abuse prevention, communication and leadership skills, career development, and conflict resolution.

Specific services include: Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention, After-School & Summer Programs, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Violence Prevention, In-School Personal Responsibility Education Program, Urban Gardening
OUR IMPACT

- In FY15, YOS served a total of 3,720 youth and families.
- YOS helped 34% more homeless youth in crisis in 2015 than the previous year through our CCBYS program.
- YOS has employed over 300 youth in the summer youth employment program over the past few years, and will serve 120 youth in 2016.
- YOS exceeded its Engagement Rate benchmark by averaging about 71% with continuous contact with clients in our Counseling Services.
- YOS’ Juvenile Justice programs evidenced positive outcomes including successful discharge rates from programs: ERC (64%), Pre-Trial (84%) and MST (74%).

STAFF LEADERSHIP
Rick Velasquez, Executive Director
Jamie Noto, Director of Program Operations
Yotl Ramirez, Chief Financial Officer
Rachel Wind, Director of Philanthropy
Birgetta Williams, Director of Human Resources

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SERVICE LOCATIONS

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www.yos.org

Austin Office
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Chicago, Illinois 60651
773.777.7112

Irving Park Office
6417 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, Illinois 60634
773.777.7112

Leyden-Proviso Office
4419 W. North Ave.
Melrose Park, Illinois 60160
773.777.7112

Bellwood Boys Home
773.777.7112

Oak Park Girls Home
773.777.7112

SERVICE AREA
YOS serves youth and families in the Chicago neighborhoods of Back of the Yards, Edison Park, Norwood Park, Jefferson Park, North Park, Forest Glen, Portage Park, Irving Park, Dunning, Montclare, Belmont Cragin, Austin, O’Hare, East & West Garfield Park, North & South Lawndale, Albany Park and Pilsen/Little Village as well as the suburban communities of Leyden Township, Proviso Township, Cicero Township, Berwyn Township, Norwood Park, Maywood and Bellwood.