

Rising to the Challenge

YOS strategically adapts to meet the needs of Chicago's at-risk youth

One bad choice can change the path of a life forever. That's why Youth Outreach Services (YOS) is so passionate about the services and programs we offer our clients and their families. Everything we do is focused on enabling youth to have brighter futures by making good decisions now, even in the face of major challenges like drugs, violence, gangs, homelessness, and mental illness.

The same is true for how YOS approaches the strategic management of our resources. In fiscal year '17, YOS continued to build a better future for the organization while dealing with funding challenges for contracted services from the state of Illinois. Helping at-risk youth in Chicago to reach their potential is too important to let a few roadblocks stand in the way.

By carefully controlling our reserves and funds, YOS stayed focused on our mission. We were able to maintain and expand services to address existing and emerging issues, while preparing for strategic growth in the future.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS RESULT IN GROWTH

Sustained much needed services

YOS stayed invested in keeping core services available at our offices, in families' homes, and at schools, so clients were not left without a safety net.

Advanced our partnership with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

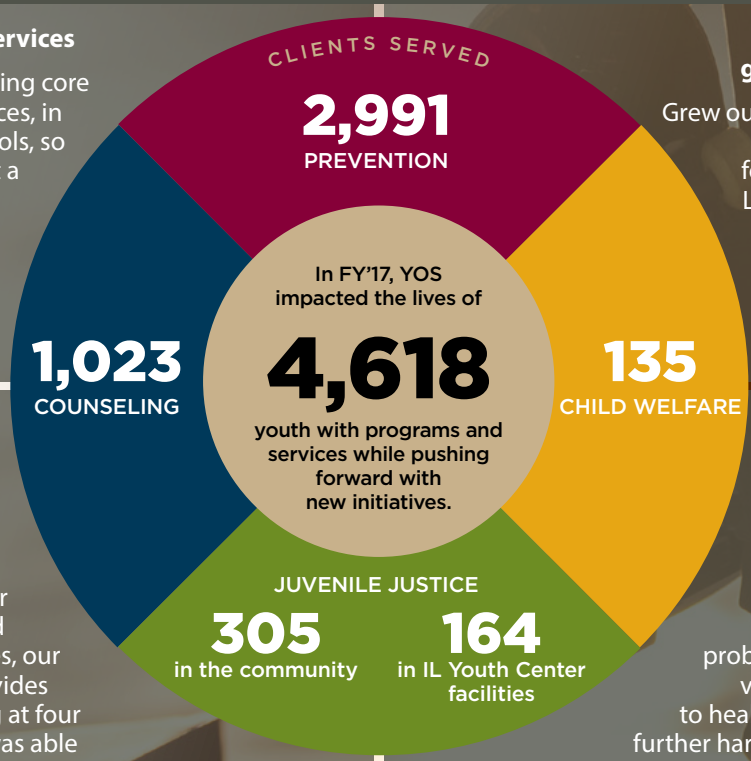
By building off of our past successes with Aftercare, our Day Reporting Program, and intensive counseling services, our new endeavor with DJJ provides substance abuse counseling at four Illinois Youth Centers. YOS was able to quickly step in, transition staff from the previous vendor, and continue the required treatment services without interruption.

Led an expansion of the geographic scope of services

Grew our Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) followed by a partnership with Lyons Township Mental Health Commission, resulting in an expansion of our health prevention services in fiscal year '18.

Built a Multi-Systemic Therapy Program for Problem Sexual Behavior (MST-PSB)

The program provides services for youth 12-15 years of age who have engaged in problem sexual behaviors. It helps victims, offenders, and families to heal, strengthen, and prevent any further harm. YOS works closely with the courts, DCFS and Children's Advocacy Centers.



Team Effort

Even during challenging times, it's the people who are passionate about what YOS does that keeps us moving forward. In fiscal year '17 we were especially appreciative of our dedicated staff, community partners, volunteers, board of directors, and donors who stayed the course because they care so deeply about our clients.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

"Offering care coordination, TASC values YOS's compassionate services at the heart of this work. YOS empowers youth and their families through holistic interventions, equipping them with the necessary tools to change their lives and positively impact their communities."

– Yolanda Burgess, Care Coordinator from TASC

YOS

TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities)

Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY)

Cook County Juvenile Probation

With a goal to disrupt youth violence and engage with the juvenile justice system, YOS is a member of the Juvenile Justice Collaborative, a network of providers who partner as a team to address the behavioral and emotional health needs of referred youth in the Cook County juvenile justice system.

The synergy between YOS's Austin office counseling team and Bellwood Transitional Living Program (TLP) is an example of incredible teamwork. There's a sense of everyone working together, operating like a family unit to build a culture of trust. Staff have strong relationships with clients, as well as each other, which fosters feelings of security, dependability, and accountability.

YOS Austin Office Counseling Team

YOS Bellwood TLP

"You can't pay people to care. Caring is a lifestyle. The staff at YOS see the kids as people first, and that makes all the difference."

– Mario Hardiman, House Manager of the YOS Bellwood TLP

AUSTIN COUNSELING SERVICES, BELLWOOD TLP

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

"Both programs are staying united on the delivery of services to ensure our clients are receiving the services, care and attention they need."

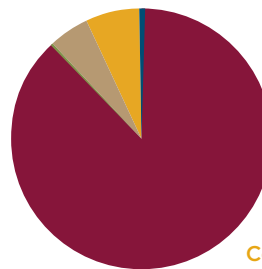
– Aga Wysocka, YOS Program Manager

YOS Homeless Youth Program

YOS Transitional Living Program (TLP)

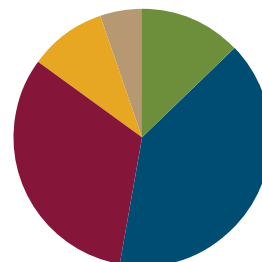
YOS teams and departments work together to ensure the best delivery of services to clients. A collaboration between the Homeless Youth Program and the Transitional Living Program ensured that our clients, who were homeless and had nowhere else to turn, were offered a place to live. Working together, the programs have unified services and fostered new channels of communication.

FY'17 Financials



OPERATING REVENUE

Contract & Grants	\$5,429,757	88.1%
Noncontract Revenue	\$11,574	.2%
United Way	\$1,624	.02%
Contributions & Donations	\$424,021	6.9%
Other	\$293,557	4.7%
Total Revenue	\$6,160,533	



OPERATING EXPENSES

Child Welfare	\$1,992,878	40.2%
Counseling	\$1,600,691	32.3%
Juvenile Justice	\$627,741	12.6%
Prevention	\$483,656	9.8%
Other	\$248,245	5.1%
Total Direct Program Expense	\$4,953,211	

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Looking Forward

After two years without a state budget, the Illinois General Assembly put a budget in place for fiscal year '18. YOS was well-positioned to move as quickly as possible to meet youths' needs, regaining and surpassing the level of services prior to this disruption. For example, YOS is now:



Returning to a fully operational Homeless Youth program, in which we are hiring, training and dispatching more counselors to be able to better respond to 50% more clients and families.



Responding to the violence in our communities and schools, YOS offers trauma-informed counseling, crisis intervention and prevention services. We are hiring 40+ counselors and serving more school settings than ever before.



Developing a long-term 3 to 5-year Strategic Plan for the agency, offering a blueprint for how YOS intends to shift and refocus our efforts to best serve the needs of the community.

