

# Budget Detail Request - Fiscal Year 2016-17

Your request will not be officially submitted unless all questions and applicable sub parts are answered.

1. Title of Project: "Safe Space" - Teen Services Center
2. Date of Submission: 12/14/2015
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Chris Latvala

## 4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No  
***If answer to 4a is ?NO? skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d***
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request (Note that Column E will be the total of Recurring funds requested and Column F will be the total Nonrecurring funds requested, the sum of which is the Total of the Funds you are requesting in Column G):

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2015-16 (If appropriated in FY 2015-16 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2016-17 (If no new Recurring or Nonrecurring funding is requested, enter zeros.)			
	Column: A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated  (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column A + Column B)	Recurring Base Budget  (Will equal non-vetoed amounts provided in Column A )	<b>INCREASED or NEW Recurring Requested</b>	<b>TOTAL Nonrecurring Requested</b>  (Nonrecurring is one time funding & must be re-requested every year)	<b>Total Funds Requested Over Base Funding</b>  (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column E + Column F)
Input Amounts:					550,000	0	550,000

- e. New Nonrecurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:  
 Operating Expenses     Fixed Capital Construction     Other one-time costs
- f. New Recurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:  
 Operating Expenses     Fixed Capital Construction     Other one-time costs

5. Requester:

- a. Name: Dorienne J. Silva
- b. Organization: Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP)
- c. Email: dsilva@yapinc.org
- d. Phone #: (912)272-7955

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP)
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Pinellas
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Pinellas

7. Write a project description that will serve as a stand-alone summary of the project for legislative review. The description should summarize the entire project's intended purpose, the purpose of the funds requested (if request is a sub-part of the entire project), and most importantly the detail on how the funds requested will be spent - for example how much will be spent on positions and associated salaries, specifics on capital costs, and detail of operational expenses. The summary must list what local, regional or statewide interests or areas are served. It should also document the need for the funds, the community support and expected results when applicable. Be sure to include the type and amount of services as well as the number of the specific target population that will be served (such as number of home health visits to X, # of elderly, # of school aged children to receive mentoring, # of violent crime victims to receive once a week counseling etc.)

Youth Advocate Program, Inc. (YAP) Project Summary

"Safe Space"

Teen Services Center

Purpose and Population: Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. ([www.yapinc.org](http://www.yapinc.org)), a nationally acclaimed and established nonprofit organization, proposes creating and administering a Saint Petersburg-based integrated Teen Service Center, Safe Space, for deep-end juvenile justice involved youth, ages 15-18, at risk of institutional placement. Approximately three quarters (73%) of Pinellas County youth admitted to secure detention in FY 2013-2014 were between the ages of 15 and 17. The proposed Teen Services Center will serve as a cost effective alternative to restrictive, costly and oftentimes counterproductive out-of-home placements for this high need, high risk youth population.

The proposed Center fulfills multiple goals for pre and post adjudicated delinquent youth and their families. Juvenile justice involved youth often have a history of multi-system involvement. They have a continuum of personal and family risk factors. Out-of-home placements in juvenile detention or other institutional care facilities frequently perpetuate cycles of delinquency. The underlying causes of problem behaviors and dysfunctional family environments remain after release from detainment. Florida's Department of Justice (DJJ) findings support national research that out-of-home placements are associated with the highest recidivism rates.

YAP's Safe Space Teen Services Center is a less restrictive, more effective option. Its proposed hours of operation, Tuesday-Friday, 3pm to 9pm and Saturday 12

pm to 6pm span high risk hours when youth are most likely to be engaged, as perpetrators or victims, in anti-social or criminal behaviors. The Center will accommodate 20-25 young people at any given time. Given programming cycles averaging 6 months per youth depending on need, up to 50 behaviorally challenged young people and their families annually will benefit from intensive, age-appropriate interventions including skill-building and vocational training, cognitive behavioral therapy and tangible educational and subsidized supported-work opportunities.

This proposal meets needs articulated by both DJJ and the Sixth Judicial Circuit for alternatives to out-of-home placement for high risk youth and young people. This cost-effective diversionary program also complements Pinellas County Schools' "Drop-out Prevention School and Educational Alternatives Services" options, and dovetails with Saint Petersburg's 5 year poverty reduction plan which champions youth in poverty particularly as to vocational/employment opportunities and stronger families.

Service Components Include: 1.)Safety: As a community-based Center, Safe Space will provide meals and supervision during the critical after school and Saturday hours when youth are more likely to be victimized, or to victimize others. 2.)Supervision: As a reporting center, attendance and family engagement is not only documented, it is increased. Family involvement is crucial in achieving sustainable behavioral transformations. 3.) Skill-building: As a training center, YAP provides essential vocational and life-skills training, creative supported/subsidized work opportunities, critical community networking, evidence-based group programming and credentialed cognitive behavioral therapies. Small group trainings also promote safe interactions with law enforcement.4.)Service: As a Service Center, youth and young adults are more than recipients; they participate in YAP facilitated community give-back service projects. This cultivates community buy-in and mentors civic responsibility - translating mindsets of community entitlement to community engagement. 5.)Success: Safe Space is a family friendly environment where YAP's expert staff and community-recruited Advocates explore individual/family challenges underlying behavioral concerns so to nurture individual, family, and community strengths and opportunities for sustainable transformations. Home visits provide critical insights into family dynamics that inform and enhance YAP's individualized interventions. In addition to structured group workshops and trainings geared to developing basic life skills ranging from money to anger management, expert YAP staff at Safe Space will provide: tutoring/homework assistance with School/GED/vocational preparation/certification; cooking and home maintenance instruction/opportunities; one-on-one counseling, and supported work opportunities as appropriate cultivated and subsidized by YAP's workforce development team. Offsite educational, vocational,recreational and cultural visits enhance personal hope and resiliencies, and further community connectivity which is particularly vital after discharge.

Funding Request/Justification: Funding of \$550,000 will enable YAP to serve up to 50 Pinellas County high risk youth and young people annually. Each service cycle is 4-6 months depending on need. The average number of weekly service hours is 20 with at least 5 hours of individualized services including home meetings.

Of the \$550,000.00 budget: Approximately \$327,000 will be allocated towards the 3 full-time and 2 part-time staff positions which includes salaries, benefits and professional fees; \$94,800 will be allocated towards fixed operational expenses including transportation, insurances, Center building rental, etc. (Negotiations with the city/county are being initiated to obtain a gratis site. Should such efforts be successful, rental costs will be diverted to direct youth services); \$100,000 will be allocated towards the Center's supported-work initiative in which the wages paid by local businesses to employ program youth are subsidized for a trial period so to cultivate employment opportunities and positive work history/references for otherwise unemployable youth. YAP is providing an in-kind

contribution of \$72,000.00. This is representative of YAP's costs for auditing and critical administrative oversight.

From a cost effective analysis, DJJ findings support that diversion programs demonstrate lower recidivism rates than more restrictive options. Funding of \$550,000 translates into an investment of approximately \$75.00 per diem cost per youth at YAP's Teen Services Center. Contrast that with the reported average cost of one day of detention in a Florida facility in 2014 at \$328.94. More striking, according to a University of Dallas 2009 report, the present value of saving a 14-year-old high risk juvenile from a life of crime ranges from \$2.6 million to \$5.3 million. Even these exorbitant costs, however, are dwarfed by the astronomical expenses associated with the related high probabilities of generational cycles of incarceration.

Interests Served/Need: There is a compelling need in Pinellas County, and specifically Saint Petersburg, for culturally competent alternatives for placement for juvenile justice involved youth with complex needs. Many of these young people are crossover youth - meaning multi-system involved. Their home lives may be dysfunctional. Their peer associations may be destructive, even gang related. Educational/vocational, housing employment, healthcare, and transportation challenges loom large. Future/repeat juvenile justice involvement is almost a self fulfilling prophecy. DJJ 's examination of serious, violent and chronic (SVC)juvenile offenders in 2013-2014 found that the Sixth Judicial Circuit (encompassing Pinellas County) has the second highest prevalence of SVC youth offenders statewide. According to the June 2015 Pinellas County Detention Utilization Study, despite some progress there was a 4% increase in juvenile arrests last fiscal year; annual racial and ethnic disparities in arrest rates have continued to increase; between FY2012-2013 and FY2013-2014, there was a 7% increase in detention admissions, and 48% of youth screened go to secure detention as opposed to release, home, or respite. In recent surveys, the Sixth Circuit cited the lack of job related training/placement, transportation and supervised alternatives to secure detention centers among its region's most crucial juvenile service gaps. Current initiatives are not spanning this critical gap in services. Additionally, Pinellas County is a pilot site of the Annie E. Casey Foundation 's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

YAP's Average Measurable Outcomes: 90% of discharged individuals were not arrested while YAP enrolled; 82% of post-discharge individuals were not arrested between enrollment and the date last contacted; 83% of discharged individuals who had a previous history of felony or misdemeanor adjudications/convictions were not arrested while enrolled; 71% of the post-discharge individuals who had felony or misdemeanor adjudications/convictions prior to entering YAP's programs were not arrested between enrollment and the date last contacted; 89% of the discharged individuals made progress or remained stable positive in school attendance while enrolled in YAP's programs. In YAP Programs with specific workforce development components, such as this proposal, up to 92% of participants remained arrest-free after discharge. Program completion/discharge rates at comparable YAP teen day centers are upwards of 70%. External studies support that community living increased and secure placements decreased up to one year after client discharge from YAP. Comparable outcomes as the aforementioned are anticipated with 100% of participating youth and families also being connected to new community resources and services.

Organizational Profile: YAP is one of the nation's largest nonprofit service providers with successful deinstitutionalization at the core of its mission. COA accredited, YAP serves over 10,000 youth and families annually across 18 states including Florida where it began assisting DJJ involved youth and their families in 1999. This program will be a natural expansion of its Hillsborough County Youth Advocate Program (HCYAP). YAP has stayed true to its principles since its founding 40 years ago. The Annie E. Casey Foundation awarded YAP its prestigious Gloria J. Jenkins Award for outstanding contributions to detention reform

by a community-based organization at its Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in September 2015. Bart Lubow, Senior Consultant with the Foundation observed, "Literally tens of thousands of young people are better off because they were in a YAP program and numerous communities are stronger and safer because of its work with youth." Lubow credited the organization with operating with a distinguished set of principles and practices: non-residential, wraparound services, delivered by advocates who live in the neighborhoods where the court-involved youth reside. "YAP has a no reject, no eject policy that reflects its belief that with an asset-based approach all youth can prosper and find their way in the community."

8. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2016-17 from all sources of funding:

Federal: 0

State: 0 (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column G)

Local: 0

Other: 72,000

9. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

Yes