

What Can AFY Do For You?

The Alternatives For Youth Program is an intensive HOME-BASED intervention program.

1. Our primary focus is to get you immediate assistance and keep your family together.
2. All visits with the AFY Case Manager occur in your home.
3. AFY Case Managers will have consistent phone contact with the family.
4. For 30 days, AFY Case Managers will work with your family to help you build supports in your community.

Is AFY Is Right For Me?

In order to be enrolled in AFY you need to have 3 recent issues with your adolescent that **are not school related**. These can be, but are not limited to:

- ⇒ Disobeying curfew/whereabouts unknown
- ⇒ Running away
- ⇒ Experimenting or Abusing drugs and/or Alcohol
- ⇒ Threatening behaviors

1. It is important to note that if your adolescent is currently receiving intensive in-home services such as S.P.O.A. or Home Base they cannot be approved for the AFY program.
2. If your adolescent is currently on Probation or a School PINS they cannot be approved for the AFY program.
3. If your adolescent is having school issues in addition to issues the primary issues in the home, we will work with your family and school together to address them.

Alternatives For Youth



EDUCATION & ASSISTANCE CORP

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To Enroll Contact Probation:
Phone: 631-853-7889



Alternatives For Youth is a partnership between the Suffolk County Department of Social Services, Suffolk County Department of Probation, Suffolk County Office of Mental Hygiene, & the Suffolk County Youth Bureau.

Alternatives For Youth



EDUCATION & ASSISTANCE CORP

Alternatives For Youth (AFY)

Home-Based Intervention For Families

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES CALL:
631-648-2700

**TO ENROLL IN THE AFY
PROGRAM CALL:
631-853-7889**

A Suffolk County
PINS Diversion Program

HOW AFY CAN HELP YOUR FAMILY

Supporting You Every Step Of The Way

The Alternatives For Youth Program starts with immediate, home based, intervention for your family. An AFY Case manager will attempt to contact you within 24 hours of receipt of your referral from Probation and will offer to come to your home within 48 hours after speaking with you.

AFY wants your family to succeed. While the AFY Case Manager is working with your family, we have an umbrella of services to help you along the way. It is a partnership between parents, the adolescent and the AFY Case Manager from day one.

You Are In Control

1. Families set their own goals with the assistance of the AFY Case Manager, focusing on core issues that continue to put the family in crisis.
2. With the assistance of the AFY Case Manager, families get to choose their own goals.
3. The program is completely voluntary. If you feel you cannot make the commitment to AFY services or do not like the services offered, you can withdraw at any time.
4. You can reapply for AFY services at any time if crisis occurs again.

Hotline

Staff will be available on a 24-hour basis to ensure you receive the support you need in an emergency.

Teen Enrichment Program

Sometimes an adolescent needs someone close to their age to guide them. AFY has a group of male and female Peer Specialists working hard to engage your youth in positive recreational and educational activities.

- This includes both one on one and group outings. It can be as little as a one on one activity or as big as touring NYC.

- There is also a specialized peer group for young women. The H.E.R.S. (Helping Each other Reach Success) group focuses on teaching adolescent girls to make healthy choices in their life.

The Boys to Men Group works with adolescent boys transitioning them into manhood. The group focuses on the journey of building strong character to improve their life skills.

Parent Support Program

Families are typically in crisis because they have special-



ized issues that parents need more help in addressing. AFY's Parent Resource Manager conducts trainings to empower parents and enable them to better handle their family's needs.

- Calendars of all the trainings will be given and reviewed during the intake with the AFY Case Manager.
- In-home parenting support is available for parents that do not have transportation or have specialized needs.

Linkages to Support Services

Additional supports within EAC:

- EAC offers a variety of services based on individual family need. These include but are not limited to: Child Advocacy Center Services, Chance to Advance, the Long Island Parenting Institute, the STOPLIFT and anger management programs, PINS Mediation Services and the Jumpstart Program.

External Supports in Your Community:

- **Important Linkages Include:** EAC can connect you with substance abuse counseling, individual and family counseling, educational advocacy services, outpatient psychiatric evaluations, S.P.O.A. (Single Point Of Access) mental health services and Youth Bureau recreational services.

- **Other Linkages Include:** Services offered through local parishes, locations of food pantries and support groups.

Long Term Support—Aftercare Services

For families that require services beyond the 30 day crisis intervention and the community resources they are referred to, AFY also offers long term support called aftercare. This lasts 3-6 months but can be for up to a year if needed. There are three different branches to aftercare, tailored to your family's particular need. These include:

- **Family Service League (FSL) Aftercare:** FSL's program was specifically designed to incorporate families that have been through the AFY program. They provide case management so families can continue to get the help they need.
- **DSS Preventive Services:** DSS's Preventive program was designed to incorporate families that, in addition to having gone through the AFY program, require assistance with DSS services.

EAC Peer Specialist Aftercare: As part of the Teen Enrichment Program, Peer Specialists provide after-care services by remaining a strong, positive role model in the youth's life. The Peer Specialist will continue to engage the youth in positive recreational and educational activities.

For more information on AFY services call:
631-648-2700

To enroll in the AFY Program call:
631-853-7889