GETTING BACK ON TRACK
The Youth Services Division offers free services and supports for youth to help strengthen families, mitigate risks related to housing instability, improve school attendance, and decrease court involvement and the likelihood of repeat criminal conduct. The services are offered through several flagship programs designed to assist vulnerable youth and their families.

We believe that...
Every youth is an individual.
Youth deserve to be part of a family, traditional or non-traditional.
Youth deserve the opportunity to tell their story without being judged.
Youth are growing and changing and the circumstances that brought them to our attention do not define them.
Youth develop more positively when not involved in the juvenile justice system.
Positive childhood experiences have a tremendous impact on youths’ long-term emotional, psychological and physical health.
Each moment in a youth’s life is vitally important.

Laura G. Zeilinger, Director
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Through its programs, the Youth Services Division (YSD) works on behalf of some of the District’s most vulnerable residents, with the ultimate goal of providing ways for participating families to be stabilized and self-sufficient. The YSD team engages youth, their families, community-based providers, District agencies, and other partners to address challenging behaviors and circumstances.

**WE PARTNER WITH:**
- Child and Family Services Agency
- Court Social Services
- Department of Behavioral Health
- Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
- Metropolitan Police Department
- Office of the Attorney General
- A network of community-based service providers for housing, mentoring, restorative justice programming, etc.

**Alternatives to the Court Experience Diversion Program (ACE):** serves as the single front door for all diversions from the District of Columbia’s juvenile justice entities. ACE works to reduce the number of court-involved youth up to 17 years old by linking them with behavioral health services and community supports instead of prosecution.

**Homeless Youth Prevention Services (HOPE):** helps youth up to 24 years old who are experiencing homelessness—or at risk of experiencing homelessness—connect with services to reunite them with their family and resolve family conflicts. Community organizations provide services such as drop-in centers, street outreach and housing.

**Parent and Adolescent Support Services Program (PASS):** assists youth up to 17 years old who are skipping school, leaving home, violating curfew, and/or experiencing extreme family conflict. Intensive case management, Functional Family Therapy and community-based services are used to address these behaviors and improve family relationships.

**Strengthening Teens Enriching Parents (STEP):** works with youth up to 17 years old who are reported missing to the police. Case managers provide outreach to assess why the youth has left home and together with the family, implement services with community partners and other District agencies to reduce the likelihood of future missing persons reports, and increase family stability.

**Teen Parent Assessment Program (TPAP):** empowers teen parents to move toward self-sufficiency and complete their educational program by providing case management and support services. Staff also conduct motivational workshops with the goal to reduce teen pregnancy throughout the District.