



OAK PARK
TOWNSHIP

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

A TRUSTED SPACE FOR YOUTH
AND FAMILIES IN OAK PARK
AND RIVER FOREST



EVERY YOUTH NEEDS AN ADVOCATE

Youth and Family Services for Oak Park and River Forest Township provides free confidential and customized access to a variety of programs and resources.

Free Individual and Group counseling

Free family support

Financial Assistance for after-school and summer programs

Referrals and resources

Free personal products and school supplies

Volunteer Opportunities



Youth need different supportive services throughout different stages of their life.

Youth Engagement Program

The Youth Engagement Program is focused on the mental health and well-being of youth ages 6-18. This free program provides supportive services to youth as they navigate complex trauma, crisis, anxiety/depression, behavioral challenges, gang involvement, and other pressing needs. Our knowledgeable and experienced staff provides confidential individual and group counseling, as well as mentoring, to assist youth. Our goal is to help youth in Oak Park and River Forest live life in their greatest capacity and dismantle any barriers that may exist to help them.

This program is a collaboration of nine local government agencies from both communities that serve to provide a holistic approach to helping youth. They are able to receive individualized support to thrive in home, school, and the community. **If you'd like to find out more about our program, call us at (708) 445-2727.** Our program referral form is available for download at oakparktownship.org to complete and return to us.

Family Support

If you are a friend, family member or guardian concerned about a youth age 6-18, our staff is available to listen and give support to those seeking advice. We have access to a broad range of experienced professionals as well as local and regional agencies to help design an approach customized to each individual situation.

Youth and Family Services staff are committed to promoting positive opportunities for youth and families, and we advocate to enhance the social/emotional development of youth in the community. Our services include mental health wellness, parenting guidance, sibling support, improving family communication, partnering with school social workers, mentoring, and addressing alcohol or drug misuse. **If you'd like to get help or to find out more, call us at (708) 445-2727.**



Supporting youth and their families in Oak Park & River Forest

Girls on the Rise

Girls on the Rise is a unique and innovative program designed specifically for girls of color in grades 6-12. The goal of the program is to empower girls and provide them with tools to improve self-esteem, celebrate their cultural heritage, learn self-awareness and strengthen interpersonal relationships to prepare them for a successful transition to high school and adulthood. This program blends art, music, writing and other activities around a custom curriculum. We also host guest speakers and special workshops.

Girls on the Rise is available free to those attending Percy Julian Middle School, Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School, Roosevelt Middle School, or OPRF High School.

To inquire about this program, email Dominique Hickman at dhickman@oakparktownship.org.

Hygiene Closet

Our Hygiene Closet was created to provide youth with essential personal care items, including soap, body wash, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, shaving cream, and menstrual products.

These items are available through donations and are free to any youth in need.

To receive personal hygiene items, email us at youth@oakparktownship.org or call (708) 445-2727.

We're available to drop-off these needed items to individuals at a safe location. If you would like to make a donation to the Hygiene closet, please see the reverse side for details.



Prevention Services Programs

Communities struggling with sensitive issues such as substance and alcohol misuse, suicide, and/or violence can find support from Oak Park Township Prevention Programs. Our staff provides access to the tools, resources, support groups and service agencies that address these unique needs. To learn more, contact us at youth@oakparktownship.org.

The Prevention staff are also a part of the Workgroup for Positive Youth Development (+PYD coalition) which promotes health choices through education, awareness of health issues, and community collaboration. Which has one goal to build health communities through level change from prevention to recovery.



Community Justice Program

The Community Justice Program works closely with the Villages' of Oak Park and River Forest's local adjudication divisions. We provide a Community Engagement program which works with youth to complete engagement hours at local organizations and businesses. We also provide specialized programming to youth and families around any issues that may have lead a youth to be referred to the adjudication process. We can provide restorative circles, peer mediations, and will offer group classes to youth and families as well.

Our Community Justice staff are all trained in Restorative Practices and are able to conduct circles and mediations not only at the adjudication level, but also to our other community partners, such as the school districts, libraries, and park districts around any issues that concern youth.

For more information please call 708-445-2727 or email us at youth@oakparktownship.org.



From community support to partner support to peer support, we can help our youth focus on positive choices that lead to healthy lives.

Financial Aid Scholarships

Our Financial Aid Scholarship program provides funds for Oak Park and River Forest youth to participate in extracurricular activities. Income guidelines, scholarship application and deadlines are available on our website. Oak Park youth ages 6 to 17 and River Forest youth ages 5 to 17 must apply for scholarship funds through the referring agency or organization. We do not discriminate based on race, religious belief or affiliation, national origin, sexual orientation, or mental or physical disabilities.

Community Outreach

Our Youth and Family Services reach out to residents in Oak Park and River Forest through community events, local businesses, and partner organizations. You'll find us in schools, libraries, park districts, local service organizations, and more. We have a pulse on topics most important to youth and offer referrals, trainings, presentations and help with special initiatives that benefit those in need. We also provide a crisis response plan for community partners as needed. To find out more about our Community Outreach projects, please email us at youth@oakparktownship.org.

Community Donations

We welcome community support for our **Hygiene Closet** which provides essential personal hygiene items for youth in need, such as soap, body wash, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, shaving cream, and menstrual products. You can drop off donations at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Avenue, or you can call us to schedule a pick up at (708) 445-2727. For our current wishlist of items, please email youth@oakparktownship.org.

Every year, we host a **School Supply Drive**. If you are interested in donating items, please call us or email youth@oakparktownship.org.

Discover more information at
oakparktownship.org



Serving Oak Park & River Forest

Oak Park Township and River Forest Township have partnered together to provide youth and families in both communities with services that help support their well-being and their families.

Intergovernmental Partners for Youth Engagement Programs

Oak Park Township

District 200

District 90

River Forest Public Library

River Forest Park District

River Forest Township

District 97

Oak Park Public Library

Park District of Oak Park

Volunteer Opportunities

JOIN US! The Youth and Family Services Committee is comprised of Oak Park and River Forest residents who have a special interest in planning and funding programs for youth. We also discuss important issues and work on volunteer projects throughout the community.



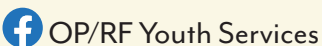
Download the application from our website or request one by calling (708) 445-2727. Each member is appointed to a 3-year term.

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

105 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302

Phone: (708) 445-2727 | Fax: (708) 383-8062

oakparktownship.org



OP/RF Youth Services



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