



**Empowering** youth and families to make positive choices, building the foundation for a lifetime of **opportunity** and **success**

Project Youth OC is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) agency committed to its mission of keeping at-risk youth in school, healthy and drug-free through education, counseling, mentoring, and family strengthening services.

### Our Commitment to Youth

Built upon a legacy deep within the local legal community, Project Youth OC began as the philanthropic arm of the Orange County Bar Association in 1969. Due to the success and growth of our work supporting at-risk youth, Project Youth OC became an independent non-profit agency in 1981.

Services have expanded beyond Santa Ana to other Orange County communities with youth in need. Our goal has been constant: to connect with at-risk youth and provide long-term solutions to the obstacles they face, all across Orange County.



*"From my 35 plus years of service as a lawyer, judge and arbitrator, I have seen firsthand the challenges that face the youth in the heart of Orange County, and also the real difference that Project Youth OC makes in their lives."*

~ (Ret.) Honorable Judith Ryan,  
Past President, Project Youth OC

### Academic and Career Development Programs

With the goal of investing in tomorrow's leaders, **Project SELF** (*Summer Employment in Law Firms*) provides incoming high school seniors from Santa Ana with paid summer internships at local law firms and businesses that offer access to professional workplaces and the support of adult mentors.

Contact: Nancy Garcia x108 ~ No cost

The **Higher Education Mentoring Program** provides Latino high school juniors and seniors from Santa Ana with the academic, social, and financial support needed to graduate from high school, enroll in college, and earn their four-year degree. Students receive 18 months of highly-individualized services during high school and continued support throughout college.

Contacts: Daisy Barroso x100 &  
and Celeste Lopez x121 ~ No cost

**ICAN!** assists at-risk, transition-age youth from Orange County to identify their work interests and complete career training at a designated trade school, technical institute, or community college program. Focus is placed on programs that offer certifications that lead to well-paying professions with long-term growth and viability.

Contact: Manuel Gutierrez x114 ~ No cost





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*"Each day we see families in crisis due to youth crime and substance abuse. Our diversion programs intervene at a critical time to repair damage done to the family structure and help put youth on a positive path—a path of education, health and strong family bonding."*

*~ Karen Ruan, Executive Director*



### Juvenile Diversion Programs

*(English and bilingual, bicultural Spanish services offered)*

For over 40 years, **SHORTSTOP** has provided an alternative to incarceration by offering youth offenders the opportunity to receive diversion services in place of formal prosecution for first-time, minor offenses. Parental participation is required.

*Contact: Manny Gutierrez x114 ~ No cost*

Based on our successful **SHORTSTOP** model, **STOP SHORT of Addiction** works with first-time juvenile offenders who are in the early stages of substance abuse. The program provides an effective alternative to incarceration that integrates intensive legal education and substance abuse treatment. Parental participation is required.

*Contact: Martha Veliz x119 ~ No cost*

### Case Management

**Intensive Case Management** is offered to all youth enrolled in Project Youth OC programs and includes comprehensive assessments, outreach activities, individualized service plans, and linkages to additional local youth and family services.

### Health Education Programs

**Madres Unidas** (meaning Mothers United) provides evidence-based health education and risk-reduction services to Latina mothers. Fathers are also welcome. Participants are given communication techniques to address alcohol and drug use, and sexual activity, as well as STIs and HIV infection.

*Contact: Rocio Aceves x128 ~ No cost*

**Youth Making Proud Choices!** offers evidence-based sexual health education services to youth to prevent pregnancy, HIV, and STIs. Services are offered in a range of settings, including schools, foster care group homes, and juvenile justice facilities.

*Contact: Frances Torres x122 ~ No cost*

Pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Project Youth OC does not discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age.