



Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN)
Children's Initiative Department
Youth Peer Support Specialist

What is Youth Peer Support?

Youth Peer Support (YPS) is a peer led service to help youth and young adults handle challenges, build skills, and reach their goals.

YPS also helps youth and young adults:

- Have a voice in planning and making decisions about their services.
- Share their wants and needs with people in their lives.
- Take part in services and daily activities.
- Build confidence and learn how to speak up for themselves.

What Is a Youth Peer Support Specialist?

Youth Peer Support Specialists (YPSS) are young adults ages 18 to 28 who have their own experience with mental health challenges during their youth. They use their lived experience to support and encourage other youth and young adults. Youth Peer Support Specialists must complete the YPS cohort training to become an approved YPSS.

Who Can Receive Youth Peer Support Services?

Youth and young adults may be eligible for YPS if they:

- Have Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), Serious Mental Illness (SMI), or Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD).
- Are 26 years old or younger.
- Have Medicaid insurance.
- Live in Wayne County.

How Do I Enroll in Youth Peer Support Services?

A Children Provider may recommend and submit the authorization request for YPS services after completing the MichiCANS assessment and the person-centered, family-driven, and youth-guided planning process.

How Are Youth Peer Support Services Used?

YPS goals are included in the youth or young adult's Individual Plan of Service (IPOS). Services may take place in the home or community. The youth or young adult and the Youth Peer Support Specialist work together to identify goals that support mental health, personal growth, and daily life.

How Do I Stop Youth Peer Support Services?

YPS services may end for several reasons, including:

- The family chooses to stop services.
- The youth or young adult has completed YPS goals.
- The youth or young adult no longer meets the requirements for the service.

Contact Information:

Questions about Youth Peer Support Services:

Contact your assigned Children Provider

Complete a Behavioral Health Screening:

Contact the DWIHN Access Center at (800) 241-4949

TTY: (866) 870-2599

Children Services:

Contact DWIHN Children Initiative Department at TeamChildrens@dwihn.org

