

Alternatives, Inc. also offers the following programs:

African-American Initiative (AAI):

AAI facilitates community collaborations that build upon family and community assets to promote the healthy transition of African-American males from childhood to young adulthood. AAI focuses on the strengths and creativity of young males ages 10-16 in the Rogers Park community.

Career & Employment Services:

Pre-employment training, technology workshops, career exploration services, and job placement assistance for youth ages 14-24. Individual and group services are provided onsite as well as in high schools.

Counseling Services:

Therapy for youth ages 10-24 and their families. The program also offers 24-hour crisis response services for locked out and runaway youth. First-time offending youth who are diverted from juvenile court take part in six months of case management services. Group services are also provided for schools and community-based organizations.

Education & Prevention Programs:

Quality academic enrichment programs for youth ages 7-12; classroom activities that tie school learning to careers and promote healthy alternatives to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; and collaborative projects.

Girl World:

A continuum of gender specific and age appropriate programming for girls and young women ages 8-18. Youth participate in mentoring, grantmaking, non-traditional athletics, event planning, and community-based education activities during after school hours.

Region 1 Youthnet:

Community catalyst of after-school programming for youth ages 6-18. Coordinates assessment, new programs, and referrals with youth service providers on Chicago's northside.



Positive programs defined, developed and led by youth.

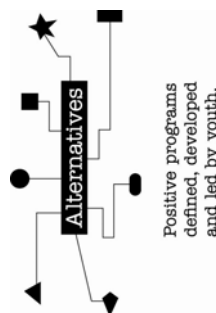


Restorative Justice

Peer Mediation

Peer Jury

Talking Circles



Positive programs defined, developed and led by youth.

History and Mission

Alternatives, Inc. is a not-for-profit youth and family service agency established in 1971, serving Chicago's northeast communities of Uptown, Edgewater, Rogers Park, Lakeview, North Center, Lincoln Square, and West Ridge.

The agency's mission is to facilitate personal development, strengthen family relationships, and enhance the community's well being. Services and programs focus on four core areas: Leadership Development, Academic Enrichment, Counseling, and Violence and Substance Abuse Prevention.



Our Commitment to the Community

The Restorative Justice program creates peaceful learning environments and provides alternatives to school disciplinary action through peer mediation, peer jury, conflict resolution, and talking circles. Activities are designed to build skills, instill accountability, and enhance community safety. The goals of the program are to:

- ♦ Engage youth to play an active role in reducing the incidents of violence in their schools and communities
- ♦ Provide school personnel with the mechanisms to support a peaceful school learning environment
- ♦ Incorporate the three core elements of BARJ: accountability, safety, and competency building.

Peer Mediation

Peer Mediation is a program that trains students to conduct structured meetings between two conflicting students. Participants increase communication and problem solving skills, and learn an alternative way of resolving disputes. The ultimate outcome of this program is to reduce violence and disruption in the high schools where it is implemented.

Peer Jury

The Peer Jury Program is a student-centered initiative that creates alternatives to more punitive forms of discipline such as in-school detention and suspension. This inclusive and problem-solving process builds student leaders, contributes to school safety, and keeps the referred youth in a learning environment. Trained Jurors serve as leaders in modeling peaceful ways of handling challenging situations. The program empowers students to have a voice in the school's discipline process. Students seek to address root causes of behavior that violate school rules and identify ways for the Referred Student to repair the harm he/she caused.

Talking Circles

Talking Circles are a way to bring participants together so that everyone is respected, everyone gets a chance to talk without interruption, and everyone can explain themselves by telling their stories. Participants are able to explore a particular issue or topic from different perspectives, but do not attempt to reach consensus on a topic. Rather, they allow all voices to be respectfully heard and offer participants diverse perspectives to stimulate their reflections. Participants sit facing one another in a circle of chairs with no tables. The physical format of the circle symbolizes shared leadership, equality, connection and inclusion. Talking Circles can be used as a tool for personal development as well as a promoter of focus, accountability and participation from all participants.

Contact Us

Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 8:00pm
Friday 8:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm

Fees for service: Session fees are charged for specialized training to organizations. All other services are free.

To access programming: Contact Restorative Justice Program Manager for more information at (773) 506-7474.

Volunteer Opportunities

Peer Jury Advisory Committee
Peer Jury Facilitator



We are located at 4730 N. Sheridan, within walking distance of the Lawrence train station on the Red Line and the 151 Sheridan and 81 Lawrence Bus.

To learn more about our programs and services, log onto: www.alternativesyouth.org

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