

Introduction: **Santa Fe County** **Uplift Youth Program**

**Formerly Known as Santa Fe County
Teen Court**

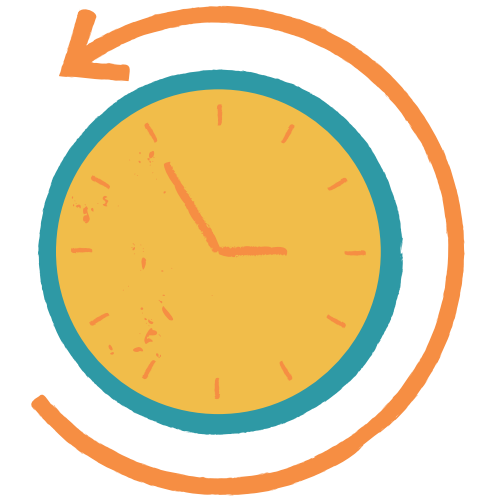
Report as of **June 24, 2025**



SANTA FE COUNTY
UPLIFT YOUTH
PROGRAM

Santa Fe County
Youth and Family Services
Division

History of Teen Court



From Courtroom Roots to Restorative Justice

- 1994: Santa Fe County Teen Court established as a youth diversion program
- Designed to **address first-time misdemeanor offenses** through peer accountability
- Built strong community referral partnerships with:
 - Juvenile Probation & Parole
 - Magistrate, Municipal, and District Courts
 - Public and charter schools
- **Teen Attorney Program** trained ~25 students/year in courtroom roles (pre-pandemic)
- Gained community trust for its focus on **youth accountability and support**
- COVID-19 pandemic (2020) led to suspension of all in-court services
 - Shifted away from court dependency – **reinforced transformation** happened during intake, not courtroom
- Transitioned toward restorative justice and holistic service delivery



Why Rebrand?

Aligning Identity with Impact

- “Teen Court” implies **punishment, not support** — deters youth and families
- Name doesn’t reflect our **restorative justice focus**
- Youth transformation occurs **outside the courtroom** — during case planning & support
- Court services were suspended during the pandemic and found to be **non-essential** to impact
- Current name causes **confusion for partners, stakeholders, and participant and families.**
- Rebrand opens doors to:
 - Greater **community trust and engagement**
 - **Inclusive, trauma-informed messaging**
 - Stronger appeal for **youth leadership, mentorship, and wellness initiatives**



SANTA FE COUNTY
UPLIFT YOUTH
PROGRAM

**“Empowering Youth.
Strengthening
Families. Building
Futures.”**

A New Name Chosen By the Community, For the Community

Chosen by Community Voice

- Name selected through an inclusive process
- Input from stakeholders, youth, and families
- 66% of participants chose “Uplift” as their preferred name
- Reflects values of empowerment, healing, and growth

Why “Uplift”?

- Breaks away from punitive connotations of “Teen Court”
- Promotes restorative justice and personal development
- Welcoming, inclusive, and strengths-based
- Positions youth as leaders and agents of change

Guiding Our Purpose and Impact

Mission Statement:

We uplift youth and families through restorative justice and diversion services that promote accountability, support, and personal growth in safe, healing-centered environments.

Vision Statement:

We envision a thriving community where inclusive, restorative practices empower youth and families, break cycles of harm, and foster lasting, generational healing.

Six Program Goals



Empowering Youth & Strengthening Families



1. Youth Empowerment

Equip youth with skills and support to make positive, informed decisions and plan for a successful future.



2. Family Engagement

Involve families in the restorative process to build trust, stability, and stronger home support networks.

Program Goals



Healing Through Accountability and Support



3. Restorative Justice Implementation

Encourage accountability and healing by helping youth take responsibility and make amends in meaningful ways.



4. Comprehensive Support and Case Management

Offer individualized case management that addresses each youth's emotional, behavioral, academic, and social needs.

Program Goals



Inclusive Communities & Lasting Change



5. Community Healing

Unite youth, families, and partners to restore relationships and strengthen community bonds.



6. Inclusivity and Diversity

Create an inclusive, welcoming environment for all youth and families by honoring diversity and actively addressing systemic barriers to access and equity.

Who Is Eligible?



Age Requirement

Youth must be between 12 and 17 years old; 18 if in school.



Referral Types

- School Code of Conduct violation or a diverted misdemeanor offense
- A social referral for concerns related to behavior, wellness, or school issues



Informed Consent

- Both youth and parent/guardian must be informed of any referral made on their behalf
- For youth under age 14, parent/guardian consent is required

Program Evaluation & Continuous Improvement



Continuous Evaluation Approach

Integral to enhancing program effectiveness and impact

External Evaluation Partner

Collaboration with Aspen Solutions for a comprehensive review and evaluation services

Focus Areas:

- Participant attendance and engagement rates
- Satisfaction levels of youth and families
- Rates of program completion, based on updated framework and re-thinking recidivism measurements

Exit Survey

- Administered to all participants and parents/guardians
- Conducted via Survey Monkey
- Captures valuable feedback for ongoing program improvements

Engagement Level Framework

The Engagement Level Framework was developed to provide a trauma-informed, non-punitive way to understand how youth interact with our program. It recognizes all levels of participation as meaningful and helps us tailor outreach, improve services, and re-engage youth effectively.

Level 0 – No Contact Made

➔ Referred but no response or intake completed.

Level 1 – Initial Contact

➔ Completed intake and case plan, but no further engagement.

Level 2 – Brief Engagement

➔ Attended 1–2 sessions or 25% of accepted short-term support

Level 3 – Moderate Engagement

➔ Participated in 50–75% of services.

Level 4 – Near Completion

➔ Attended most services (75%+), exited before completion.

Level 5 – Full Completion

➔ Completed full program or achieved case plan goals.

Empowering Youth as Leaders and Change-Makers

Rebranded Teen Attorney Program

- **Eligibility:** Youth 15+ who have participated in Uplift programs
- **Roles:** Youth Leads supporting programs like Restorative Justice, Gender Specific Programming, Substance Misuse Prevention, Face-Up, and others.
- **Compensation:** Paid internships at \$16/hour
- **Selection Process:**
 - Facilitator recommends youth
 - Hours & timeline defined
- **Benefits:** Leadership development, skill-building, community impact





Meet the Uplift Youth Program Team

NAME	TITLE	ROLE/FOCUS AREA
CHANELLE DELGADO, LMSW	Youth & Family Services Administrative Program Manager	Oversees all youth programs including Uplift, Youth BH Case Management, Youth Community Violence Interruption Pilot and a portion of DWI Program. Leads planning, evaluation, grants, and stakeholder coordination across Santa Fe County youth initiatives.
JOE LOZANO	Uplift Youth Program Manager	Directs daily operations, supervises staff, manages contracts and budget, and collaborates with all partners to ensure programs meet community needs and goals.
TYLER RIEMANN	Uplift Youth Case Manager	Guides youth and families through individualized case plans. Connects clients with community resources, behavioral health supports, and ensures progress through coordinated care.
DOUG NAVA	Administrative Assistant	Provides essential administrative support to the team, manages calendars, prepares case documents, updates participant files, trains interns, and maintains communication with partners and families.



Thank You!

Santa Fe County Youth & Family Services

Uplift Youth Program

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