

Associated Youth Services of Peel In Action in 2025-2026

The 2025-2026 fiscal year marked AYSP's 40th year of supporting children, youth and families across service communities. The agency has grown in numbers since starting out both in the number of staff and more importantly in the number of clients served. AYSP is fortunate to have a dedicated and stable staff where over 35% have been with the Agency more than 10 years and an additional 14% have been with AYSP more than 5 years. This strong foundation provides consistent services to our clients and consistent training to new staff joining AYSP. Continuity allows for the development of longer-term strategies to support the community being served

In the 2025-2026 year, AYSP's staff, volunteers and students provided service and support to more than 1300 Children's Mental Health clients and just under 1400 Youth Justice clients. AYSP has continued with a combination of in-person and virtual services with the service delivery type based on the program, client preference and external conditions. In 2025-2026 services delivered in person remained consistent with less than a one percentage increase over 2024-2025's 76%. Although in-person is the method used most frequently, occasionally pivoting to a virtual session helps avoid last minute cancellations.

Conversely, we found during the year, that moving some of AYSP's Caregiver Workshops from virtual to in-person was successful. These events continue to be well attended with more than a 100% increase in attendance over the previous year. A total of twelve workshops were presented in 2025-2026 with a total attendance exceeding 200.

AYSP's mental health programs continued to have a good success rate, with just under 83% of clients discharged with successful completions. This represents a slight increase over the 2024-2025 year

AYSP's Diversion and Youth Justice Committee programs also continued to have over 83% successful completions.

As AYSP continued its work to enact our Mission, Vision and Values introduced at the beginning of 2025, Operational plans in all areas in 2025-2026 were created in support of the Strategic Plan. 2026 represents an Accreditation review year for AYSP, so time has been spent reviewing and updating policies and procedures where necessary. Internal work not only focuses on developing and implementing operational efficiencies, but also on fostering a culture of continuous learning through an updated orientation framework for new staff and opportunities for professional development. All of these initiatives are guided by and are in support of AYSP's key strategic directions.

Purpose	Empowering children, youth and families to successfully navigate barriers to improve their well-being so they reach their full potential		
Vision:	Children, youth and families living lives of possibilities		
Mission:	Support and empower children, youth and families, enabling them to navigate their path to the future.		
Values:	Community	Compassion	Collaboration
	Respect	Growth	Knowledge

AYSP Values...defined

Community:	Offering a sense of belonging for all • We build meaningful connections to best understand clients and their world • Our approach helps clients succeed where they live, play, learn and work • We proudly provide services free of charge to the residents of our service communities
Compassion:	Incorporating empathy as we find the best way forward • We meet people where they are at • We provide solutions, not labels • We hold ourselves and others accountable
Collaboration:	Partnering with others to ensure clients get what they need • We are committed to finding optimal solutions • We actively work with all those who can positively contribute • We embrace different ideas to create the best possible outcome • We deliver on our promises
Respect:	Valuing who you are right now • We appreciate people for their true selves • We believe situations do not define the person • All are welcomed, honoured and celebrated
Growth:	Unleashing the full potential of others • We create opportunities for clients to develop • We offer counselling and support in a strength-based environment • We equip clients with skills to navigate barriers
Knowledge:	Empowering others through information • We openly share our expertise • We are transparent with all our communication • Our practices are evidence-based and evidence-informed

What Our Peers and Community Partners Said:

“An amazing and collaborative community partner. You do great work with youth and families.”

“Great and effective programs that are easy to access with competent staff.”

“The programs have greatly helped youth we have connected with and the staff are intentional and present.”

“AYSP has always been so flexible and responsive.”

Continued outreach is also part of AYSP's Strategic Plan. Staff from AYSP continued to represent the Agency by attending and participating in community events where presentations are made and/or materials about AYSP services are provided. In 2025-2026 AYSP attended 17 events including school Wellness Days and Pride events.

AYSP continues to be an active member of many community committees and action tables, including the Peel Community Safety and Wellbeing Initiative (CSWB), the CSWB-linked Peel Regional Police Youth Engagement Strategy, Anti-Black Racism & Systemic Discrimination Committee (ABR-SD), Peel Situation Table, Community Around Families Table and Metamorphosis. AYSP is also a participant and supporter of the Youth Wellness Hubs and Peel Pride community events. This on-going community engagement and collaborative advocacy supports AYSP's key strategic direction to “Promote Mental Health Awareness and Stigma Reduction.

The AYSP Youth Engagement Committee and Family Engagement Committees continue to be strong contributors within the Agency. Members of the Youth Engagement Committee once again researched, prepared and presented for Black History Month. Both committees provide valuable insights into the needs of the community being served by AYSP and we continue to explore ways the Agency can include knowledge from their lived experience into the work being done.

What Our Clients and Caregivers Said:

“Amazing program, it helped me so much! I cannot thank you guys enough for your support.”

“It was a good experience and opened our eyes to how our family can communicate and work to better ourselves.”

“I'm very happy that I had the opportunity to be in this program because it changed me in ways I can't even begin to describe.”

“We had a wonderful experience. Our child benefited greatly.”

“Such an inclusive experience and wonderful connecting with the worker.”

“Our counselor was excellent—supportive, understanding, and made a real difference for our family. We're very grateful for the experience.”

“Coming here has changed my perspective on therapy. It's not scary anymore it's very helpful.”

“I loved how encouraging they were and how respectful they were to me rather than seeing me as someone different because I made a mistake.”

AYSP consistently asks for feedback from clients and caregivers through client satisfaction questionnaires, administered at the end of service, online or on paper. Well over 500 responses received from our over 20 mental health and youth justice programs indicate how well AYSPP is living up to its values. Question themes were linked to AYSPP's Values and question responses were tabulated to produce the chart below. This shows, in 2025-2026, clients and caregivers once again strongly believed AYSPP's actions matched its words.

