

What are the benefits of being involved with the OCYDP?

- Access to a variety of resources available within the community, including culturally- and linguistically-sensitive programming
- Timely and efficient response
- Clients are taught responsibility for their actions through meaningful consequences
- Reduction in risk level by addressing the needs of the person
- Personalized action plans are provided, allowing for targeted goal setting

## Ottawa Community Youth Diversion Program

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Boys & Girls Club  
of Ottawa

## Ottawa Community Youth Diversion Program

A community-based program  
for youth in conflict with the  
law.

## What is the Ottawa Community Youth Diversion Program (OCYDP)?

The OCYDP is designed to improve the manner in which our community deals with youth who are in conflict with the law.

The OCYDP was developed in order to meet the requirements of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) that young persons aged 12 to 17 years be diverted from the formal justice system whenever possible.

The OCYDP is available to youth:

- who are between the ages of 12 and 17 years
- who have committed a criminal offence

Youth are referred either by the police to complete an **extrajudicial measure (EJM)** or the Crown Attorney's office to complete an **extrajudicial sanction (EJS)**.

The youth and his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) are given the opportunity to choose whether they would like to participate in the OCYDP.

Screening is based on eligibility criteria and the belief that the youth will benefit from involvement in the program.

Services are available in both French and English.

## What happens once a young person has been referred to the OCYDP?

The OCYDP consists of three steps:

1. A letter is mailed to the young person and/or his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with a date for an initial interview. During the initial interview, the Diversion Caseworker will ask questions that will help develop the goals which the young person will be expected to complete.
2. At the second appointment, the young person is provided goals that he or she is expected to complete. These goals are intended to hold the young person accountable for his or her actions, while also focusing on addressing underlying risk factors and/or needs.
3. Once the goals are completed, the Diversion Caseworker will forward a report to the police or Crown Attorney's office. When the young person successfully completes the program, no further action is taken by the police or Crown Attorney's office.

## What kinds of goals are set?

Clients are required to complete between one to three goals.

Examples include:

- volunteer work
- structured programs
- counselling
- workshops or seminars
- restorative justice programming
- job search skills
- assignments
- pro-social activities