



CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Student Practicum

Toronto Location

September 2025 – April 2026

Land Acknowledgement

Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (Boost CYAC) is situated on the traditional territories of the Wendat, Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, who have been the traditional caretakers of this land for thousands of years. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and Peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. We are grateful to share this land as treaty people who learn, work, and live in the community with each other.

Organizational Overview

Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (Boost CYAC) is a registered charity that provides a range of services to children, youth and families, who have experienced abuse or violence, within the City of Toronto. We provide individual, group, family and community services that include trauma counselling, advocacy and support services during child abuse investigations, court support and accompaniment services and abuse and violence prevention materials and trainings. Boost CYAC is accredited by the Canadian Centre for Accreditation, an independent non-profit organization that offers accreditation specifically tailored to community-based health and social services across Canada.

Practicum Description

We are offering one (1) student practicum in our Child & Youth Advocate Program (CYAP). The CYAP Program provides advocacy and support services to children, youth and families who attend Boost CYAC for a child abuse investigation and specialized court preparation and accompaniment services to children and youth who are required to testify in criminal court proceedings.

The aim of this practicum is to provide a student with first hand knowledge of the Child and Youth Advocacy Centre Model and the opportunity to provide assistance and support to clients who attend Boost CYAC for a child abuse investigation and during criminal court proceedings. This **is not** a clinical or therapy based practicum; however, students will need a solid understanding of crisis intervention and case management theory and practice.

Students **must be comfortable** working closely with onsite facility dogs.

Students may be asked to complete some practicum hours in the evenings as required.

PRIMARY QUALIFICATIONS

- Enrolment in a Bachelors level degree in Child and Youth Care, Social Work or a related field. Given the nature of the placement, preference will be given to students enrolled in the second year of academic studies.

- Sound knowledge, commitment and application of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), trauma-informed, anti-oppressive, anti-racist and cultural competency theory and practices.
- Exhibit excellent interpersonal, written and organizational skills, and the ability to work on multiple tasks and deadlines in a fast-paced environment.
- Demonstrate flexibility, judgement, initiative, confidentiality and a strong work ethic.
- Be proficient in computer skills, including database management.

Additional Assets:

- Previous experience in a work, practicum, or volunteer setting with an organization serving children/youth and families.
- Previous experience in a work, practicum or volunteer setting , collaborating with teams of multidisciplinary professionals and community partners.
- Experience working directly with children/youth.
- Some knowledge of the field of childhood trauma, abuse and violence.
- Some knowledge of community resources.
- Some crisis intervention training and/or experience.
- Ability to employ self-care strategies in relation to potentially stressful situations.
- Ability to speak a language(s) other than English.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Become familiar with the Child & Youth Advocacy Centre Model, the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) members within the organization and the programs and services offered by each MDT member.
- Become familiar with services provided by the CYAP Program and role of the Child & Youth Advocate during and following a child abuse investigation.
- Shadow and assist CYAP Advocates during onsite investigations, post investigation outreach and support and court preparation and accompaniment during criminal court proceedings.
- Under the direct supervision of a CYAP staff, carry a small case load of CYAP clients.
- Participate in client consultation meetings with MDT and community partners as required.
- Update the community referral list and make referrals on behalf of clients as requested by CYAP staff.
- Participate in CYAP team meetings and Boost CYAC staff meetings.
- Participate in individual supervisions and performance management.
- Participate in organizational wide training opportunities.

HERE'S HOW TO APPLY:

Applications must be made by the **Placement Coordinator** or **Program Supervisor** at the College or University to Linda Arwich, Manager of Human Resources at arwich@boostforkids.org

Application Deadline: March 31, 2025

Boost CYAC strongly encourage applications from all qualified individuals including applicants from all cultures, racialized communities, abilities, diverse sexual and gender identities and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

Boost CYAC is committed to providing accommodation in all aspects of the student practicum process. The Manager of Human Resources will work with applicants to arrange reasonable and appropriate accommodation at any stage of the student practicum process.

We thank all student applicants however, only those selected for interviews will be contacted.