



## CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM

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Student Practicum

Toronto Office: 245 Elginton Avenue East, Toronto ON M4P 3B7

2026/2027 Academic year (September to April)

### **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 supervised assistance and support

to clients who attend Boost CYAC for a child abuse investigation. Students will also learn about the criminal justice system and our court support services.

This is an on-site practicum and students will be required to complete the majority of their placement hours at Boost's Toronto office. Occasional remote work may be permitted, subject to performance metrics, service standards, and operational requirements. Students must be comfortable working closely with onsite facility dogs and be able to commit to one evening shift (12-8pm) per week.

This **is not** a therapy based practicum; however, students will need a solid understanding of crisis intervention and case management theory and practice.

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## 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.
- Some knowledge of the field of childhood trauma, abuse and violence.
- Knowledge of child and youth advocacy principles, including trauma-informed, strengths-based, and rights-focused approaches.
- 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 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.

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## 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 the CYAP Manager, carry a case load of CYAP clients.
- Participate in client consultation meetings with MDT and community partners as required.
- Complete required documentation, including case and consultation notes.
- Update the community referral list and make referrals on behalf of clients as requested by CYAP staff.
- Participate in client consultation meetings with MDT and community partners as required.
- Participate in TTP team meetings, learning sessions, psychological and/or racial consultation meetings and Boost CYAC staff meetings.
- Participate in individual supervisions and performance management.
- Participate in organizational wide training and engagement opportunities.

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## HERE'S HOW TO APPLY:

Students are strongly encouraged to speak with their Practicum Coordinator prior to submitting their application, to ensure they meet eligibility requirements.

Please send your resumes and cover letters to Linda Arwich, Manager of Human Resources at [arwich@boostforkids.org](mailto:arwich@boostforkids.org)

Boost CYAC strongly encourage student 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.