



TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH BUREAU

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2025, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau advanced a variety of initiatives in support of our mission: to work with the Southampton Town community to empower youth and families, promote total health and well-being, and develop life skills through programs, activities, and services. These efforts took place both through direct engagement with youth and families and in partnership with public-private agencies, faith-based organizations, and social institutions. Over the year, 1,046 youth participated in workshops, weekly skill-building activities, and special events. The following is a summary of the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau's accomplishments in 2025.

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SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH BUREAU

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2025 AT-A-GLANCE

In 2025, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau continued to grow, serving **1,046 youth** throughout the year. The Youth Bureau offered a variety of programs, events, and services designed to support youth development, leadership, social and emotional growth, civic involvement, and connection to our community. Programs continued to focus on leadership development, mental health support, workforce readiness, and creative activities that allowed youth to build necessary skills and confidence. By working closely with community partners and incorporating the youth voice, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau created safe and welcoming spaces where youth could learn, connect with one another, and feel supported.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Youth leadership remained a priority to the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau's work in 2025, with both the **Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)** and **Youth & Government** programs reaching maximum enrollment. This strong participation reflected a continued interest among young people in civic engagement and leadership development.

Youth Advisory Committee members played an active role in town-wide civic life through community clean-ups, a holiday toy drive supporting financially insecure families, assistance to senior citizens, and partnerships with local charities. Youth also participated in community events such as parades, car washes, pancake breakfasts, and Trunk-or-Treat, while leading fundraising efforts to offset transportation costs and ensure continued access to Youth & Government programming.

YAC members also participated in the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus' Youth Leadership Forum in Albany, where they met with State Legislators Assemblyman Tommy John Schiavoni and Senator Anthony Palumbo. YAC members prepared and delivered presentations addressing local youth concerns while emphasizing the importance of continued state support for youth development program funding.



Another highlight of 2025 was the Youth Bureau's participation in the YMCA's 89th Annual Youth & Government Conference in Albany. Youth delegates spent six months researching public policy issues and drafting their own legislation in the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau's Youth & Government program. At the conference, participating youth met in hearing rooms and Assembly chambers, debating bills alongside peers from across New York State.

All four bills submitted by the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau's delegation received the Seal of State Approval for excellence in research, structure, and clarity. One bill was endorsed by the Youth Governor, two ranked among the top ten bills in committee, and three bills were ultimately signed into law by the Youth Governor. These accomplishments underscored the power of youth perspective and the value of experiential civic education. The Town of Southampton Youth Bureau's Youth and Government program grew to 30 members in the fall of 2025 - the highest rate of participation since the program's adoption in 2018.

SUPPORTING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Mental health and emotional wellness continued to be a top priority in 2025. In response to what youth identified as their most pressing needs, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau focused on reducing stigma, increasing access to support, and connecting young people with trusted local resources.

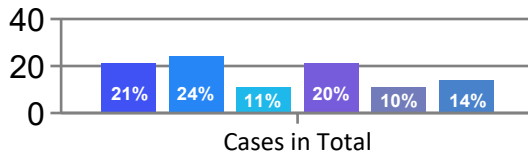
One of the year's signature events was the **Student Mental Health Conference**, hosted in conjunction with the East End Partnership for Youth and Southampton Youth Board at the Southampton Cultural Center. The conference brought high school students together with local mental health providers for interactive workshops that emphasized practical tools, open dialogue, and peer connection.

Throughout the year, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau also partnered with organizations including HUGS, OLA, i-tri, The Retreat, Family Service League, Riverhead CAP, and the LGBT Network to provide evidence-based, no-cost programming. These partnerships helped address concerns such as anxiety, academic stress, identity support, and stigma reduction. In addition, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau expanded town-wide Gender & Sexuality Alliance programming and hosted the first inter-district GSA mixer, creating new opportunities for connection and belonging.

SUPPORTING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS (CONT.)

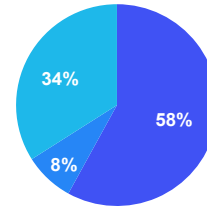
In 2025, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau continued to provide counseling support to **102** youth, with services ranging from short-term intervention to ongoing clinical care. The most common areas of support included anxiety, trauma, family conflict, depression, disruptive behavior, and adjustment-related concerns. When deemed necessary, youth and families were referred to outside providers such as Family Service League, while other cases were resolved without the need for additional services.

Areas of Counseling



- Trauma
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Unspecified Adjustment Disorder
- Disruptive Behaviors

Services Provided in 2025



- Individuals Served in Youth Bureau
- Referrals to Family Service League
- Referred Out to Other Agencies

LEARNING, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Enrichment programming offered youth opportunities to explore new interests, build skills, and connect with peers in fun and meaningful ways. In 2025, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau launched new initiatives such as the Babysitters Club in partnership with Bridgehampton School and the Word Warriors literacy program at the Flanders Youth Center.

Longstanding programs continued to draw strong participation, including Broader Horizons, Dance with Project LEAP with Peconic Ballet Foundation, Battle of the Bands, Hamptons Got Talent, Open Mic Nights, basketball clinics, culinary classes, and experiential learning opportunities through Tuesdays on the Go and Wednesday Night Lights. Educational video game tournaments and creative performance programs helped balance fun with learning, confidence-building, and healthy habits.

The Town of Southampton Youth Bureau's programs were also visible throughout the community at events such as National Night Out, Pride celebrations, Trunk-or-Treat/Haunted Bus events, and the Youth Talent Showcase, reinforcing the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau's presence beyond traditional program spaces.

YOUTH COURT: ACCOUNTABILITY, EMPATHY & LEADERSHIP



Youth Court continued to provide a great example of peer-led restorative justice. Roughly 100 High school volunteers from local schools received training on various court positions such as Judge, Jury, Bailiff, and Prosecution Defense. Volunteers worked together to deliberate real cases involving first-time, non-violent offenses and determine fair, restorative outcomes focused on accountability and repairing harm.

Cases were referred by local police departments, probation, and schools. Youth who were in trouble for making poor choices were given the opportunity to go through Youth Court instead of the justice system. Referred cases included substance misuse violations, harassment, trespassing, graffiti, among others. Through this process, youth volunteers developed leadership, critical thinking, and empathy while helping their peers make positive changes.

BROADER HORIZONS: PREPARING YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE



Workforce development remained a key focus through the Broader Horizons Internship Program. In 2025, 15 youth between the ages of 14 and 17 completed a 15-hour job readiness training at Southampton Town Hall, where they learned about workplace expectations, career exploration, money management, amongst other relevant topics.

Following training, youth were placed in Town departments and partner agencies, including the Town Attorney's Office, Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management, Human Resources, Senior Services, Records Management, Community Preservation Fund, Youth Bureau, and other partnering agencies. Interns gained hands-on experience while contributing meaningful work across departments, supported by Youth Bureau staff throughout the summer.



With the support of the Suffolk County Department of Labor, three high school interns are placed year round in the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau's after school programs at the Flanders Youth Center and Phillips Avenue School. Through structured supervision, they contribute to the delivery of essential services to the Flanders, Riverside, and Northampton communities.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE



The Town of Southampton Youth Bureau's work is made stronger through collaboration. In 2025, partnerships with Friends of Southampton Town Youth (FOSTY), school districts, Southampton Town Police Department, local libraries, and cultural organizations continued to support accessible, high-quality programming.

The Town of Southampton Youth Bureau also maintained a strong relationship with the Southampton Cultural Center, which generously provided space for youth programming at no cost. In addition, a new partnership with East End Jazz provided a Music & Movement program at the Flanders Youth Center, offering youth an engaging opportunity for creative expression and confidence-building through the arts. The *Sandsational Sculpture Showdown* community event was successfully launched, bringing Southampton Town residents together through creativity and outreach. Youth Bureau staff also remained active in regional coalitions focused on preventing youth substance use and promoting healthy decision-making.



LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 YOUTH BUREAU GOALS



As the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau looks ahead to 2026, priorities include hosting a second Student Mental Health Conference, expanding town-wide and inter-district GSA programming, continuing to strengthen youth leadership pathways through Youth Advisory Committee, Youth and Government and Youth Court programs, and exploring new enrichment partnerships such as mobile literacy and storytelling programs. Regional collaboration and mentorship with new and emerging youth bureaus will also remain a focus.

THE TEAM BEHIND THE YOUTH BUREAU'S WORK

Tracy Kolsin, LCSW, Youth Bureau Director
Xiomara Arango, MSW, Bilingual Youth Counselor
Cara Conklin-Wingfield, Youth Services Specialist

Peter Strecker, Assistant Director of Youth Bureau
Alexis Catalano, LMSW, Youth Counselor
Adriana Ghiano, Office Assistant

The Town of Southampton Youth Bureau extends its sincere thanks to the Southampton Town Board for their continued support and commitment to the Town's youth. Their leadership and investment make it possible to provide high-quality programs that positively impact young people and families throughout our community.