



# THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SERVICES WAIVER

## YES Waiver

The Youth Empowerment Services Waiver is a 1915(c) Medicaid program that helps children and youth with serious mental, emotional and behavioral difficulties. The **YES** Waiver provides intensive services delivered within a strengths-based team planning process called Wraparound. Wraparound builds on family and community support and utilizes **YES** services to help build your family's natural support network and connection with your community. **YES** services are family-centered, coordinated, and effective at preventing out-of-home placement and promoting lifelong independence and self-defined success.



### To participate in the YES waiver, your child must:

- Be 3 through 18 years old.
- Have serious mental, emotional, and behavioral difficulties.
- Have a qualifying mental health diagnosis.
- Be at risk of being placed outside of their home due to their mental health needs.
- Meet the criteria to be in a psychiatric hospital.
- Be eligible for Medicaid —parent's income does not apply.
- Currently, live in a home setting with a legal guardian or on their own if they are legally emancipated.

First step to accessing **YES** Waiver program is to call Gulf Coast Center's **YES** Waiver inquiry line. All are welcome to call the inquiry line for information purposes. However, only a parent, guardian or managing conservator can request a youth be added to the inquiry list and assessed for the **YES** Waiver unless the caller is a legally emancipated youth.

### The Program Aims To:

- Reduce the amount of time children are out of their home and community because of a mental health need.
- Expand available mental health services and supports.
- Improve the lives of children and youth.

### Benefits Include:

- You and your child are supported by a team.
- Services and supports target your child's and family's needs.
- You and your child can access services that are only available through **YES**.
- Supports help your child stay in your home and community