

Create a trauma-informed youth justice system

Fully implement the evidence-based services outlined in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act.

The evidence-based aims of the JJRA include:

- Expand community-based resources across Tennessee so that where a child lives no longer determines what services he or she receives.
- Reserve detention and out-of-home placement for youth who have committed serious crimes or pose a public safety risk.
- Encourage that youth in schools or on probation not be taken to court or detention for minor technical violations that can be addressed by the school or probation supervisor, while leaving discretion for schools and law enforcement.
- Implement research-based presumptive limits on length of custody so youth are not placed into the system indefinitely.



Create a trauma-informed youth justice system through evidence-based interventions that support youth development, reduce recidivism, increase community involvement and increase public safety.

Tennessee can spend up to **\$230,000** per year to place **one child** in confinement.¹

A targeted program to reduce recidivism of property crimes costing approximately **\$200 per participant** returns benefits of **\$1,636 per participant**.²

Fund innovation and pilot programs to address juvenile offenses without court involvement. Past successes include:³

- In TN, Title V funds were allocated to two programs serving 59 school-aged youth. Ninety percent of youth in the after-school program had no school offenses and 97% of children in the kindergarten program were more prepared for school.
- Title II funds were used to support the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (SHAPE), which has reduced the number of youth transferred to juvenile court by 39% in two years.

The state should continue to provide funding for successful programming.

Research says:⁴

- Arresting a young person for misbehavior significantly increases their odds for subsequent arrests and justice system involvement when compared to prearrest diversion responses.
- After a young person is arrested for a delinquent offense, formally processing delinquency cases in juvenile court substantially increases the likelihood of rearrest.
- Youth of color are diverted from juvenile court far less frequently than their white peers, despite research showing that diversion typically improves youth outcomes.
- Juvenile court processing is especially detrimental for youth who are not at high risk of rearrest.
- Both arrests and formal processing in juvenile court substantially reduce young people's subsequent success in school and employment.