

Decarceration Campaign Workbook 2015

How to Start a Youth Decarceration Campaign



Photo by *Richard Ross*

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GETTING STARTED

How do you get started? Here are five steps:

1--Find others:

Identify and talk to other people who may be interested in the issue of youth in the juvenile justice system. Start with your family, your block, your neighborhood, your place of worship or community center. Not sure on how to make that first contact?

2--Make a contact list:

Include everyone you've talked to who is interested, such as name, phone and email. Start an email list. Send out regular updates as you meet new people.

3-- Host a small gathering:

Invite everyone on your contact list. You can consider hosting a "House Party." Another idea is to host a "Film Screening" of a film on youth justice or a book discussion.

4-- Gather the facts:

What is your state law? What state data is available? Have any reports been issued on this issue? Put together a fact sheet with any information you've been able to gather. Share the facts with everyone on your contact list. Ask your contacts for any information they may have.

5--Start a Story Bank:

If you have been personally affected, consider sharing your story. Ask others to share their stories. Enlist everyone on your contact list to share their stories and to help with collecting other stories. Stories can be written, taped or filmed.



ENGAGING PEOPLE

Now that you have reached out to other interested people and identified 8-10 people who are interested in the issue, you will need to think about how to get people engaged as part of your campaign. Here are five steps to think about:

1--Talk to each person one-on-one:

Find out why they are interested in this issue (e.g. Has someone in their family been in the juvenile justice system?) Ask them what they'd like to see happen (e.g. Would they be interested in establishing a network of people to share information and support each other who have been affected by the issue of youth in the juvenile justice system; Would they like to see increased access and visitation hours for families to see their children in juvenile prisons or changes in your state's law on incarcerating children?). See if they'd like to be part of a campaign and ask them what kinds of collective actions would they be most interested in. Find out how they'd like to do to make a contribution (e.g. Would they like to host gatherings, make outreach calls, write up personal stories, contact media, call state and local officials, or write letters and fact sheets?)

2--Ask everyone to attend a gathering to talk informally together:

After you have a sense of what each person's interests are, what goals they'd like to pursue and how they'd like to contribute to the effort, schedule a date and time to bring everyone together for a conversation. For this first gathering, you may want to call each person to invite them individually and to be sure they can participate on the date/time that you have set up for the gathering. This "personal" outreach is really critical to building and strengthening relationships. They will feel more connected to you and to the group if there is a "personal" connection through a phone call rather than an

impersonal email. Let people know that you'd like for each of them to share some of the input that they provided to you on what kinds of collective actions they'd be interested in and how they'd like to make a contribution.

3--Set a timeframe and agenda:

For a first gathering, you might consider scheduling a two hour timeframe. Provide time for brief introductions and devote most of the gathering to discussing what kinds of collective actions the group would like to undertake building from the ideas that people shared with you beforehand. Include some time for networking and refreshments. Before wrapping up the meeting, be sure to set a date and time and a location for your next gathering. Invite everyone to "sign up" to attend the next gathering.

4--Invite everyone to make a contribution:

People are more likely to show up, feel involved and actively participate if they have a "role." You might consider asking each person to "sign up" for one of these tasks: Host the meeting by providing space; Co-facilitate the discussion with you; Bring food/snacks; Bring beverages; Bring plates, napkins & cups; Bring materials such as fact sheets or other information; Assist with set up; Assist with clean up; or Document the discussion by taking notes.

5--Follow up:

Be sure to follow up within a week of the gathering. Timely follow up ensures that people stay connected, feel involved, and will actively participate in the campaign. Consider making a personal phone call to each person to ask how they thought the meeting went, to invite their input for the next gathering, and to reaffirm their support for participating in the campaign.

KEY INGREDIENTS

1--Dedicated staff:

Campaign staff
Volunteers

What will you need to make a successful youth justice campaign? Here are a handful of key ingredients:

2--Dedicated resources:

Financial resources to hire staff, fund activities
Office / Meeting space
Communications infrastructure (cell phones / phones, email, website)

3--Brand:

Campaign is an independent vehicle, separate “identity” from individual organizations. Need a logo and tagline that captures your campaign goals.

4--Governance structure:

Chair / Co-Chairs
Steering Committee
Transparent, timely and consensus decision-making
Articulated strategy on paper
Shared philosophy & approach
Directly affected youth and families involved

5--Core functions:

Organizing, Coalition building & Direct action
Communications (website, contact lists, database, list serve)
Outreach tools (action alerts, digital tools, social media, phone bank)
Policy & research
Advocacy
Legislative & budget advocacy



MAPPING YOUR CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

No Turning Back

http://www.cclp.org/documents/BBY/ntb_fullreport.pdf

Now that you've engaged people in your campaign, it is time to think about mapping out your campaign strategy. Here are a few key steps:

1--Utilize a campaign strategy planning chart:

One of the most effective ways to plan a campaign is by utilizing a campaign strategy "planning chart." Here is the Midwest Academy chart:

http://www.tcsg.org/sfelp/toolkit/MidwestAcademy_01.pdf

2--Learn more about campaign planning:

An excellent resource is the *"Organizing for Social Change: Midwest Academy Manual for Activists"* that includes a step-by-step guide on campaign planning. For additional information about this resource, visit: <http://www.midwestacademy.com/midwest-academy-manual>.

3--Read up about successful campaigns:

To get a sense of what it takes to plan a successful campaign, it can be helpful to read about other campaign efforts. For some information on successful youth justice campaign efforts, check out:

Notorious to Notable:

DC's campaign to close the Oak Hill Youth Center
<https://giving.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/notorious-to-notable-final.pdf>

Juvenile Justice Reform in Connecticut:

http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/jpi_juvenile_justice_reform_in_ct.pdf

4--Talk to other campaign organizers:

A good way to get a sense of how to plan a successful campaign is to talk to other people who've done it. You can get good insights from people who've worked on successful youth justice campaigns as well as others who've managed successful campaigns on many other social justice issues.

5--Organize a brainstorming session:

One of the best ways to map out your campaign strategy is to organize a brainstorming session with your group. Bring the tools and information you have learned about to your session. Set an objective for the session, such as establishing mutually agreed upon goals for your campaign. To inspire your group, consider sharing information from other successful campaigns or inviting a campaign organizer from a nearby state to talk about his/her experiences. Be sure to involve everyone in your group in the preparation for the session and the follow up activities afterwards.



GOAL SETTING

As part of your campaign strategy, you will need to set goals for your campaign. Here are a few key steps:

1--Think Big and Bold!

Consider what it is that you really want your campaign to accomplish. You are focusing on how to make significant reductions in the prosecution of youth in adult court, so what 'goal' would have the most impact? Don't limit your thinking at this stage in the process. Consider the biggest and boldest goals as your long-term goals, and then consider medium and short term goals that will help you get there.

2--What is a "Win"?

In addition to setting big and bold goals to accomplish in the long-term, you will need to consider what a "win" is at every stage of your campaign. If your campaign was able to get a new law passed to substantially limit placement of youth in correctional facilities, you could consider that a "win."

3--Use the SMART Goal "test":

One way to think about setting your goals for your campaign is to use the SMART Goal "test" with the goal you establish.

SMART stands for:

S: Specific

M: Measurable

A: Achievable

R: Results-oriented

T: Time-specific

As you consider setting your campaign goals, you will need to ask whether the goals you set are specific, measurable, achievable, results-oriented, and time-specific.

4--Take a Look Around:

See what other campaigns have accomplished and what goals they set. Did they accomplish what they set out to do? How long did it take? What were the long-term, medium-term and short-term goals that they set? What they consider a "win" at each stage of their campaign? And would they change the goals they set upon reflection?

5--Organize a Brainstorming Session:

One of the best ways to figure out how to set goals that will work for your campaign is to organize a brainstorming session with your group. Bring the tools and information you have learned about to your session. Set an objective for the session, such as establishing mutually agreed upon goals for your campaign. To inspire your group, consider sharing information from other successful campaigns or inviting a campaign organizer from a nearby state to talk about his/her experiences. Be sure to involve everyone in your group in the preparation for the session and the follow up activities afterward.



CAMPAIGN INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of your campaign strategy, you will need to set up a campaign “infrastructure” to help you achieve the goals for your campaign. Here are a few key steps:

1--Communications Tools:

You will need a “list” of all the people you have been in touch with who support your campaign goals such as name, address, phone and email. Microsoft Excel is a great tool for keeping track of all this information. You will also need a cell phone with remote access to your emails. A laptop is also really helpful if you are traveling around the state a lot. Finally, you’ll need a “listserv” so that you can send out updates from wherever you are in the state. Google and Yahoo offer free services on their websites.

2--Social Media Tools:

There are a lot of great social media tools you can utilize to get the word out about your campaign. Some of these are free and very user-friendly! Others will require resources and capacity to utilize effectively so before you set up these tools, give some thought to what you have the time and funding to do most effectively. Facebook is a great way to connect with people regularly about your campaign. Setting up a page is free and easy! A website or a blog is also a great tool to provide information on your campaign. YouTube, Twitter, and other social media sites are also good ways to get the word out about your campaign!

3--Weekly or Monthly Updates:

One way to keep everyone you’ve been in touch with engaged is to write a brief update weekly on your campaign listserv. You could share a new fact or piece of information about trying youth

as adults. You could collect links to relevant news clips in your state for the week. Or you could include a personal story that someone has shared about how they have been impacted. Your network will start to expect a weekly (or monthly!) update from you once you start this, so think about your capacity first and whether to enlist volunteers to work with you on this piece.

4--Take Action Tools:

As your campaign gets underway, you’ll want to be sure to give your network a way to ‘take action’ on the issue! If you have a campaign plan with policy goals, setting up a direct action online can be done easily and at no cost! Check out the take action tools on www.change.org! You can set up your own alert and petition to go to policymakers in your state or at the federal level.

5--Don’t forget the old-fashioned phone call!

With all the focus on technology, contact with our networks can become really impersonal and lose the personal connections between people. It is really important to talk to people and to meet in person whenever possible! Technology can help support maintaining the contacts, but it is not a substitute for personal contact.



SETTING “BENCHMARKS” TO LAUNCH YOUR CAMPAIGN

As part of your campaign strategy, you will need to set up “benchmarks” to help you get ready to launch your campaign. Here are a few key steps:

1--Start at the End:

To figure out what your “benchmarks” are, skip forward to when you want to launch your campaign in 2015. Envision what you want to have happen on that date. Do you want an “event” where you announce your campaign name, legislative champions and policy agenda? Do you want to have a specific number of organizations and individuals in support of your campaign? Will you want media to cover the event? As you think about the launch date, you’ll want to start making a list of all the pieces you want in place by then and factor those in to your plan. You will want to establish some goals for your launch date based on your vision for the day.

2--Create a Calendar:

After you’ve set the launch date, you’ll want to create a calendar working backwards from the launch date you’ve set. Post activities and deadlines on the calendar that will help you get to the launch date in an organized and manageable capacity. Be sure to include regular check ins with your “team.” Give yourself some wiggle room on the calendar in case things don’t go according to “plan” and you need more time. Ensure that you have factored in holidays and other non-campaign activities that you have going on. Ask others to look at the draft calendar so that all the steps are included. Consider printing a large calendar and having it posted in a place where everyone working with you can see it.

3--Divvy up Launch Day Responsibilities:

As you’ve set your launch date, you will want to divvy up launch day responsibilities such as Organizing & Coalition Outreach, Media, Event Logistics, and Policy & Legislative Platform. You might even consider establishing small working groups or committees for each area and encouraging campaign volunteers and allies to join. Share the calendar with each working group, and invite them to add and edit the calendar. Put all working group meetings or conference calls on the calendar.

4--Set Benchmarks:

Now that you have set a launch date, created a calendar, and engaged your team to work on various aspects of the effort, you are now ready to set some “benchmarks.” A “benchmark” is “a standard of excellence, achievement, or reference, by which something can be measured.” Again, you will want to start at the end of your calendar and work backwards. Look at each two-week period and ask yourselves, “What do we want to have accomplished by this date?” And then ask yourself, “How will we know when we have made that accomplishment?” The answers to these questions are your “benchmarks.” Be sure to put them on the calendar. Engage your entire team in this process and consider planning a “campaign strategy session” six months (or more) before you want to launch your campaign.

5--Flexibility is Key!

As you work to launch your campaign, having a flexible approach is key! Setting benchmarks will help you ensure that you are making progress towards your campaign launch goals, but you must factor “the unexpected” into your plan. You will want to build in flexibility to change a benchmark, revise your end goals, or consider

alternative activities if what you're doing is working according to plan. Build in a "check in" each month on your calendar to assess your progress on meeting your benchmarks and adjust your plans accordingly.

GROWING YOUR CAMPAIGN NETWORK

To build your campaign, you will need a strong network of volunteers across your state to manage, support and expand your efforts. It is crucial that your campaign network thrives and grows. Here are a few key steps:

1--Articulate and advertise campaign roles:

To draw in volunteers to work with your campaign, you will need to clearly articulate the campaign "roles" that you are looking for volunteers to fulfill. Some roles might be: Outreach Coordinator, Media Assistant, Social Media Coordinator, Direct Action Organizer and Phonebank Captain. Your descriptions of each role should include the number of hours per week you'd like your volunteers to support the campaign, the qualities you are looking for in a volunteer and some background on your campaign goals. Consider advertising your campaign "roles" on your website, facebook, Idealist (www.idealists.org) and any list-serves in your area. You might put together an outreach flyer inviting volunteers to join your campaign. Think about hosting an initial volunteer orientation session to provide basic information on the campaign, answer questions, and invite volunteers to sign up for various roles. Once you have a core group of volunteers, work with these volunteers to host regular volunteer orientation sessions (e.g. once a week or every other week) so that new volunteers can continually join the campaign.

2--Empower Your Volunteers:

Your campaign volunteers will need to feel that they are making a real contribution to the effort. If not, they won't stick around long. Be sure to create space to hear their ideas and feedback. Give them choices in how they might contribute to the campaign, and be flexible in creating new opportunities for them to contribute. Volunteers want to feel a sense of purpose and accomplishment, sentiments

that are crucial to your campaign. Here's a great "tip sheet" online, "What Do Your Volunteers Want: 10 Ways to Make Your Volunteers Happy" at:

<http://nonprofit.about.com/od/volunteers/tp/whatvolunteerswant.htm>.

3--Communicate, Communicate, Communicate:

Regular, in-person conversations and meetings with volunteers will keep your volunteers coming back. People want to feel "connected" to the cause through the people they work with. Be sure to build in time and space to engage volunteers in discussion about why they want to support this cause, what makes them want to contribute, and what ways can the campaign create new opportunities to expand the base of volunteers.

4--Provide Training & Support:

Volunteers may not have all the tools and skills to carry out all of the tasks needed in the campaign. Build in regular training sessions on key tasks. Be sure that every volunteer has a 'go to' person on the campaign with whom they consult and provide feedback on how it's going. Volunteers will need more support at the beginning of their time with the campaign and

when roles change. Volunteers who have been around longer can be tasked with recruiting and managing other volunteers.

5--Recognize & Thank Your Volunteers!

It is very important to recognize and thank your campaign volunteers for their contributions. Praise them at a campaign meeting and in your newsletter. When you've accomplished a major campaign goal or benchmark, consider hosting a volunteer recognition event.



UTILIZING NATIONAL YOUTH JUSTICE AWARENESS MONTH TO GROW YOUR CAMPAIGN NETWORK

As part of your campaign strategy, you will need to set up “benchmarks” to help you get ready to launch your campaign. Here are a few key steps:

1--Outreach to new potential supporters:

Use the month of October to focus on outreach to broaden and diversify your base of supporters and allies. Set a goal for how many additional contacts you want to make throughout the month. Contact members of your network and ask them to help spread the word to their contacts to help grow your contact list. Host a “phone bank” night and/or write a short outreach email and ask your network to email it to their contacts.

2--Table at events:

Consider “tabling” at upcoming gatherings, conferences and festivals! It is a great way to meet new potential supporters. Look at your calendar and see what you might have coming up. Check out the local newspaper to see what might be happening in your community in the next month. Make a priority list of events. Ask your current network to help you “table” at these events by contacting event organizers and hosting an information table at the event. For your “table” you’ll need copies of a one-page informational flyer about your campaign goals & upcoming activities, a sign-up sheet and pens, and a bowl of candy (as that is always a good draw!) You might need to bring your own table &

chair. If you have time, make a display board with pictures and other eye-catching information.

3--Meet with reporters:

This is a great time to build relationships with the media. Schedule small group meetings with reporters at their offices. Be prepared to talk about your campaign's goals and who is involved in the effort. Encourage reporters to write up piece about your campaign and include contact information about how to get involved. This added visibility may draw in additional supporters to your campaign.

4--Write about your campaign:

Non-profit organizations and weekly newspapers are always looking for content for their newsletters and newspapers. This is a terrific avenue for spreading the word about your campaign. Write a short piece (200-500) words about your campaign that spells out what you are working to change and how others can get involved. Ask allied organizations to put this in their October newsletters. Reach out to weekly newspapers in your area and ask them to run the article. Provide a picture especially if it includes community members. Be sure to include contact information about how to get involved.

5--Create a bookstore/library display:

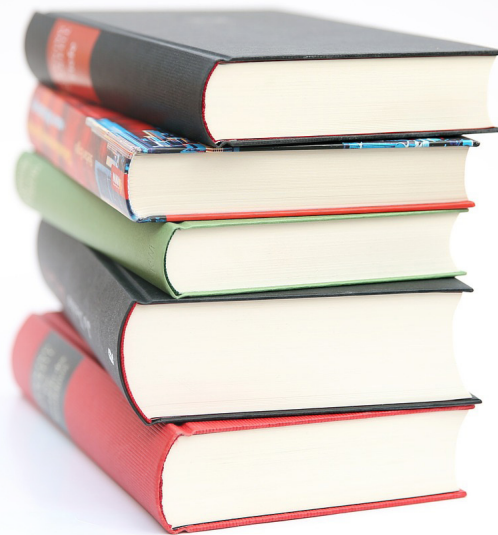
Talk to libraries and local bookstores to see if they'd host a display of books about youth in the justice system and information about your campaign. You might consider offering to discuss youth justice issues with their readers sometime during October. Leave a stack of cards and a box or bowl for individuals to leave their information or business cards for follow up to expand your contact list.

6--Call on Faith Leaders:

Ask your community's faith leaders to talk about this issue with their congregations during the month. Offer to meet with their youth group or to be available to talk to constituents after services. Provide key facts on youth in the justice system for faith leaders to use in their services, prayer sessions, or in newsletters. Be sure to have a sign up sheet to gather contact information.

7--Host an open house:

Too busy to organize a big event? Consider hosting an 'open house' at your campaign and asking members of your network to each bring a friend. This is an informal and low-key way to bring new allies to join your campaign efforts.



GEARING UP FOR YOUR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

To gear up for your legislative session, here is a sample timeline with three key activities each month:

August

- ✓ Identify all the possible legislative recommendations that you might consider making to legislators during the session.
- ✓ Gather background information on the legislative process, timing of moving a bill, and the key players on the committees that your possible legislative recommendations would be considered by.
- ✓ Find out which of your allied statewide organizations have scheduled advocacy days at the capitol in the 2016 session.

September

- ✓ Schedule a strategy session with your core group to decide on and prioritize your legislative recommendations.
- ✓ Contact allied statewide organizations that have scheduled advocacy days at the capitol in the 2016 session and see if you can get your legislative recommendations on their agenda.
- ✓ Map out your base of allies with all the key legislators who have decision making power over your potential legislative recommendations.

October

- ✓ Host a legislative strategy session with your core group and allies to decide how you will push your agenda.

- ✓ Create an Action Team with your core group and allies to build and strengthen relationships with key legislators.
- ✓ Write your legislative recommendations into legislative language or ask an attorney to write on a pro bono basis.

November

- ✓ Organize a legislative training session for your Action Team.
- ✓ Identify who may oppose your legislative recommendations and discuss how you will overcome that.
- ✓ Create and/or update your media contact lists.

December

- ✓ Vet your bill with other groups and line up their support.
- ✓ Identify and recruit bill sponsor(s).
- ✓ Create a timeline for legislative session.

January

- ✓ Create a fact sheet on your bill(s)
- ✓ Write a media release to use with the introduction of your bill(s).
- ✓ Draft an action alert to send to your networks to support the bill once introduced.

MEDIA ADVOCACY: A KEY INGREDIENT

Media advocacy is an essential strategy to any successful youth justice campaign. It is integral to your campaign. To be effective, resources must be allocated and dedicated lead volunteers or staff should be engaged in the campaign. Media advocacy strategies can be utilized in your campaign in several ways, including:

1--Elevating the issue:

Using media advocacy strategies is a way to generate awareness of the issue of youth in the juvenile justice system. Releasing a fact sheet, short paper or full report to the media can garner substantial media coverage as well as promote your policy agenda.

2--Showing the negative consequences:

The full extent of how youth and their families are harmed by trying teens in adult court is not well known. Sharing personal stories of youth and/or their families puts a face on the issue and shows the serious impact of this issue. While statistics and reports are helpful background, more often than not, reporters are interested in human interest stories. These stories can have a powerful impact on policymakers and the media, and if covered in a thoughtful and respectful way, can help you to show the consequences of incarcerating youth.

3--Engaging constituencies:

Working with local media, including community newspapers and radio stations, can help you to get the word out about your campaign and generate interest from constituencies throughout your state. Radio stations are always looking for good content and if pitched to cover

the issue, will sometimes host more than one show on the topic. Articles in local newspapers are a good way to enlist support from

community members about your efforts. Since local papers have limited reporters but need good content, your press release can sometimes run 'as is' in the paper. Including an action photo is always

a bonus. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter are also very helpful.

4--Demonstrating the power of your campaign:

There is nothing like the press to grab the attention of your local elected officials. It generates policymakers' attention and shows that your campaign is important enough for the press to cover it. Public hearings, direct actions, or other events where you have gathered a lot of people are especially good activities for attracting press attention. Do not assume policymakers have seen the press coverage, and it never hurts to send them an email note with web links to key press coverage.

5--Holding policymakers accountable:

Not sure policymakers will stick to their pledge to support the issue? Get it on the evening news. Think lawmakers might back off of implementing the bill you worked so hard to pass? Urge the governor to hold a bill signing ceremony & alert media. Be sure to bring your own camera and take a lot of photos and video clips. Save all the press clips and send thank you notes to your policymakers with the clips attached. This is good insurance against any backsliding that might occur post bill passage or during the next legislative session.

CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESSES

5--Document your success:

As your campaign is underway and you meet one or more of your goals, be sure to take time and celebrate your success! It is crucial that we take time to celebrate the milestones that we achieve! Here are some ideas on how to celebrate:

1--Thank everyone involved:

Call, write a short email or send a hand written note to everyone who was part of achieving your goal! A thank you makes people feel appreciated for their contributions and keeps people engaged and enthusiastic in the work!

2--Publicly recognize your supporters:

Consider listing your supporters on an email, newsletter or website thanking them for their contributions. Write a short article about the effort and include brief quotes from some of the individuals involved.

3--Include a celebration in a regularly scheduled activity:

If your coalition meets monthly, include a celebration as part of the agenda. Bring a cake, cupcakes, or other snacks. Create space for participants to share stories of the success and recognize people for their efforts.

4--Host a celebration:

It is crucial that we actually take time to celebrate success! We are sometimes so caught up in the work that we keep going without taking time to “smell the roses” so to speak. Planning a celebration can be fun and engaging and an opportunity to put your creativity to work.

Take a photo of the celebration, the cake, and the people involved! Or video tape the event. Keep a list of people that were part of the effort and what they contributed. If time permits, write a short report capturing the success. These photos, videos and documents will help you to remember what you’ve achieved and also get you through the difficult moments when it feels like success is far away.



DOCUMENTING YOUR SUCCESS

As you get your campaign underway, it is crucial that you document your campaign to catalogue the actions you've undertaken, the people involved, and your successes and challenges. As you recount the story of your campaign's successes, as well as the challenges you've faced in doing this work, having documented your work all the way along will facilitate this. It is also crucial for fundraising purposes. And you will help to grow the movement by sharing the steps you undertook and your campaign's major accomplishments.

Here are a few ways to consider documenting your campaign:

1--Invite campaign volunteers to write brief updates about campaign activities and events:

- ◇ Share these with campaign supports and allies on email.
- ◇ Consider sharing through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media.
- ◇ Think about whether to start a newsletter.

2--Take pictures at every event and activity:

- ◇ Ask for volunteers who are interested in photographing activities and events.
- ◇ Share the photos with your network.
- ◇ Consider starting a photo album online.

3--Keep a press clippings file:

- ◇ Save hard copies of all press clippings about your campaign.
- ◇ PDF the articles and save electronically as well.

- ◇ Frame select clips and place around the campaign office.

4-- Take video footage at key events such as hearings:

- ◇ Ensure key events such as hearings are videotaped.
- ◇ Post hearing testimony on youtube as a record.
- ◇ Create short testimonials to capture participants' reaction to events.

5--Organize a documentation file:

- ◇ Start a file with hard copies of all of the above listed items.
- ◇ Keep electronic files of photos, videos, press clips, articles and other documents.
- ◇ Make duplicate copies and maintain a list of everyone involved.



IMPLEMENTATION

Goals:

1. Accountability for implementation
2. Engage directly impacted youth & families
3. Awareness about the reform
4. Practical steps for implementation
5. Data on how the implementation is going
6. Set stage for more reform

Strategies:

1. Study / Data tracking bill, provision with law change

Example:

The Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative (IJJI) is a leading advocacy organization that has successfully done this on multiple bills. One example is S.B. 3085 in IL that passed in 2010 requiring an existing body, the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, to study the impact of, develop timelines for, and propose a funding structure to accommodate the expansion of the juvenile court's jurisdiction to youths age 17 charged with felonies. The report was issued and paved the way for another major law change, i.e. removing 17 year olds from automatic prosecution in adult court who are charged with felonies.

Report: <http://ijjc.illinois.gov/publications/executive-summary-recommendations-raising-age-juvenile-court-jurisdiction>

IJJI: <http://jjjustice.org>

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Include study provision with law change creating a new body or designating an existing body to track data and/or issue report
- ◇ Separate study bill during same session or session after
- ◇ Ask government agency to collect data
- ◇ Ask an existing juvenile or criminal justice body to track data
- ◇ Ask SAG / JJ Specialist to use JJDPA Title II funds to track data, study
- ◇ Issue a Freedom of Information Act request for data

2. Implementation commission with law change

Example:

The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance (CTJJA) led the effort to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction in CT. Their comprehensive reform package (Public Act No. 07-4 101) included a body, the Juvenile Jurisdiction Policy and Operations Coordinating Council (JJPOC), to monitor the implementation of the central components of the legislation. Commission proceedings were televised for added accountability. The JJPOC created an effective process to work out practical concerns, held stakeholders accountable and ensured reform stayed on track. This approach works especially well with a large-scale reform.

JJPOC: <http://www.raisetheagect.org/resources/JJPOCC-members.pdf>

RTA website: <http://www.raisetheagect.org>

CTJJA: <http://www.ctjja.org>

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Include provision with law change creating an implementation commission
- ◇ Include provision with law change designating an existing body to serve as an implementation commission

3. Public bill signing event

Example:

Hawaii juvenile justice bill signing

Article and photo: <http://westhawaii.com/community-bulletin/governor-signs-pair-bills-aimed-juvenile-offenders>

Governor's press announcement:

<http://governor.hawaii.gov/blog/governor-signs-bill-to-improve-hawaiis-juvenile-justice-system/>

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Governor signs at a signing ceremony with key lawmakers (Note: Need to request, they don't do automatically)
- ◇ Ask governor's office to issue a press advisory notifying press & issuing a press statement after signing with a photo and invite key lawmakers who led the effort to pass the bill
- ◇ If governor won't do a public signing or can't do in time, ask for a private signing and take a photo so you have a public record
- ◇ At all of these, invite key lawmakers who led the effort and any other key policymakers who supported passage to attend

Note: *This strategy is not appropriate for every bill (i.e. bills you didn't totally love)*

4. Press

Examples:

CO bill passage in one body:

<http://kwgn.com/2012/04/04/state-senate-gives-initial-approval-to-juvenile-justice-reform-bill/>

MO bill signing press coverage:

<http://www.kfvs12.com/story/22303516/jonathans-law-on-nixons-desk>

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Bill introductions (House & Senate)
- ◇ Bill hearings (House & Senate)
- ◇ Bill cosponsorships
- ◇ Committee votes
- ◇ House passage
- ◇ Senate passage
- ◇ Bill signing
- ◇ Anniversaries (eg 6 months, 1 yr, 2 yr)
- ◇ On occasion, the press will track implementation with coverage, data

5. Spread the word:

Example:

Just Children, Families and Allies of Virginia's Youth (FAVY) and other VA groups sought passage of a bill to remove youth charged as adults from adult jails. To ensure implementation, Just Children and FAVY created a fact sheet, shared with system stakeholders, families, defense attorneys, and judges. They created a training workshop for CLE credit and hosted workshops at statewide conferences. This set them up as a 'go to' resource to share information and obtain feedback on how the bill implementation is going and a communications mechanism with

stakeholders. This is a crucial part of the process as many bills pass each legislative session and without post session advocacy, new laws are not necessarily known about unless there is an effort to share information with key stakeholders.

Fact Sheet: <http://dontthrowawaythekey.files.wordpress.com/2010/07/counsel-pretrial-detention-of-youth-facing-trial-as-adults.pdf>

Just Children: <https://www.justice4all.org/justchildren/justchildren-program/>

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Write up a fact sheet and share with key stakeholders
- ◇ Write a newsletter article and share with key stakeholders
- ◇ Host conference call / webinar to spread the word
- ◇ Provide a briefing / workshop for key stakeholders at their annual convening

6. Track implementation:

Example:

Illinois Governor signed Public Law 94-0574 into law to end the automatic transfer of youth charged with certain drug offenses. The Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative (IJJI) studied the impact of the law and released a report and video tracking two years of implementation that showed the positive impact and called for additional reforms.

Report: <http://jjjustice.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/IJJI-REPORT.pdf>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5kyt0woghc>

IJJI: <http://jjjustice.org>

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Ask government agencies for data
- ◇ Survey youth, families, and community
- ◇ Ask a researcher / university to do an implementation study
- ◇ Host an event (e.g. key implementation date) to discuss real time implementation
- ◇ Issue a Freedom of Information Act request for data

7. Thankyou's:

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Thank everyone involved with handwritten notes
- ◇ Write up an article for your newsletter with photos
- ◇ Issue a press statement thanking supporters
- ◇ Host a celebration event and/or incorporate into an existing event
- ◇ Give an award to key policymakers

8. Agency regulatory / rulemaking process:

Example:

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) law didn't include an explicit protection for youth in adult jails, prisons. U.S. DOJ issued draft regulations which didn't protect children either. Advocates used the PREA regulatory process to advocate for a Youthful Inmate Standard. The effort was successful and is used to advocate for protections for youth in adult jails, prisons.

Youthful Inmate Standard: <http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/training-technical->

assistance/prea-101/prisons-and-jail-standards
[click on 115.4]

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Weigh in during agency regulatory / rulemaking process
- ◇ Draft a template rule / regulation and share with agency
- ◇ Encourage multiple stakeholders to share impact

Note: *This isn't appropriate for every situation.*

9. Post regulatory process / Agency guidance / policy:

Example:

The PREA Youthful Inmate Standard is a good hook for pushing for more protections for youth, including full removal of youth from adult jails and prisons, and ultimately from adult criminal court altogether. Advocates pushed for the U.S. DOJ guidance to say that to fully implement the standard, youth should actually be removed from adult jails and prisons. State advocates used this to push for that and ultimately for full removal of youth from adult criminal court (e.g. MA, NH, IL).

PREA Resource Center guidance on the Youthful Inmate Standard:

<http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/training-technical-assistance/prea-in-action/youthful-inmate-implementation>

Key piece of guidance says: *"Keeping youthful inmates out of adult facilities makes operational sense....Housing youthful inmates in juvenile facilities can be achieved without disruption."*

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Meet with agency officials and ask for them to issue additional guidance / policy

- ◇ Show how it can be done effectively by sharing information on other jurisdictions
- ◇ Share information with agency officials on who can speak to this
- ◇ Write draft guidance / policy
- ◇ Issue a Freedom of Information Act to see if policy changed

10. Success story write up:

Example:

Connecticut: http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/jpi_juvenile_justice_reform_in_ct.pdf

Ways to do this:

- ◇ Track progress through your newsletter, blog or social media
- ◇ Take photos
- ◇ Keep press clips
- ◇ Ask a class to take this on as a project
- ◇ Host a fellow / intern to take this on as a project

Added bonus: *The movement benefits when you do this as everyone can learn from your success and show that it can be done.*



CAMPAIGN ORGANIZING RESOURCES

Midwest Academy

www.midwestacademy.com/

Wellstone

<http://www.wellstone.org/>

National Organizing Institute

<http://neworganizing.com/>

Highlander

<http://highlandercenter.org/>

SOUL

<http://www.schoolofunityandliberation.org/>



RECOMMENDED READING

Youth Decarceration, Closing Youth Prisons, Reinvestment & Community-based

Alternatives to Youth Incarceration

NATIONAL:

General

Youth Decarceration series (National Council on Crime & Delinquency, 2014)

http://nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/deincarceration-summary-report.pdf

No Place for Kids (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2011)

<http://www.aecf.org/resources/no-place-for-kids-full-report/>

Pioneers of Youth Justice Reform: Achieving System Change Using Resolution, Reinvestment, and Realignment Strategies (Douglas Evans, 2012)

<http://johnjayresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/rec20123.pdf>

Is the Juvenile Justice Realignment Train Slowing Down? A Webinar from the National Center for Youth in Custody (Dr. Jeffrey Butts, Gladys Carrion, Jennifer Rodriguez, David Steinhart, 2012)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VRdR0opSow>

Resolution, Reinvestment, and Realignment: Three Strategies for Changing Juvenile Justice (Dr. Jeffrey Butts, 2011)

<https://jeffreymbutts.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/rec201111.pdf>

STATES:

Groups of states:

The Comeback States: Reducing Juvenile Incarceration in the United States (National Juvenile Justice Network, 2013)

http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/Comeback-States-Report_FINAL.pdf

A National Movement to Increase Public Safety, Rehabilitate Youth and Save Money (National Juvenile Justice Network, 2011)

<http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/Bringing Youth Home FINAL, 8.9.11.pdf>

Individual States:

Texas:

Closer to Home (Council of State Governments, 2015)

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/texas-JJ-reform-closer-to-home.pdf>



Ohio:

Getting it Right (Shubert Center, 2015)

http://schubert.case.edu/files/2013/12/Getting_it_Right.Ohio_Juvenile_Corrections.Final_.pdf

California:

Completing Juvenile Justice Realignment (CA State Legislature, 2014)

http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis/2012/crim_justice/juvenile-justice-021512.pdf

District of Columbia:

Notorious to Notable (2011)

<https://giving.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/notorious-to-notable-final.pdf>

Connecticut:

Juvenile Justice Reform in Connecticut (2014)

http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/jpi_juvenile_justice_reform_in_ct.pdf

Wayne County, Michigan:

There's no place like home: Making the case for wise investment in juvenile justice (Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, 2013)

<http://mccd.progressmichigan.org/docs/MCCD-No Place Like Home 2013.pdf>

ISSUES:**Cost:**

Sticker Shock (Justice Policy Institute, 2014)

http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/sticker_shock_final_v2.pdf

The Costs of Confinement: Why Good Juvenile Justice Policies Make Good Fiscal Sense (Justice Policy Institute, 2014)

http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/09_05_rep_costsofconfinement_jj_ps.pdf

Cost-Effective Youth Corrections: Rationalizing the Fiscal Architecture of Juvenile Justice Systems (Justice Policy Institute, 2006)

http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/06-03_rep_costeffective_jj.pdf

Public Safety:

Latest Data Show Juvenile Confinement Continues Rapid Decline (Pew, 2013)

http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/Assets/2013/08/Juvenile-_Confinement_Continues_Rapid_Decline.pdf?la=en

Juvenile Incarceration, Human Capital and Future Crime: Evidence from Randomly-Assigned Judges (Anna Aizer and Joe Doyle, 2013)

http://www.mit.edu/~jjdoyle/aizer_doyle_judges_06242013.pdf

Over-reliance:

OJJDP: Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (2011)

http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/asp/Offense_Adj.asp

Racial & Ethnic Disparities:

Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Boys' Probability of Arrest and Court Actions in 1980 and 2000: The Disproportionate Impact of "Getting Tough" on Crime (Tia Stevens and Merry Morash, 2015)

[http://yvj.sagepub.com/content/13/1/77\[Abstract\]](http://yvj.sagepub.com/content/13/1/77[Abstract])

Unbalanced Justice (Burns Institute, 2014)

<http://data.burnsinstitute.org/#comparison=3&placement=3&rac=1,2,3,4,5,6&offenses=5,2,8,1,9,11,10&year=2011&view=map>

Harmful:**Burning Down the House (Nell Bernstein, 2014)**

<http://www.nellbernstein.com>

Breaking the Cycle of Abuse in Juvenile Facilities (Barry Krisberg, 2009)

http://nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/special-report-breaking-the-cycle.pdf

The Dangers of Detention: The Impact of Incarcerating Youth in Detention and Other Secure Facilities (Barry Holman and Jason Zidenberg, 2006)

http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/06-11_rep_dangersofdetention_jj.pdf

Understanding the Risk Principle: How and Why Correctional Interventions Can Harm Low-Risk Offenders (Christopher Lowenkamp and Edward Latessa, 2004)

<http://www.yourhonor.com/dwi/sentencing/RiskPrinciple.pdf>

Risk of Death Among Serious Young Offenders (P.K. Lattimore et al, 1997)

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/publications/abstract.aspx?ID=170485> [Abstract]

Mortality in a Group of Formerly Incarcerated Juvenile Delinquents (C.A. Yaeger, 2000)

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/AbstractDB/AbstractDBDetails.aspx?id=127570> [Abstract]

Family Connection:**Double Charged (Youth Radio, 2014)**

<https://youthradio.org/news/article/double-charged/>

Can Parents Ever Be Obligated for the Support of Their Institutionalized Delinquents (NCJJ, 2011)

http://www.ncjj.org/pdf/Snapshots/2011/vol16_no4_Can Parents Ever Be Obligated for the Support of Their Institutionalized.pdf

Education:**Just Learning (Southern Education Fund, 2014)**

<http://www.southerneducation.org/getattachment/cf39e156-5992-4050-bd03-fb34cc5bf7e3/Just-Learning.aspx>

Community-Based Alternatives:**Safely Home (Youth Advocate Program, Inc., 2014)**

<http://www.safelyhomecampaign.org/Portals/0/Documents/Safely Home Preview/safelyhome.pdf?ver=2.0>



HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY PUBLIC OPINION POLLING

Public Opinion on Juvenile Justice in

America

(The Mellman Group and Public Opinion Strategies for the Pew Public Safety Performance Project, 2014)

Summary:

- ◇ Voters support sending serious juvenile offenders to corrections facilities, but they favor a range of less-costly alternatives for lower-level offenders.
- ◇ Voters see juvenile corrections facilities as government programs that should be subject to a basic cost-benefit test, and they strongly support a more robust probation system and more intervention by families, schools, and social service agencies.
- ◇ When it comes to the juvenile justice system, voters want offending youth to get the services and supervision they need to change their behavior and stop committing crimes—even if that means less incarceration.

Link:

http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/Assets/2014/12/PSPP_juvenile_poll_web.pdf?la=en

Youth Justice System Survey

(GBA Strategies for CFYJ, 2011)

Summary:

- ◇ The public strongly favors rehabilitation and treatment approaches, such as counseling, education, treatment, restitution, and community service (89%).
- ◇ Americans strongly favor involving the youth's families in treatment (86%), keeping youth close to home (77%), and ensuring youth are connected with their families (86%).
- ◇ The public strongly favors individualized determinations on a case-by-case basis by juvenile court judges in the juvenile justice system than automatic prosecution in adult criminal court (76%).
- ◇ Americans support requiring the juvenile justice system to reduce racial and ethnic disparities (66%).
- ◇ The public supports increasing funds to provide more public defenders to represent youth in court (71%).
- ◇ The public supports independent oversight to ensure youth are protected



from abuse while in state or local custody (84%).

- ◇ The public rejects placement of youth in adult jails and prisons (69%).

Link:

http://www.gbastrategies.com/public_files/cfyj101111m1.pdf

The Potential for Change: Public Attitudes and Policy Preferences for Juvenile Justice System Reform

(Center for Children's Law & Policy, 2008)

Summary:

- ◇ The public recognizes the potential of young people to change. Nearly nine out of 10 (89 percent) of those surveyed agreed that "almost all youth who commit crimes have the potential to change," and more than seven out of 10 agreed that "incarcerating youth offenders without rehabilitation is the same as giving up on them.
- ◇ The public supports redirecting government funds from incarceration to counseling, education and job training programs for youth offenders.
- ◇ The public views the provision of treatment and services as more effective ways of rehabilitating youth than incarceration.
- ◇ Less than 15 percent of those surveyed thought that incarcerating juveniles was a "very effective" way to rehabilitate youth.
- ◇ The public favors keeping nonviolent juveniles in small, residential facilities in their own communities rather than in large distant institutions.

- ◇ The public believes the juvenile justice system treats low-income youth, African American youth and Hispanic youth unfairly.

Link:

http://www.macfound.org/media/article_pdfs/CCLPPOLLINGFINAL.PDF

Rehabilitation Versus Incarceration of Juvenile Offenders: Public Preferences in Four Models for Change States

(Larry Steinberg and Alex Piquero, in the four Model for Change sites --Illinois, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Washington during 2007, released in 2008)

Summary:

- ◇ The public is willing to pay for rehabilitation: More respondents were willing to pay for additional rehabilitation than for additional punishment and the average amount they were willing to pay was almost 20 percent greater for rehabilitation than for incarceration (\$98.49 versus \$84.52).
- ◇ The public is less willing to pay for additional incarceration than added rehabilitation: Conversely, significantly more respondents were unwilling to pay for additional incarceration (39 percent) than were unwilling to pay for added rehabilitation (29 percent). (These numbers represent the average among the states. In Louisiana respondents were willing to pay slightly more for punishment than rehabilitation—\$98 versus \$94.)
- ◇ Conservatives and liberals support rehabilitation: Conservatives as well

as liberals expressed substantial support for public investment in effective rehabilitation, although self-identified conservatives reported significantly higher willingness to pay for punishment than self-identified liberals (\$86.29 versus \$62.76), and significantly lower willingness to pay for rehabilitation.

Link:

http://www.macfound.org/media/article_pdfs/WILLINGNESSTOPAYFINAL.PDF

Attitudes of U.S. Voters toward

Youth Crime and the Justice System

(Zogby for National Council on Crime & Delinquency, 2007)

Summary:

- ◇ Youth should be transferred to adult court on a case-by-case basis: 92 percent of those surveyed agreed that the decision to transfer youth to adult

court should be made on a case-by-case basis and not be governed by a blanket policy.

- ◇ Rehabilitation can prevent crime: 89 percent agreed that rehabilitative services and treatment for incarcerated youth can help prevent future crimes.
- ◇ Rehabilitation can save money: 81 percent agreed that spending on enhanced rehabilitation services for youth in the juvenile justice system will save tax dollars in the long run.
- ◇ Youth should not be incarcerated with adults: 67 percent agreed that young people should not be incarcerated in adult corrections facilities; 69 did not believe that incarcerating youth with adults will deter them from future crime.
- ◇ Disproportionate minority contact is a problem: Respondents were about twice as likely to agree (60 percent) than disagree (32 percent) that non-white youth are more likely than white youth to be prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system.

Link:

http://www.nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/focus-voters-and-youth.pdf



TALKING POINTS

SUMMARY:

Youth prisons (aka training schools, juvenile correctional facilities, youth development centers) are the signature feature of state juvenile justice systems. The largest chunk of state juvenile justice spending is on youth prisons, an approach that came into existence 100+ years ago. This approach isn't safe, isn't fair and doesn't work. It should be abandoned and replaced with less costly and more effective community-based alternatives to incarceration. Some states have taken steps in this direction, the public supports rehabilitation over incarceration, and more states should move in this direction.

KEY POINTS:

(1) Incarcerating youth is a failed and flawed policy:

It is astronomically expensive:

States spend an average of \$88,000 to place a youth, adjudicated delinquent in the juvenile justice system, into a youth prison or out-of-home placements. Some states spend \$150k or more. Annually, it costs states over \$5 billion per year.

It doesn't promote public safety:

According to the Pew Center on the States recent report on youth incarceration, "research has demonstrated that residential placements generally fail to produce better outcomes than alternative sanctions, cost much more, and can actually increase reoffending for certain youth." While comparisons are difficult to

assess because states calculate reoffending rates differently, data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's No Place for Kids report shows that youth incarceration produces high rates of reoffending.

It is over-used:

Over two-thirds of youth in youth prisons, according to the latest U.S. Department of Justice data, are there for offenses such as status offenses (running away, skipping school), technical violations, public order, drug and property offenses. These youth do not pose a risk to public safety and could be more effectively served in the community.

It isn't fair as it disproportionately impacts youth of color:

The Haywood Burns Institute's Unbalanced Justice map shows that African-American youth are 4.6 times more likely to be incarcerated than white youth, Native American youth are 3.2 times more likely to be incarcerated than white youth, and Latino youth are 1.8 times more likely to be incarcerated than white youth. Even though youth incarceration is going down, racial and ethnic disparities are increasing.

It isn't safe:

Youth are subjected to intolerable levels of physical abuse, sexual violence, excessive use of physical and chemical restraints, and overuse of isolation and often subjected to solitary confinement.

It breaks crucial family ties and penalizes families:

Youth are often placed in facilities far from their families, with limited access and visits. Families are often not included in the treatment plans for youth. And families are paying for the daily cost of incarceration as well as other fines and fees as every state allows, with most requiring, parents to be charged for the cost of their children's incarceration.

It puts kids further behind in school:

In “Just Learning”, released by the Southern Education Foundation, says that, “The data shows that both state and local juvenile justice systems are failing profoundly in providing adequate, effective education in the south and the nation.”

It sets kids up for incarceration in adult prisons:

Incarcerated youth are 60% more likely to be incarcerated as adults.

(2) There are more effective approaches:

We now know what works:

There is a rich body of research on adolescent development and effective programs that effectively reduce juvenile delinquency. The National Academy of Sciences recently released a report cataloging all of the research.

Community-based alternatives to incarceration work:

In a recent report, Safely Home, the report finds that more than 8 out of 10 youth remained arrest free and 9 out-of-10 were at home after completing their community-based program, at cost that is a fraction of what would have cost to incarcerate these youth. The findings highlight how high-need youth have been safely and successfully supported in their homes with the help of intensive community-based programs like YAP.

Any jurisdiction that uses residential or secure care has the means to serve kids safely in the community:

The average daily cost to incarcerate a youth is \$241 / day vs \$75/ day for nonresidential community based services that serve the youth and his or her family in the context of their communities, not in isolation

Anything that can be done in and institution can be done in the community only better:

Intensive community-based programs can serve three to four high-need youth safely in the

community for the same cost as incarcerating one child.

(3) More can and must be done

Current reforms don't go far enough:

For example, the funding saved from decarceration and youth prison closures isn't being reinvested in community-based alternatives to incarceration.

Most youth don't need to be locked up:

Nearly 3/4 of the youth currently locked up in youth prisons do not pose a risk to public safety and could be more effectively served in community-based alternatives to incarceration.

Youth prisons are obsolete and should be closed:

Youth incarceration has dramatically decreased over the past decade and some youth prisons are at 50% or less capacity. These facilities are become more obsolete and should be closed, freeing up millions for community-based alternatives.

Racial and ethnic disparities persist:

While youth incarceration has gone down, racial and ethnic disparities have actually increased in some places.

(4) Some states have already moved in this direction:

A handful of states representing all regions of the country (e.g. Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Deep South, Mid-west, West), led by a bipartisan group of lawmakers and governors, have taken action to proactively reduce youth incarceration. These states have placed limits on who can be incarcerated, invested in community-based alternatives, created financial incentives to direct investments from incarceration, and closed youth prisons.

NY: Closed 21 facilities, Funded alternatives, Close to Home

DC: Closed Oak Hill, Funded alternatives

OH: RECLAIM and Targeted RECLAIM – incentivized alternatives

IL: REDEPLOY – incentivized alternatives

CA: SB 81 only serious felonies can be locked up, \$ for alternatives, local control to the counties to run jj systems

TX: Banned lock up of misdemeanants, \$ for alternatives, local control to the counties to run jj systems

(5) The public strongly supports reducing youth incarceration:

Recent polls show that the public:

Strongly favors rehabilitation and treatment approaches, such as counseling, education,

treatment, restitution and community service, over incarceration.

Strongly favors involving youths' families in treatment, keeping youth close to home, and ensuring youth are connected with their families.

Supports requiring the juvenile justice system to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.

Supports independent oversight to ensure youth are protected from abuse while in state or local custody.

(6) The bottom line is that:

Communities can hold youth accountable and help them realize the consequences of their actions without resorting to incarceration.



DATA SOURCES & STATS:

Youth crime

FBI arrest stats:

<http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaucr/>

Youth in juvenile court / the juvenile justice system

Easy access to juvenile court stats:

<http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs/>

Youth in juvenile correctional facilities

Easy access to census of juveniles in residential placement:

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

Youth in adult jails and prisons

BJS annual survey of jails:

<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=261>

BJS annual survey of prisons:

<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=269>

Youth in adult court

OJJDP's most recent compilation of the stats on youth in adult court:

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/232434.pdf>

Racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system

The W. Haywood Burns Institute Unbalanced Justice resource:

<http://data.burnsinstitute.org/comparison=2&placement=1&rac=2,3,4,5,6&offenses=5,2,8,1,9,11,10&year=2011&view=map>

Additional sources:

National Institute of Corrections (NIC):

<http://nicic.gov/library/>

National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS):

<https://www.ncjrs.gov>

National Institute of Justice:

<http://www.nij.gov/Pages/welcome.aspx>

Justice Research & Statistical Association contacts in states:

<http://www.jrsa.org/sac/index.html>

State Juvenile Justice Specialists & State Advisory Group Contacts:

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/statecontacts/resourcelist.asp>

List-serves, Newsletters & Blogs:

The Crime Report

<http://www.thecrimereport.org>

JJIE

<http://jjie.org>

Juvenile Justice / JDAI (AECF)

<http://www.aecf.org/newsletters/>

JuvJust (OJJDP)

https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/listservs/subscribe_JUVJUST.asp

Models for Change (MacArthur)

<http://www.modelsforchange.net/index.html>

Juvenile-in-Justice

<http://www.juvenile-in-justice.com>

Campaign for Youth Justice

<http://www.campaignforyouthjusticeblog.org>

Safely Home Campaign newsletter

www.safelyhomecampaign.org

Justice Policy Institute

<http://blog.justicepolicy.org>

National Juvenile Justice Network

<http://www.njjn.org>

The notes



The notes

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The notes

The notes



The notes

The notes



The notes



Photo by Richard Ross

Decarceration Campaign Workbook 2015

How to Start a Youth Decarceration Campaign

Prepared by Liz Ryan, Youth First! Initiative