

NATIONAL
JUVENILE JUSTICE
NETWORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2012

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**NEW REPORT SHOWS NATIONAL MOVEMENT
TO REFORM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

National Organization Sums up Changes to Law and Policy from 47 states in 24 Categories

(Washington, DC) The National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) announces the release of [*Advances in Juvenile Justice Reform: 2009-2011*](#), a 63-page report documenting positive changes in the way states and local jurisdictions handle teens and kids in trouble with the law. The reforms include an impressive array of policy and practice changes, ranging from large-scale organizational restructuring to smaller tweaks with significant impacts, all designed to ensure that the juvenile justice system rehabilitates youth, treats them fairly and in age-appropriate ways, while improving public safety.

The report — fourth in a series published by NJJN — is an invaluable resource for advocates, policymakers, legislators, educators, and journalists working on juvenile justice issues. It provides capsule summaries of reforms made between 2009 and 2011 by 47 states and the District of Columbia in 24 different categories, including closing and downsizing facilities, blocking the school-to-prison pipeline, and removing youth from the adult system and returning them to juvenile court.

Anyone interested in learning more about a reform — by studying the legislation, the policy language, or related resources — can visit the NJJN website at www.njjn.org. Visitors can browse the reforms by subject or by state, and download relevant resources to use as inspiration or as models. Contact information for NJJN member organizations — who were intimately involved in many of the reforms listed in the report — is also available.

“Looking over all the changes of the past few years is truly inspiring,” said Abby Anderson, who co-chairs the National Juvenile Justice Network. “You can see at a glance that many policymakers now understand that it’s more cost-effective to provide services to kids and teens, rather than locking them up.”

Many of the changes highlighted in *Advances in Juvenile Justice Reform: 2009-2011* occurred in large part due to the dogged advocacy of NJJN member organizations, who have demonstrated

that juvenile justice reform results not only in more humane and just treatment of youth, but also in safer communities and less crime.

“It’s a great document to have on hand when you’re considering a policy or legislative change,” Jim Moeser, co-chair of NJJN said. “It makes it easy to learn what various states have done on that issue. Plus, the document includes a list of NJJN members, so you have someone to call who can give you more detail.” The report can be downloaded from www.njjn.org. Hard copies may be requested by emailing info@njjn.org.

The National Juvenile Justice Network is made up of 43 juvenile justice coalitions and organizations in 33 states that advocate for state and federal laws, policies and practices that are fair, equitable and developmentally appropriate for all children, youth and families involved in—or at risk of becoming involved in—the justice system. For more information, visit www.njjn.org.