

PREVENT YOUTH ARREST

Let's focus on ways to unlock the incredible potential of youth. By supporting youth, families, and communities, we can set them on the path for success. Take these steps to reduce youth arrests and help kids thrive.



1 SUPPORT HEALTHY LIVING

Young people need jobs, resources, housing, supports, and services to thrive. Counties across the country have recognized this and are shifting from incarceration to public health responses.



2 GUIDE YOUTH

Youth need peers and adults they can turn to for support. Youth and research agree "credible messengers" or mentors they can rely on help keep kids out of the justice system.



3 RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS

Young people want more school counselors who can teach conflict resolution skills to resolve issues and avoid arrest.



4 REDUCE POLICE CONTACT

Recognizing there are better ways to prevent youth misbehavior, promote public safety, and keep kids accountable, communities are starting to limit youth offenses that can lead to arrest, make more use of civil citations, and use more school guidance counselors instead of school police officers.



5 DEVELOP COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Instead of arrest, states are recognizing they can invest in community-based supports and public health programs that address the needs of youth and reduce the likelihood that they will end up in the justice system. Check out examples of these efforts in NJJN's full platform.

WANT TO CREATE CHANGE?

Route youth away from the justice maze.



The above recommendations were informed by NJJN's Young Justice Leaders.

Learn more by checking out NJJN's Policy Platform.