Campaign for Youth Justice

Wins, Next Steps, and the Work to Come

March, 2020
To end the practice of prosecuting, charging & sentencing youth (Under 18) as adults.

Mission
State & National Strategies

- Organizing & Direct Action
- Coalition Building & Outreach
- Legislative Goal
- Policy Advocacy & Lobbying
- Media & Communications
- Research
Raise the Age

End/Reduce Automatic Transfer

Remove Youth from Adult Jails & Prisons
40 states & DC have changed more than 100 laws to keep kids out of the adult system
Two Federal Laws Exist to Remove Youth from Adult Jails & Prisons (PREA/JJDPA)
The # of Youth Charged as Adults has Decreased 70% from 250,000 to 76,000/year

WINS
The # of Youth Sleeping in Adult Jails & Prisons has dropped 48% since 2005
More data and research exists to support the removal of youth from adult system.
The Narrative has begun to shift; *(some)* Children are different from adults.
Field needs to shift to state by state strategy in 11 key states.

AUTOMATIC TRANSFER: AL, AZ, FL, IN, MD, NE, OH*, PA, TN*
RAISE THE AGE: GA, TX and WI
Racial & Ethnic Disparities continue to grow; the field needs to expand alternatives for youth engaging in Violence.

PARTNER WITH RACIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS/MOVEMENTS IN STATES
June: Wind down Legisl. Sessions
July/Aug: Present on Wins
Sept/Oct: YJAM/Celebration
Nov/Dec: Wind Down
January 2021: State Strategy with the Sentencing Project
11 states have passed RTA laws
3 States remain
Raise the Age Campaigns

[Map showing states and their status on raising the age for purchase or consumption of alcohol]
Reductions in Youth Charged as Adults
Raise the Age States: Youth in Secure Placement Rates

Youth Residing In Juvenile Detention, Correctional And/Or Residential Facilities (Rate Per 100,000)

National KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation
* We have won the moral argument on raising the age, but the economic argument (state vs county dollars) remains a challenge. What arguments/data can people or CFYJ share that worked around costs?

* What additional/follow up legislation has passed in states who already raised the age to address necessary “adjustments” to laws that passed?

* Are advocates paying attention to arrest rates during COVID-19, with school being out? Will decreases help argue in favor of RTA?

What is needed to continue this work?
* What trends/data/fact sheets are needed nationally?
* What stakeholders do you need support from? (probation? Judges? Public health?)
* What resources are needed to get the last 3 states to RTA?
* How many states are interested in RTA beyond 18?
* Other questions/ideas?
Next Steps

* Gather needs from the field (June)
* Develop resources for field (July-Sept)
* Identify supports for GA, TX, WI (Oct-Dec)
* April 21: Webinar on Jail Removal Efforts

* May 19: Webinar on Reducing Automatic Transfer

Next Steps