



A Vision to Serve Youth

Programs that Work – for Everyone

Community-based programs help stop crime before it starts.

- Kids who are unsupervised three or more days a week are at least twice as likely to get into trouble.¹
- Creating after-school programs can reduce gang activity and reduce youth law violations by as much as two-thirds.²
- Participation in effective anti-truancy programs can reduce the likelihood of arrest.³
- Effective family-based community programs have been proven to significantly reduce future arrests.⁴
- Programs that teach kids to better manage their behaviors have been proven to reduce future arrests.⁵
- One Arkansas community-based re-entry program has helped kids and their families learn techniques to encourage positive behaviors. Of 175 youth who received this service, only 12 have committed another crime.⁶

Community-based programs are less expensive than placing kids in state custody.

- The total cost of treating a child in an Arkansas lockup is approximately \$131,000 per year.⁷

¹ "After-School Programs Prevent Crime," *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California*, 1-2.

² "After-School Programs Prevent Crime," 1.

³ Brian Lee, William Christeson, M.H.S., and Danielle Wondra, "On the Right Track to Safer Communities: Steering California's Juvenile Offenders Away from Lives of Crime" (*Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California*, 2007), 5.

⁴ "Interventions for Juvenile Offenders Prevent Crime," *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California*, 1.

⁵ Annie Black, "The Real Costs and Benefits of Change: Finding Opportunities for Reform During Difficult Fiscal Times," (*National Juvenile Justice Network*, June 2010), 14.

⁶ Garland County JDC Programs

⁷ E-mail communication from Ron Angel, Director of the Arkansas Division of Youth Services (July 12, 2010).

- Family-therapy programs can save as much as \$14 for every \$1 invested.⁸
- Every high-risk child who is prevented from living a life of crime can save taxpayers \$1.7 million to \$2.3 million.⁹
- Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care can provide an \$88,953 net benefit to crime victims and taxpayers per participant.¹⁰
- In Florida, the state has saved taxpayers more than \$36 million over four years and avoided \$5.2 million in prison costs by placing troubled youth in community-based treatment programs instead of lockup.¹¹

Community-based interventions help kids learn to be productive citizens.

- Holding kids in lockup can glamorize bad behavior.¹²
- Individualized community-based programs keep troubled youth from influencing each other while providing more effective care.¹³
- Kids who participate in community-based programs tailored to their individual needs are proven to have increased school attendance, fewer disciplinary problems, and higher GPAs. Providing services such as family and individual counseling, academic support, vocational and job training, substance abuse treatment, anti-aggression training and life skills training make this improvement possible.¹⁴
- Community-based programs in Arkansas have been up to 93% successful in preventing future arrests.¹⁵
- In one Arkansas multi-systemic therapy (MST) program, more than 75% of the youth who participated have been discharged from probation and are engaged, contributing citizens.¹⁶
- MST can provide a benefit of more than \$13 for every dollar spent, totaling a net benefit of \$17,194 to crime victims and taxpayers per youth treated.¹⁷

⁸ “Interventions for Juvenile Offenders Prevent Crime,” 2.

⁹ Brian Lee, 25.

¹⁰ Elizabeth K. Drake, Steve Aos and Marna G. Miller, “Evidence-Based Public Policy Options to Reduce Crime and Criminal Justice Costs: Implications in Washington State,” (2009), 186, <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/09-00-1201.pdf> (accessed July 27, 2010).

¹¹ Annie Black, 14.

¹² Maia Szalavitz, “Why Juvenile Detention Makes Teens Worse,” *TIME Online*, August 7, 2009, <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0.8599.1914837.00.html> (accessed May 24, 2010).

¹³ Maia Szalavitz.

¹⁴ Brian Lee, 14.

¹⁵ Garland County JDC Programs.

¹⁶ Garland County JDC Programs.

¹⁷ Annie Black, 14.