

PROJECT RISE

FACT SHEET

Project Rise is more than a model, it's a movement. Project Rise is changing lives and changing communities. We recognize young people are still maturing and developing. That's why we've changed our approach to youth justice. We focus on the individual, engage families, match a support system to needs, and empower healing. We help youth rewrite their futures and create more meaningful lives, and build safer neighborhoods. Together, we can change the narrative for our kids. Together, we can help them rise.

PROJECT RISE GOALS

- Reduce the number of youth entering corrections
- Reduce the number of youth who reoffend
- Increase the number of youth entering programs as alternatives to incarceration

QUICK FACTS

- Kids' brains are still growing and developing until age 25, making it hard for them to sometimes regulate their emotions or control their impulses.
- African-American youth are five times more likely to be incarcerated than white youth. For Latino youth, the number is 3.2 times more likely. (W. Haywood Burns Institute)
- At least 75 percent of youth in the justice system have experienced traumatic events. (National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice)
- The longer youth are separated from schools and communities, the more likely they are to not earn a high school degree, impacting their futures. (Justice Policy Institute)
- Recidivism rates for young adults released from prison are significantly higher than for other age groups. One study found that approximately 84 percent of individuals released under the age of 25 are rearrested within five years. (U.S. Department of Justice)

MILWAUKEE YOUTH JUSTICE PARTNERS

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee Community Justice Council, City of Milwaukee Municipal Court, SafeZone Violence Prevention Collaborative, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Georgetown University, W. Haywood Burns Institute, State Department of Children and Families, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Columbia University Justice Lab



PROJECT RISE

KEY INITIATIVES AND SUCCESSES

Since 2011, we've worked hard to reform the Milwaukee County youth justice system:

We partnered with leaders and organizations across Milwaukee County, the state and the nation, like the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the W. Haywood Burns Institute to inform our efforts.

We established a Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) committee to engage the community to help identify areas that need the most assistance and determine fair and restorative solutions.

We implemented structured decision-making tools that use data to identify each youth's individual needs to better guide case planning, supervision and placement of youth.

We added more rehabilitative-focused programs and community-based alternatives to incarceration in order to help reduce the amount of repeat offenders in the system.

- We created the Alternatives to Sanctions Program (ASP) to respond to youth on supervision who commit minor offenses and who can benefit from structured programming aimed at improving decision making skills, employability, and education.
- We expanded the use of Level II programming in conjunction with improved communication with law enforcement and other community partners to provide effective supervision of youth in the community while reducing the need for detention. This, in turn, allows youth to learn and demonstrate better decision making, make amends for their mistakes, and stay on track with their education.
- The Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) helps youth weigh the consequences of their behavior and make safer, more pro-social choices. 24 youth can be placed in the MCAP detention programming and 21 in community-based programming at one time.
- The Juvenile Education Treatment Initiatives (JETI) assists youth with substance abuse concerns and helps them to stay engaged in school.
- Restorative Justice Programs help youth understand the consequences of their actions and establish empathy for the victims of their offenses.

We introduced TARGET (Trauma Affect Regulation Guide for Education), an evidence-based brief intervention for youth who have experienced trauma.

