

COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE

ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTION
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS


HOW WE GOT HERE

Nationally: Collaborating for Change started in 2016

- Policy recommendations to help communities (1) ensure that young people are not criminalized for experiencing homelessness; (2) that youth who do come into contact with the justice system exit to safe, stable and secure housing.
- This year, two communities were selected for training and technical assistance to help implement some of the previous policy recommendations.



Project Goals:

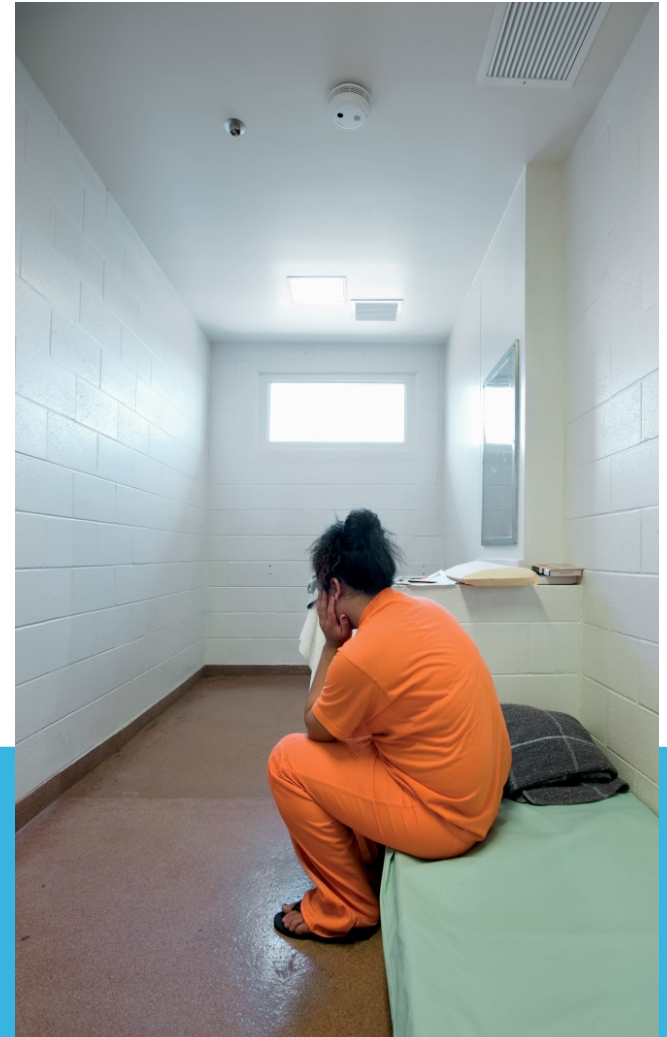
- Educate law enforcement, justice agencies, and courts about services available in the community that can serve as alternatives to justice involvement.
 - Ensure that young people are diverted from criminal justice system involvement whenever possible, and that any diversion programs or services are appropriately tailored to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness.
 - When criminal justice system involvement cannot be avoided, ensure that collaborative planning begins immediately after – and continues throughout – a youth's confinement or probation supervision
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YOUTH HOMELESSNESS & JUVENILE JUSTICE

1 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25

1 in 30 adolescent minors ages 13 to 17

Each year 800,000 children will have contact with the juvenile justice system.




JUVENILE JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Not all youth who experience homelessness are justice system involved, but there is overlap between the populations.



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND HOMELESSNESS

- Some young people are homeless before they enter the system.
 - Some forced out by parents after justice involvement.
 - Some are not picked up when they are released from incarceration.
 - Transition planning is key!
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Homeless youth are more likely to experience:

- Mental health and substance abuse issues
- Victimization and justice-involvement
- Sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies
- Education and employment challenges

Justice involvement, particularly secure detention, has been linked with:

- Later involvement in the criminal justice system
- Physical or mental health problems
- Poor educational outcomes
- Difficulty in the labor market later in life

Sources: National Network for Youth, *Issue Brief: Consequences of Youth Homelessness*; Justice Policy Institute (B. Holman & J. Zeidenberg): *Dangers of Detention: The Impact of Incarcerating Youth in Detention and Other Secure Facilities*

Are there major local points of connectivity between youth homelessness and juvenile justice that you've seen in your work?



OTHER LINKS WITH JUVENILE JUSTICE AND HOMELESSNESS

There are other ways that juvenile justice and homelessness intersect:

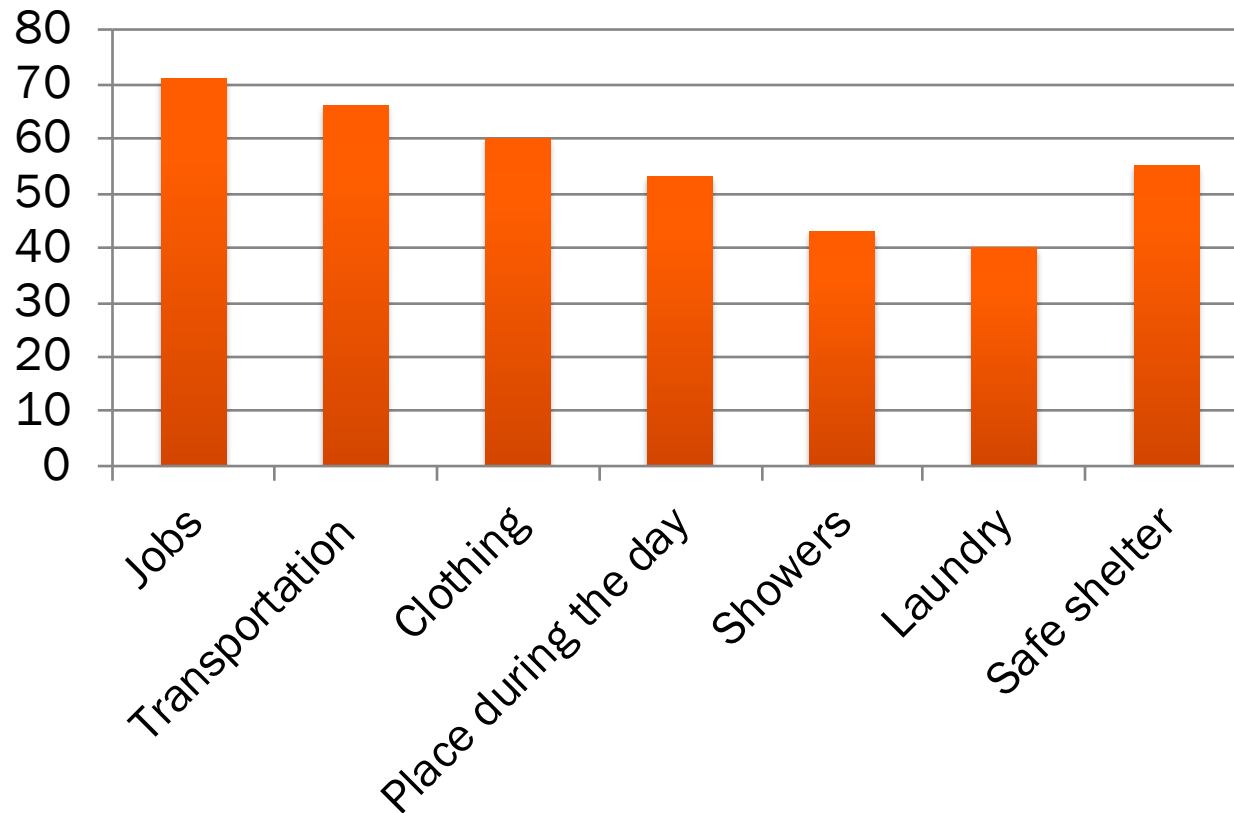
- “Quality of Life” Ordinances: prohibition on being in public parks, etc. after dark.
- Survival Crimes: Shoplifting, trespassing, human trafficking
- Family Violence
- Behavioral Health
- Collateral Consequences: limitation of housing options



From your personal experience or the experiences, you've witnessed your clients having, what major needs exist locally in order to adequately address the intersection of youth homelessness and juvenile justice?



Self Reported Service Needs of Youth Experiencing Homelessness



How can we address these challenges?



Principles for Change:

- Two primary goals of this project
- Cross-sector expert advisory committee
- Policy and practice guiding principles and action recommendations



Setting the Stage

Core areas of focus include:

- training on recognizing the intersection between the juvenile justice system and homelessness;
- incorporating these learnings into policy changes; developing a coordinated approach.

Key questions include:

- (1) how key agencies can come together to more effectively respond,
- (2) what are the options that are most needed, and
- (3) how can we improve sustainability (keeping young people in stable housing).

