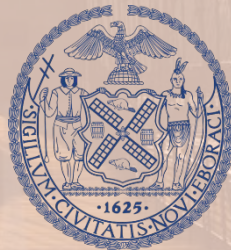


# YOUTH JUSTICE IN ACTION: A NEW YORK CITY YOUTH-LED CONVENING

April 2026



Sponsored by the New York City Council Deputy Speaker Nantasha Williams and New York City Council Chair of the Committee on Children and Youth Althea Stevens in partnership with the NYC Youth Justice Coalition.

## Introduction

Decades of community disinvestment and insufficient public resources have created persistent structural barriers for young people in New York City, particularly Black and Latine youth. Limited access to stable housing, nutritious food, reliable transportation, quality education, enrichment programs, career opportunities, and mental health supports continues to shape daily life in many neighborhoods and drive significant disparities based on race and economic status. In the absence of these fundamental resources, systemic inequities are often met with punitive responses with policing too frequently being used to manage the consequences of unmet social needs. As a result, communities that have been deprived of investment are also those most heavily surveilled, and the young people residing there are disproportionately criminalized.

This report presents key findings from *Actions to Advance Youth Justice*, a convening that brought together young people, New York City Council members, service providers, community organizations, and system stakeholders from across the five boroughs. Grounded in the lived experiences of youth, the discussions focused on the needs of those impacted by the juvenile and criminal legal systems and explored strategies to strengthen prevention, intervention, and reentry efforts. The findings that follow highlight areas of shared concern and elevate recommendations to build and sustain a more coordinated, equitable, and holistic system of supports for young people across the city.

## Key Findings

### 1. Early Prevention and Community Investment Are Critical

**Prevention Requires Reinvestment in Community Infrastructure and Neighborhood Stability.** Participants stressed that prevention begins with addressing the longstanding resource drain in the neighborhoods where young New Yorkers live, learn, and socialize. Beyond large-scale investments to address historical divestments, both youth and providers highlighted the importance of ensuring consistent access to basic public goods—such as routine sanitation services, public trash receptacles, and well-maintained parks with functional equipment—in fostering safe and dignified environments. At the same time, participants raised concerns about gentrification, noting that visible neighborhood improvements often coincide with the displacement of long-standing residents, undermining stability and community cohesion for young people. These dynamics underscore the need for place-based investments that prioritize both infrastructure and the preservation of community ties, setting the necessary foundation for more targeted youth supports.

**Sustained, High Quality, Neighborhood-Based Youth Programming Is Critical to Prevention.** All young people need access to safe, approachable spaces within their own communities where they can engage in positive activities and access supportive services. Yet in certain neighborhoods across the city, such investments have not

occurred. Participants stressed that afterschool programs, community drop-in centers, and recreational opportunities must be available year-round in all communities and designed with long-term sustainability in mind. Youth participants underscored that the quality of the staff makes or breaks a program; caring, culturally competent staff members who build relationships with youth and families, listen to them, and work with them to solve problems and identify resources are essential. Short-term or seasonal programming—while valuable—was described as insufficient to meet the ongoing needs of youth, particularly when programs are discontinued due to inconsistent funding. This lack of continuity can erode trust and discourage participation. As such, participants emphasized the importance of stable investment in community-based programming that offers consistent engagement, builds lasting relationships, and allows for the reality that many young people will need a variety of programs to meet different needs.



**Early Intervention Through Schools and Community-Based Supports Is Essential.** Both youth and providers called for prevention efforts that begin in early childhood and extend through adolescence, with a particular focus on life skills development, mentorship, and exposure to career pathways. Participants underscored the role of schools as critical access points for these supports, emphasizing the need for an educational system that

responds to student needs with resources rather than punitive measures. Where many young people stressed that schools were the site of their first police contact, they urged stakeholders to reimagine the culture of schools as a place wherein the unmet needs of young people could be attended to by culturally-responsive educators and administrators. Young people also highlighted deficiencies in basic supports, such as lack of access to food assistance and counseling, and expressed concern that such services are often only mobilized after law enforcement are involved. Expanding access to comprehensive, school- and community-based supports at earlier stages and incorporating restorative justice practices across the school system can help address unmet needs proactively and interrupt pipelines into the juvenile and criminal legal systems.

**Long-Term Investment in Proven Youth Programs Strengthens Prevention Outcomes.** Participants identified a range of programs that have demonstrated success in supporting youth development, particularly those that create opportunities for ongoing engagement through high school and beyond. Afterschool initiatives, arts and sports programming, and leadership development opportunities were all cited as critical in promoting self-esteem, skill-building, and positive peer networks. However, the effectiveness of these programs is contingent upon sustained funding and the ability to scale access across neighborhoods. Ensuring that young people can remain engaged in these programs over time and that the programs recruit and retain highly skilled and

committed staff is essential to reinforcing positive developmental trajectories and preventing system involvement.

### **Mentorship and Positive Adult Relationships Are Foundational to Youth Success.**

Across discussions, young people emphasized the importance of consistent relationships with mentors, credible messengers, and supportive adults to prevent involvement with the criminal legal and juvenile justice system. These relationships were identified as imperative in providing guidance, accountability, and emotional support in the absence of broader community resources. Participants noted that mentorship programs can also facilitate the development of critical life skills—such as financial literacy, communication, and workplace readiness—that often are not addressed in traditional settings. Strengthening and expanding access to mentorship opportunities is therefore a central component of a comprehensive prevention strategy.

## **Recommendations**

### ***Fund Prevention Programs In Communities***

- Invest in community-based programming, beginning in elementary school, that prioritizes safe and engaging spaces for young people to utilize in their own neighborhoods after school, including by restoring and expanding community centers and corresponding activities.
- Adopt a universal access model that makes prevention programs available to all youth across schools and communities, regardless of disciplinary history or criminal legal system involvement, and which recognizes that many young people need multiple resources and supports, often rendering connection to just one program insufficient.
- Ensure that all Department of Education (DOE) schools, including elementary and middle schools, have restorative justice principles embedded with at least one restorative justice practitioner on site and staff in all positions—from administrators to support staff—trained in restorative justice practices.
- The DOE should fund the establishment of peer mediation programs in all elementary, middle, and high schools. The programs should be supported by dedicated funding, staff training, and standardized implementation guidelines to ensure evidence-based alternative conflict resolution pathways.
- Develop and fund a systemwide training program and curricular framework in DOE schools that equips all guidance counselors with the skills and knowledge to apply trauma-informed and culturally competent approaches in their daily practice.
- Early intervention for school absenteeism that prioritizes problem-solving rather than blame, identifies patterns and barriers to school engagement, co-creates solutions with students and families, and supports the execution of sustainable solutions with adequate resources.

### ***Expand Mentorship and Credible Messenger Programs***

- Implement and fund mentoring and coaching programs that can support youth navigating education, employment, and personal development.
- Hire and support credible messengers who can engage directly and deeply with gang- involved youth.
- Reinstate funding for schools to partner with community-based providers to bring credible messengers on site for individual and group mentoring sessions.
- Invest in credible messenger programs that provide continuity for youth by establishing living wage salaries for program staff as well as pathways for career advancement.

## **2. Economic Opportunity Is a Major Driver of Engagement**

### **Economic Insecurity Is a Defining Barrier to Stability for System-Impacted Youth.**

Young people—particularly those with juvenile or criminal legal system involvement—described economic insecurity as a central and persistent hurdle in their lives. Participants reported navigating multiple, overlapping challenges, including housing instability, limited access to neighborhood-based resources, and financial pressures shaped their daily decision-making. Further, they shared that often they carry the weight of supporting family members, including siblings and parents, in a myriad of ways. For many, these conditions created an ongoing sense of precarity that made it difficult for them to operate day to day, let alone plan for the future or pursue long-term goals.

**Disconnection from Education Undermines Long-Term Economic Mobility.** Many youth described disengaging from the education system due to financial pressures at home, a lack of adequate support within schools, and learning environments that responded punitively amid their juggling of school, work, and caretaking responsibilities. Participants emphasized that schools often failed to provide the academic, social, and emotional resources necessary to keep them engaged, particularly for those also balancing work and/or caregiving duties. For young New Yorkers without access to higher education or vocational pathways, this disconnection contributed to a profound sense of uncertainty about their futures. These challenges were compounded for youth who became system-involved as they face additional barriers to engagement and completion, including the burden of re-enrollment, further reinforcing cycles of economic instability.

**Access to Opportunity Is Too Often Conditioned on System Involvement.**

A central concern raised by participants was that critical supports—such as job readiness training, continuing education, and employment opportunities—are frequently only made available after entry into the juvenile or criminal legal systems. Youth consistently emphasized that they should not have to experience arrest, detention, or court-involvement to



access resources that would have provided them a clear pathway to a future with economic stability. This reactive approach was widely viewed as shortsighted, delaying support until after harm has occurred is the opposite of preventive and plainly disregards key opportunities for early intervention.

**Sustained Employment and Meaningful Wages Are Essential to Youth Stability.**

Participants identified programs where they received stipends, job readiness training, and clear pathways to stable employment as critical components of economic security. However, youth stressed that short-term and low-wage opportunities are insufficient to meet their needs in an increasingly unaffordable city. Instead, they called for sustained employment opportunities that provide living wages, opportunities for advancement, and the ability to contribute to household stability. Without access to consistent and adequately compensated work, many young people remain trapped in cycles of financial insecurity that hinder their ability to transition successfully into adulthood and remain out of the criminal legal system.

## Recommendations

### *Create Meaningful Pathways to Economic Stability*

- Develop alternative education programs that support different learning styles and the needs of justice-involved youth.
- Expand access to trade certifications, vocational training, and career exploration opportunities for youth who are disengaged with traditional education.
- Incentivize employers to hire young people and provide second-chance employment opportunities by aligning skill-building and workforce training with industries offering real career potential.
- Expand the Summer Youth Employment Program to support meaningful year-round employment and skill-building opportunities for young people.

- Develop a pilot for supportive housing for emerging adults (18-26 years old) who are aging out of foster care or returning to the community from detention with slots for traditional affordable housing as young people become independent.

#### ***Provide Sustained Financial Incentives and Long-Term Engagement Opportunities***

- Provide meaningful stipends or wages for youth participating in prevention and enrichment programs to reduce financial barriers and increase sustained engagement.
- Implement extended timelines for community-based youth programs to provide participants with sufficient time to build trust, cultivate essential skills, and advance toward long-term personal, educational, and career goals.
- Establish multi-year, stable funding streams for community-based organizations to ensure continuity of programming and services. Reliable funding enables long-term planning, staff retention, and consistent support for youth, improving program quality and outcomes.

### **3. Justice-Involved Youth Require Tailored and Trauma-Informed Services**

#### **Unaddressed Trauma Rooted in Structural Inequities Shapes Youth Experiences.**

Young people described how growing up in neighborhoods marked by concentrated poverty, prolonged community disinvestment, and limited access to resources had profound and lasting consequences on their mental, social, and emotional well-being. Many also reported experiencing the loss of parents to incarceration or violence, housing instability including homelessness, and ongoing exposure to community violence. However, such trauma was frequently misunderstood or ignored, with behaviors directly shaped by these experiences often being met with criminalization rather than care. In this context, it is easy to understand how young people involved in the criminal legal system often carry significant trauma that is both a precursor to and a consequence of system contact.

**Punitive Systems Reinforce, Rather Than Address, Mental Health Needs.** Young people consistently emphasized that the systems they encounter—including schools, child welfare services (ACS), and the juvenile/criminal legal systems—are more likely to respond to trauma with punishment over support. They described that their mental health needs were often overlooked or minimized, leaving them to navigate complex challenges without stable relationships or access to appropriate care, and they discussed incidents where behaviors that were later determined to be the result of grief and trauma were disregarded by the adults that were supposed to support them, or worse, seen as misbehavior. For those who experienced detention, system involvement often exacerbated existing mental health conditions and exposed them to new traumas. Participants stressed that programs must be designed to center responses that prioritize emotional well-being, resilience, and personal growth and must incorporate trauma-informed practices that allow for non-linear progress and re-engagement over time. Such approaches are more likely to produce meaningful and lasting outcomes compared to punitive approaches that only introduce new forms of trauma and further entrench cycles of harm.

**Flexible, Family-Centered Approaches Are Critical to Effective Intervention.** Participants also stressed the importance of family-centered interventions, noting that the challenges facing youth are deeply interconnected with those experienced by their caregivers and loved ones. They also shared that family-centered support can have preventative benefits for siblings. Participants stressed that any effective strategy must incorporate two-generation models that provide integrated supports—such as counseling, court advocacy, and assistance navigating education, legal, and public benefit systems—while strengthening family relationships and stability.

**Comprehensive Mental Health and Peer Supports Are Essential to Youth Well-Being.** Access to consistent, high-quality mental health counseling was identified as critical to helping young people process trauma, manage depression and anxiety, and build emotional regulation skills. At the same time, participants emphasized that clinical services alone are not sufficient to meet young people’s needs, and stressed that even when they can access culturally-competent care, it is equally important that they see examples of healthy coping skills and healing spaces in their own communities. Peer support and mentorship relationships thus play a vital role in fostering trust, connection, and a sense of belonging. Together, these formal and informal supports can interrupt cycles of isolation, promote healing, and provide pathways toward stability. Where such supports are often absent in the lives of system-involved youth, the need for a holistic, care-centered approach to youth well-being is clear.

## Recommendations

### Address Holistic Needs Through Integrated Services

- Require community-based programs serving young people to provide comprehensive, wraparound supports, including access to mental health care, family engagement services, life skills development, and assistance with basic needs, to ensure holistic and sustained youth well-being.
- Ensure every community has a mental health clinic that is licensed to serve young people and that every school has built-in mental health support.
- Baseline funding for the Mental Health Continuum at \$5m to ensure long term implementation in the 50 highest need schools as current funding is set to expire in June 2026.
- Hire at least one more behavioral health specialist per school district to advance culturally competent and trauma-informed approaches to addressing student behavior.
- Integrate and fund services at schools and in community-based programming that address education, employment, housing, and health simultaneously.
- Fund community-based organizations to employ navigators who help families access benefits and resources.
- Fund community-based organizations to create opportunities for participants to help shape the programs they utilize as well as the public policies that impact them, such as youth advisory councils. This funding should cover skills training, support, and financial incentives for participants.
- Double funding for the New York City Council's discretionary fund for court-involved youth mental health.
- Fund a scholarship program to provide tuition assistance and stipends for systems-impacted youth entering college programs focused on behavioral health and human services.

## 4. Girls in the Justice System Face Unique Challenges

**Girls and Young Women Are Increasingly Harmed by Over-Policing and System Involvement.** While the majority of youth involved in the juvenile and criminal legal systems are boys, participants emphasized that girls and young women are increasingly subject to the same over-policing and criminalization patterns that have destabilized already marginalized communities across New York City. Despite this trend, their experiences remain largely overlooked in programming and services, resulting in a lack of targeted supports that reflect their specific pathways into system involvement. Addressing this gap requires acknowledging both the growing impact of system contact

on girls as well as the inadequate supports that then aggravate their involvement and worsen outcomes.

### **A Lack of Gender-Responsive Programming Leaves Critical Needs Unmet.**

Participants consistently identified significant gaps in programming tailored to the needs of girls and young women, noting that many prevention and intervention efforts—particularly those focused on violence—are designed primarily with boys in mind. As a result, issues such as sexual exploitation, domestic violence, teen parenthood, and sexual health are insufficiently addressed, despite being central to many girls' lived experiences. Indeed, participants reported experiencing harassment and sexual violence in spaces intended to be supportive, including schools, with limited access to meaningful recourse or protection. Girls expressed that when the only option to address harassment or dating violence was to involve the police, they often preferred not to get help at all. When responding to such pressures, girls noted that their behavior was frequently mischaracterized as aggression rather than understood as a response to trauma and chronic stress. Where girls are often pushed into caretaking responsibilities at a young age, program mandates often conflict with these obligations, sometimes leading to attrition when providers fail to adapt and meet this unique reality. This absence of gender-responsive services limits the effectiveness of existing interventions and underscores the need for more inclusive and targeted approaches.

### **Sustained Investment and Specialized Supports Are Necessary Across Settings.**

Young people highlighted the need for year-round programming that prioritizes emotional well-being, self-esteem, and life skills, noting that short-term interventions are insufficient to produce lasting change. This includes ensuring that staff are adequately trained to respond to trauma and the specific experiences of girls, in both community and detention



settings. Participants also emphasized the importance of other girl-centered supports in detention, including access to hygiene products, sexual health education, and opportunities for skill-building and creative expression. Advancing these strategies will require sustained, preventive investments that center the unique needs and strengths of girls and young women across all systems.

## **Recommendations**

### ***Develop Gender-Responsive Programming for Girls and Young Women***

- Create and expand accessible, community-based alternatives to police involvement for addressing harassment, sexual violence, and dating abuse to reduce reliance on systems that girls may be reluctant to engage. The responses employed should prioritize safety, confidentiality, and survivor-centered support.
- Design and fund programs with flexible participation requirements that account for the caregiving roles many girls and young women hold. This includes offering adaptable schedules, childcare supports, and family-centered approaches to reduce barriers to sustained engagement.
- Create a funding stream for City programs that provides access to OB/GYN services and feminine hygiene products for all participants.
- Mandate comprehensive training for educators, service providers, and detention staff on trauma-informed care and gender-responsive practices. This should include recognizing how trauma and chronic stress may shape behavior to reduce the mislabeling of survival responses as aggression.
- Require schools and other City-funded programs to adopt trauma-informed, gender-responsive disciplinary practices when girls are responding to harassment, violence, or threats to their safety. Supportive, restorative, and safety-centered interventions must be prioritized to reduce reliance on suspension, arrest, and other punitive measures.
- Expand access to paid internships, certification programs, and career pathways for girls and young women, including in healthcare, cosmetology, and other skilled trades and avenues that young people identify, to foster access to stable, living-wage employment.
- Ensure that detention facilities provide adequate, girl-centered supports, including access to hygiene products, sexual and reproductive health education, trauma-informed counseling, and opportunities for creative expression and skill-building.
- Provide funding for community providers to develop gender-affirming spaces, as girls and young women must feel safe as a first step to successful support and service provision.

### ***Develop Gender-Responsive Programming for LGBTQIA Youth***

- Fund programming that supports family intervention and family functional therapy to resolve familial conflicts stemming from a young person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

- Ensure that programs, including those in juvenile detention, implement clear nondiscrimination policies protecting LGBTQ+ individuals from harassment, abuse, and discrimination. These policies must be reinforced through mandatory, ongoing staff training on respectful treatment, appropriate search procedures, and accountability standards.

## 5. Interventions Must Be Comprehensive and Holistic

### **One-Size-Fits-All Mandated Programs Undermine Meaningful Engagement.**

Participants emphasized that rigid, compliance-driven alternatives to incarceration often fail to reflect the realities of young people's lives. Mandated services frequently do not account for competing demands such as school, employment, and familial responsibilities, nor do they consider structural barriers like unsafe program locations or lack of transportation. Some over-program youth, requiring them to travel hours between boroughs each day to attend multiple, sometimes duplicative, programs rather than targeted ones that best meet their specific needs and strengths. In this context, youth are set up to fail rather than supported to succeed. Effective interventions must instead be designed with flexibility, ensuring that programs meet young people where they are and can respond to their individual circumstances.

**Holistic, Individualized Supports Are Central to Effective Alternatives.** Youth and providers consistently highlighted the need for interventions that address the full scope of young people's needs, rather than focusing narrowly on system involvement. Participants underscored that many young people lack access to foundational life skills that are critical for long-term stability, including financial literacy, communication, and workplace readiness. This includes integrating supports related to education, employment, mental health, and family stability into a coordinated, wraparound model. Youth also emphasized the importance of individualized and interest-driven pathways, including creative outlets and advocacy opportunities, as a means of fostering engagement and building a sense of purpose. Tailoring services to each young person's strengths and needs is essential to fostering sustained engagement.

### **System-Level Reforms Are Needed to Strengthen Alternatives to Incarceration.**

Participants highlighted the need for greater public investment in community-based alternatives, noting that these programs are often underfunded, despite being more effective and less costly than incarceration. Furthermore, participants noted the critical importance of financial incentives in bringing young people to the programs and providing access to the economic stability that allows them to fully participate in programming while juggling other competing pressures. This requires the City to see financial incentives as essential in yielding successful outcomes, both in the short- and long-term. Participants also identified that improved coordination across providers, clearer communication about available services, and more equitable access to

resources are critical to improving engagement—where services were piecemeal and unconnected, participant attrition seemed inevitable. Advancing these reforms will require a shift toward youth-centered, strengths-based models that prioritize flexibility, relationships, and long-term support to improve outcomes and reduce reliance on detention.

## Recommendations

### *Expand Funding for and Enhance Youth Programming*

- Increase funding for youth-focused alternatives to incarceration, alternatives to detention, and alternatives to placement by \$10 million.
- Break down contract-created funding silos across programs that serve youth in Family Court and the criminal/supreme court Youth Parts to ensure there are no gaps in programming continuity, and allow programs to serve youth up to age 26.
- Develop and implement a funding stream specifically for smaller, innovative program models (e.g. Drive Change and Echoes of Incarceration) that focus on place-based interventions. Ensure that those programs are supported by additional funding for technical assistance and infrastructure development.
- Allocate funding to youth-serving organizations to expand their scope beyond mandated program participants and include youth with risk factors for system involvement within the populations they serve.
- Establish a dedicated and sustainable funding stream for parent coaching services that operates across agencies and programs, rather than being tied to any single institution.
- Establish a citywide Coordinator of Youth and Emerging Adult Justice with the authority to ensure consistent communication and collaboration among the multiple agencies that provide services for justice-involved youth and emerging adults.

## 6. Reentry and Aftercare Require Earlier Planning and Continued Support

**Reentry Is a Critical and Often Precarious Transition for Young People Leaving Detention.** Participants described the transition from facilities such as Crossroads, Horizons, and Rikers as a period marked by significant instability, particularly in the context of New York City’s rising cost of living. For many young people leaving detention, returning to one’s family is not a safe or stable place to go, leaving them with few options. A key challenge identified by participants was the lack of clear, accessible information about available programs and services for both themselves and their families. This gap, combined with poor coordination across agencies and providers, often leaves young people disconnected from critical resources, including safe and stable housing, at the point of release. Their access to services is frequently

inconsistent and reactive, underscoring the need for more streamlined, transparent, and coordinated reentry systems. Ensuring that young people leave detention with strong, sustained connections to housing, education, employment, and mentorship is critical to supporting their transition back into the community and into adulthood. Participants underscored that, while the long-term goal should be to reduce and ultimately eliminate youth detention, immediate investments in reentry supports are necessary to create viable off-ramps from system involvement.



**Barriers to Education and Employment Undermine Economic Stability.** Young people returning from detention face significant and unique obstacles in re-engaging with education and securing meaningful employment. Participants described challenges with school re-enrollment, limited access to alternative educational pathways, and persistent stigma that hinders job opportunities. They called for expanded career services, including job training,

career exploration, and entrepreneurship pathways, as well as youth-centered program models that offer flexible scheduling and paid opportunities. Programs must also allow for non-linear engagement, permitting young people to disengage and return without penalty as they navigate competing responsibilities.

**Comprehensive Wellness Supports Are Foundational to Successful Reentry.**

Participants emphasized that meeting young people’s mental, physical, and emotional needs is a prerequisite for achieving stability in other areas of life. Access to mental health care, nutrition, and wellness services was identified as essential to supporting youth as they pursue education and employment goals. They also stressed that reentry planning should begin prior to release, including by connecting young people with community-based organizations that can provide continuity of care and individualized support.

**Voluntary, Community-Based Approaches Improve Engagement and Outcomes.**

Youth expressed a clear preference for voluntary programming based in their communities over court-mandated models, which were often perceived as stigmatizing and ineffective. Participants called for stronger collaboration across systems, increased investment in grassroots organizations, and improved communication about available services. They also emphasized the need for flexible funding structures that allow providers to adapt to the evolving needs of young people, reinforcing the importance of designing programs that reflect lived realities rather than rigid institutional frameworks.

## Recommendations

### *Improve Reentry and Aftercare Support*

- Require comprehensive, individualized reentry planning prior to release that actively involves both young people and their families, ensuring they are informed, prepared, and connected to appropriate community-based supports for successful reintegration.
- Enhance outreach and communication strategies to increase awareness of available services among youth and their families.
- Expand access to mentorship, career development services, and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth returning from detention to support successful reentry, strengthen economic mobility, and reduce the likelihood of future system involvement.
- Increase funding for reentry services targeted at young people transitioning from facilities such as Crossroads, Horizons, Rikers Island, and those under the care of the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS). Funding should ensure access to reentry supports for all youth, including those without a formal reentry or community supervision mandate, to promote successful reintegration and reduce the risk of future system involvement.
- Establish a dedicated funding stream to support families who are welcoming loved ones returning from detention, enabling them to provide stable and effective support during reentry. This initiative can draw on similar programs like the Kinship Reentry Program developed by the Osborne Association, and aim to strengthen family capacity, promote successful reintegration, and improve outcomes for young people transitioning back into their communities.
- Create and fund a dedicated position within the Department of Education to support youth and emerging adults returning from detention in reengaging with educational opportunities. This role would coordinate across systems, provide individualized guidance, and ensure that reentering young people can successfully access and persist in appropriate educational pathways.