

From Diversion to Reentry: How Community-Based Programs Support Policies for Systems-Involved Youth

AYPF STUDY TOUR KEY TAKEAWAYS

"The importance of reliable, local, neighborhood programs to engage youth with opportunities and mentorship."

"Stop talking, start doing."

"What a comprehensive academic wraparound program can look like."

"Gentrification and redevelopment can mitigate the improvements of community investment."

"Programs and services don't matter if funding systems are racist."

"Youth should not have to be arrested in order to receive life supports to help them thrive."

"Family engagement cannot be overlooked as a key indicator."

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE MOVING FORWARD?

A summary of responses and reflections from participants.

More flexible funding for systems-involved youth that bridges programs and departments.

Expand access to certain community-based programs so kids have the opportunity to explore their passions (targeting funds more effectively).

Education for the whole child within schools to make sure they're engaged so they don't get to the point where they are in trouble.

Large systems need to improve communication to serve youth and families better.

Continued work is needed with judges because their role is key.

Ongoing analysis of disproportionate minority contact is needed.

Investigate how to solve jurisdictional issues between schools and outside academic providers.

Grassroots approaches to systems reform.

Strengthen communication with community programs about policies and how the federal government can help support their work.

