

Pilot a Transitional Youth Early Intervention Probation Strategy targeted at young adults who are assessed as being at a high risk of reoffending. Of people released in 2011 from HOCs and DOC facilities, 18- to 24-year-olds had the highest recidivism rates of all age groups; 76 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds released from HOCs in 2011 were rearraigned within three years of release. People in this age range also have the longest length of stay in HOCs and thus are responsible for the highest incarceration costs in those facilities. For people released from HOCs in 2014, the average length of stay was 6.8 months overall, compared to 7.2 months for 18- to 24-year-olds. This policy option creates a pilot probation strategy for young adults who are at a high risk of reoffending. The Office of the Commissioner of Probation and the Trial Court will work together to develop strategies to reduce recidivism among young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who are at the highest risk of reoffending. Participation in the pilot program may occur as a court-ordered condition of probation, as an intermediate sanction prior to incarceration, or as a voluntary referral for services by a probation officer. Participants will receive specialized recidivism-reduction programming as well as education and employment services. Monitoring of the pilot will be carried out by either the Commissioner of Probation or the Trial Court research division, with the goal of expanding the project to serve more young adults.

The result was the creation and funding of the Transitional Youth Early Intervention Probation Pilot, which was awarded solely to UTEC, to partner with local probation offices in Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill, Massachusetts. This partnership will result in a data-sharing agreement where both probation and UTEC will align and share a risk-needs-responsivity scoring metric (the Ohio Risk Assessment System a.k.a. ORAS) to make sure there is a shared understanding of young adult eligibility – only the highest risk young adults are eligible. The agreement has also resulted in a dedicated young adult probation officer caseload, who will act as a liaison with UTEC staff to ensure a complete and robust strategy for success is in place. Since the pilot does not want to mandate young adult participation in UTEC, it also offers unique incentives for eligible young adults who enter into the UTEC program including the waiving of fees and fines, and the possibility of a probation sentence reduction.

UTEC and the Probation Department launched the pilot in 2018 and in 2019 the State Legislature increased the funding to \$1.2 million to bring the pilot to full scale in all three communities UTEC serves.