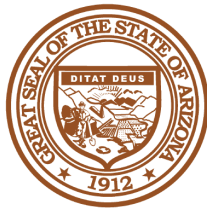


ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION BIENNIAL REPORT 2022-2024





KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TONYA HAMILTON
DIRECTOR

December 31, 2024

Governor Katie Hobbs
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs,

I am honored to serve as chair of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission and am pleased to present the 2024 Biennial Report. The report outlines the goals and activities achieved over the past two years, emphasizing the collaborative efforts and partnerships within Arizona's communities to reform the juvenile justice system by adopting best practices to reduce juvenile crime and improve public safety.

Arizona has seen a decrease in juvenile referrals and the number of juveniles in secure care thanks to a collaboration between the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC). At the start of the 2024 calendar year, the Commission relaunched the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Workgroup, whose efforts include analyzing data, identifying where disparities occur, and promoting effective practices to address and reduce these disparities.

The Commission has continued its engagement with organizations across the state on impactful initiatives supported by the Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant. Most recently, the 2024 Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) awarded approximately \$729,000 to eight organizations committed to preventing juvenile delinquency and reducing recidivism rates over the next three years. Each organization will receive support for their efforts in this critical work.

This progress reflects state agency partners' outstanding leadership and community stakeholders' collaboration in this vital work. We appreciate your ongoing support of the Commission's efforts to serve Arizona families and youth by advocating for better outcomes and safer neighborhoods. We hope these initiatives and partnerships continue to enhance the systems that meet the needs of at-risk youth while ensuring accountability and justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindi Nanetti".

Cindi Nanetti, Chair
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission

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PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

The [Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission \(the “Commission”\)](#) operates under the [Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#). Governor Hobbs reauthorized the Commission through [Executive Order 2023-20](#), amending and superseding Executive Order 2020-06. The Commission fosters conditions within Arizona communities that promote public safety and support the positive development of youth by endorsing evidence-based, trauma-informed interventions, enhancing services that affect the state’s most vulnerable children and families, and advocating for youth participation in the planning and implementation of programs to prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce recidivism.

In addition to holding four meetings throughout the calendar year, the Commission advances its work through one active workgroup. This platform facilitates discussions about specific community needs, addresses systemic challenges, identifies best practices, and provides evidence-based solutions that promote preventing juvenile delinquency and reducing recidivism in Arizona.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup

The Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Workgroup re-engaged in January 2024 to oversee the state’s initiatives to reduce disparities within the juvenile justice system, as mandated by the [United States \(US\) Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(OJJDP\)](#). The Workgroup evaluates the status of disparities affecting youth of color in Arizona’s juvenile justice system, collects data for the state’s annual R/ED plan, and promotes best practices for reducing these disparities while ensuring public safety.

MEMBERSHIP

Under Executive Order 2023-20, the Commission comprises individuals appointed by the Governor who serve at her pleasure without compensation. The following members currently serve on the Commission:

Cindi Nannetti, Chair
Maricopa County Superior Court

Alice Bustillo-Levesque
Maricopa County Superior Court (Retired)

Helen Gandara
Scottsdale Police Department

Joseph Kelroy
Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts

Maria Dodge
Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate

Suzanne Nicholls
Maricopa County Superior Court

Karen Pugh
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Ed Gilligan
Yuma County Juvenile Court

David Lujan
Arizona Department of Child Safety

Jane Kallal
Family Involvement Center

Vada Jo Phelps
Arizona@Work of Southeastern Arizona

Don Walker
Fellowship Square-Mesa

James Molina
Step-Up Arizona

Dorothy Wodraska
Maricopa County Education Service Agency (Retired)

Jennifer Jermaine
Maricopa County Justice Court

Shawn Cox
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Tracy Darmody
Ak-Chin Indian Community

Douglas Sargent
Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Guadalupe Durazo
Youth Member

Jose Gonzales
Youth Member

Shaun Rieve
Veridus LLC

Joseph Grossman
Youth Member

Royce Hill
Youth Member

Zion Givens
Youth Member

Joshua Jaeger
Youth Member

Earl Newton
Hood2Hood United

Erica Maxwell
Crayon Box Consulting, LLC

Veronica Guzman
Surviving Chaos, LLC

Nicole Schuren
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

COMPLIANCE WITH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

In 1974, Congress enacted the [Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act \(JJDP\)](#) to support local and state efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency and enhance juvenile justice systems through federal guidance, coordination, and resources. In December 2018, the [Juvenile Justice Reform Act \(JJRA\)](#) was passed and signed into law, reauthorizing the JJDP for the first time since 2002. The updated legislation included the following core requirements:

1. Section 223(a)(11)(A) | Deinstitutionalization of Status and Non-offenders (DSO) – Prohibits the placement of status offenders, non-offenders, and juveniles who are unauthorized for their illegal status in secure detention or correctional facilities (minus certain exceptions).
2. Section 223(a)(11)(B) | Removal of Juveniles Charged as Adults and Detained in Adult Facilities – Prohibits juveniles charged as adults from being confined in facilities for adults unless a court finds, in writing, that it is in the interest of justice to do so.
3. Section 223(a)(12) | Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates – Prohibits sight or sound contact between juvenile and adult inmates from occurring.
4. Section 223(a)(13) | Removal of Juveniles from Jails and Lockups for Adults – Prohibits the detention or confinement of juveniles in jails or lockups for adults (minus certain exceptions).
5. Section 223(a)(15) | Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) – States must address the overrepresentation of youth of color who come into contact with the juvenile justice system to ensure all ethnic groups are treated equally without bias.

The GOYFF is the Designated State Agency (DSA) that monitors Arizona’s compliance with these core requirements. The GOYFF provides the leadership necessary to coordinate the JJDP and support juvenile justice efforts with the Commission and other juvenile justice system agencies. Arizona’s compliance with each core requirement determines whether the state will be eligible to receive Title II Formula Grants Program funds to implement comprehensive, community-based programming that prevents juvenile delinquency, reduces recidivism, and improves outcomes for at-risk and delinquent youth.

During the past several years, Arizona has made great strides in reducing the number of compliance violations due to an intentional revision of practices by local law enforcement and juvenile courts to minimize the number of low-risk youth incarcerated for non-criminal offenses. All 15 Arizona counties have integrated a screening tool that has, at large, diverted status offenders from detention and cohabitation with high-risk youth to community services that address the root causes of incorrigible behaviors.

Further, the GOYFF Compliance Monitor has distributed approximately 400 Quick-Guide Posters to 100 law enforcement agencies that serve as a tool to help avoid violations throughout Arizona facilities. The guide depicts a crosswalk

| Title II Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitoring GUIDANCE FOR SECURE HOLDING | | |
|---|--|--|
| Juvenile Justice Delinquency & Prevention Act (JJDP) Requirements | Arizona Requirements | Best Practices |
| <p>Deinstitutionalization (DSO) Requirement</p> <p>Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11)(A), juveniles who are charged with or who have committed an offense that would not be criminal if committed by an adult (status offenders)</p> | <p>ARS 8-305</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A juvenile alleged to be incorrigible shall not be securely detained in a jail or lockup for adults A child may be nonsecurely detained if necessary to obtain the child's name, age, residence or other identifying information, and pending transportation <p>Includes: Truancy (Skipping School) Curfew Tobacco Runaways (In-State/ Out of State) Incorrigible (Ungovernable) Non-offenders (abuse, neglect, abandoned)</p> <p>Applies to Warrants, Probation Violations, and FTAs stemming from Status Offenses</p> | <p>Place in a non-secure area awaiting pickup, such as a lobby, office, or a report writing area</p> <p><u>Be advised:</u> Placing in a Cell, or Lockable room, even if the door is open is considered secure</p> <p>Cuffing to a stationary object (cuffing bench, ring, rail, or eyebolt, etc.) is considered secure</p>  |
| <p>Jail Removal Requirement</p> <p>Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(13), no juvenile shall be detained or confined in any jail or lockup for adults. Juveniles who are accused of status offenses, juveniles who are not accused of any offense, and juveniles who have been adjudicated as delinquent may not be detained or confined for any length of time in an adult jail or lockup</p> | <p>Six-Hour Exception</p> <p>A juvenile accused of a delinquent act* may be detained in a jail or lock-up for adults for a combined total of no more than six hours</p> <p>*A delinquent act is an act by a juvenile, which if committed by an adult, would be a criminal offense</p> | <p>Document the time in/out for each juvenile brought into the facility on the Juvenile Log to ensure time held does not go over six hours</p> <p>The clock starts when the juvenile enters the facility, and stops when the juvenile permanently leaves the facility</p>  |
| <p>Sight & Sound Separation Requirement</p> <p>Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(12), juveniles alleged to be or found to be delinquent, status offenders, and juveniles who are not charged with an offense and who are unauthorized immigrants or alleged to be dependent, neglected, or abused may not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have sight or sound contact with adult inmates</p> | <p>ARS 8-305</p> <p>A juvenile who is confined in a jail or lockup in which adults are confined shall be kept in a physically separate section from any adult who is charged with or convicted of a criminal offense and no sight or sound contact is permitted</p> <p>This statute applies to juveniles charged as adults, in addition to delinquent, status offenders and non-offenders</p> | <p>No sight or sound contact between the juvenile and any charged or convicted adult is permitted, including Trustees</p> <p>Use time-phasing, and separate processing areas to avoid any sustained contact</p>  |
| <p>For additional information please contact: Madeleine Dorn Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitor JJCompliance@az.gov (602) 769-7470 goyff.az.gov</p> | | |

of federal regulations, Arizona statutes, and best practices related to the core requirements of JJDP. Additionally, Arizona has integrated new regulations from the JJDP's 2018 reauthorization in Arizona's Compliance Monitoring Policy and Procedures Manual, utilized when conducting statewide audits of facilities that may detain juveniles to ensure compliance with the JJDP core requirements. These efforts continue to show Arizona's commitment to consistently maintaining full compliance with all four requirements across the state.

The GOYFF submitted the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2023 Arizona Compliance Report to OJJDP on behalf of the Commission in July 2024; Arizona complied with all four core requirements.

THREE-YEAR PLAN PROGRAM NARRATIVE

To ensure that Arizona complies with the JJDP's four core requirements, the GOYFF, in collaboration with the Commission, developed an updated Arizona Three-Year Plan in the spring of 2024. Informed by collecting and analyzing juvenile crime trends and a statewide survey designed to gather stakeholder input, the plan builds upon the 2021 Three-Year State Plan and outlines prioritizing the allocation of the federally authorized OJJDP Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula Grant. The grant aims to support services for youth at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. By statute, award distributions are to tribal communities, local government units, and non-profit organizations.

The 2024 report is available [here](#).

Arizona Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula Grant

As part of the 2021 Three-Year Plan, which runs from October 2021 through September 2024, the GOYFF distributed approximately \$949,000 annually to ten organizations to support their efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce recidivism rates among the youth served: 2,705 in 2023 and 2,813 in 2024.

Participants in the programs reported improvements in several protective factors that can help mitigate the harmful effects of risky behaviors, promote healthy habits, and ultimately decrease the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. These include self-esteem, relationships with parents and caregivers, positive leisure and recreational activities, social competencies, active school participation, adherence to school attendance expectations, reduction or abstention from substance misuse, and enhanced family functioning. The Arizona Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula Grant programs are as follows:

- [Arizona Youth Partnership](#)
- [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona](#)
- [Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.](#)
- [Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition, Inc.](#)
- [Improving Chandler Area Neighborhoods \(ICAN\)](#)
- [New Pathways for Youth, Inc.](#)
- [notMYkid, Inc.](#)
- [Pima County Juvenile Court Center](#)
- [Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc.](#)
- [Youth Advocate Programs \(YAP\), Inc.](#)

In October 2024, the GOYFF awarded approximately \$729,000 to eight organizations working to prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce recidivism rates. The programs are as follows:

- [Arizona Youth Partnership](#)
- [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona](#)

- [Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition, Inc.](#)
- [Northland Family Help Center](#)
- [Peer Solutions](#)
- [Pima County Juvenile Court Center](#)
- [Youth Advocate Programs \(YAP\), Inc.](#)
- [YWCA Southern Arizona](#)

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

2024 National Conference on Youth Justice Sponsorship November 2024

In November 2024, the GOYFF sponsored four commissioners to attend the 2024 National Conference on Youth Justice, organized by the OJJDP. This group, which included the chair, youth members, members of the R/ED Workgroup, and three GOYFF staff members, traveled to Washington, DC, for the three-day conference that focused on federal regulations, program development, and community needs assessments aimed at transforming the juvenile justice system.



JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AGENCY UPDATES

The Commission received updates from state agencies on their efforts to support best practices for reducing juvenile crime and increasing public safety in Arizona. Presenters included:

*Arizona Office of the Courts Juvenile Division
Juvenile Detainment Petition Updates
Joe Kelroy, Director
May 2, 2023*

As of December 2021, the JJRA instituted a new requirement mandating that juveniles charged as adults must be kept separate from adult inmates regarding sight and sound. To comply with this requirement, the JJRA introduced a new exception called the Interest of Justice (IOJ), which allows courts to decide the placement of juveniles tried as adults. Juveniles charged with criminal offenses may be placed in adult facilities if the court finds it appropriate based on IOJ considerations. Furthermore, the courts must hold hearings every 30 days to determine whether continued placement in an adult facility is suitable. These juveniles must be removed from an adult facility after 180 days unless the court decides that an extension is necessary or the juvenile waives this limitation. At the time of the presentation, there were 270 juveniles in juvenile detention, 47 charged in criminal court, and 45 housed at the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department.

*Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
Interstate Compact for Juveniles
Howard Wykes, Administrator
September 5, 2024*

[Arizona Revised Statute \(ARS\) §8-363](#) charges the ADJC overseeing and administering the [Interstate Compact for Juveniles \(ICJ\)](#) for [Arizona](#), an agreement across all 50 states and U.S. territories to provide consistent care and supervision for adjudicated youth who must be placed or relocated to another state. It ensures the same level of safety and support for youth who have run away or fled to avoid prosecution as is provided for local youth. Arizona consistently has more probation and parole cases than it transfers to other states. In the fiscal year (FY) 2023, Arizona supervised 96 ICJ youth and returned 58 youths from other states who were either runaways or absconders, while other states supervised 69 Arizona youth. In FY2024, the number of Arizona youth returned from other states decreased to 28, with 122 ICJ youth

supervised within the state, in contrast to 71 youth sent to other states for supervision.

Youth Input

Per the Commission's Executive Order, AOC Juvenile Division and ADJC actively gather input from the youth under their jurisdiction through two primary methods: the Youth Exit Survey (YES) and the [Arizona Youth Survey \(AYS\)](#).

The results from YES provide valuable insights, as perceived by the youth served in Adobe Mountain School's internal operations, to help improve various programming strategies, enhance positive outcomes, and support employee engagement efforts. The juvenile's caseworker collects the feedback voluntarily and anonymously online, allowing the youth to share their experiences around several key areas: safety, treatment, medical services, clinical services, pro-social activities, and community transition. Most youths rated these components positively, ranging from 74.6% to 96.7%.

The AYS is administered biennially to a statewide sample of 8th, 10th, and 12th-graders to assess the prevalence and frequency of Arizona youth substance use, gang involvement, and other risky behaviors to help inform stakeholders better understand the risk and protective factors correlated with these behaviors. The AYS provides insight into adolescent youth's current, more frequently committed activities that may threaten their health and safety, which also helps to provide regular input from youth.

MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Between the 2023 and 2024 calendar years, the Commission heard presentations from issue-area experts about how improved collaboration, fostering youth development, implementing evidence-based programs, and utilizing trauma-informed interventions are best practices for reducing juvenile crime and enhancing public safety. Presentations included:

notMYkid Title II Program

Sarah Grado, Chief Program Officer

February 9, 2023

[notMYkid](#)'s mission is to empower and educate youth, families, and communities to identify and prevent negative youth behaviors, focusing on providing substance use disorder services to at-risk youth in Bullhead City, Kingman, and Lake Havasu City. notMYkid's [i]nspired: Hope and Healing for Youth program targets at-risk and delinquent youth referred by schools, probation officers, or the juvenile justice system. It addresses emerging issues related to drug and alcohol use disorders in youth through a three-tiered approach: early intervention, peer support, and intensive outpatient group therapy. The program adopts a strength-based approach grounded in the belief that caring adults, healthy connections, family support, access to care, and comprehensive initiatives that prioritize youth's social and emotional foster recovery. Services also extend to caregivers, schools, youth-serving organizations, and the healthcare community to raise awareness about the root causes of substance use disorders and to promote solutions that reinforce the idea that treatment works and recovery is possible.

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. Title II Program

Patricia Delp, Director

February 9, 2023

The [Youth Advocate Program \(YAP\), Inc.](#) collaborates closely with the [Yavapai County Probation Department](#) to support youth at risk of being placed in more secure facilities. YAP requests that the court permit mentors to spend as much time as possible with these youth before placement occurs. Service statistics for Yavapai County indicate that 48% of those served are people of color, 45% are male, and 90% are aged 14-17. Currently, YAP receives more referrals for females, but the organization actively seeks male advocates to increase the number of males served. Program outcomes show that 93% of youth engaged in the program have yet to be convicted or adjudicated

for new offenses. Additionally, 91% of participants live safely in their communities after discharge, and 95% regularly attend school or have obtained their General Educational Development (GED) after discharge.

***Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force
Staff Sergeant Deb Stoks, Drug Demand Reduction and Outreach
February 9, 2023***

The Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) Drug Demand Reduction and Outreach (DDRO) Team enhances support for Arizona coalitions and community-based organizations (CBOs) by collaborating with local, state, and tribal entities to provide leadership, expertise, and evidence-based initiatives. Through these efforts and by raising awareness about the dangers of substance misuse and abuse, they aim to reduce drug demand and address substance use issues in Arizona communities. The DDRO Team engages with community members by collecting prescription medications during the [Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\)'s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#) events. Furthermore, the DDRO Team collaborated with the AOC's Juvenile Justice Division and the [Arizona High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas \(HIDTA\)](#) to provide the Juvenile Probation Officers with training on the [Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona \(SACLAZ\) Fentanyl Toolkit](#) delivered to 234 officers with 32,550 informational materials distributed across all 15 Arizona counties.

***Rural County Juvenile Detention Operations
Ed Gilligan, Director of Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center
May 4, 2023***

Yuma County is the only juvenile detention facility in Arizona's rural counties. As such, the [Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center](#) operates with a philosophy that opposes the transfer of youth to adult facilities, ensuring that resources are readily available for rehabilitation. The center follows a "close-to-home services" model, dedicated to empowering juveniles to leave the facility in a better state than when they arrived. As of May 2023, the center houses eight youths, four facing adult trials.

***Juveniles in Adult Detention
Lance Lelise, Deputy Chief Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
May 4, 2023***

If the court finds it in the IOJ, criminally charged juveniles may find placement in adult facilities. Juveniles are in the custody of the [Maricopa County Sheriff's Office \(MCSO\)](#) after the court determines that this placement serves the best IOJ. The IOJ exception within the JJRA allows courts to decide the placement of juveniles tried as adults. The juveniles held by the MCSO are housed at the Lower Buckeye Jail (LBJ), which consists of 36 cells, 16 classrooms, a computer lab, a day room, a chapel, and an attached recreation yard, ensuring no contact with adult inmates. Inmates are managed based on their classification, determined through weekly meetings of a Special Management Review Committee composed of Classification, Mental Health, and Detention Staff. Correctional Health Services (CHS) Mental Health Staff conduct daily checks in the juvenile unit. The pod has a TV and phones for inmates to use while out of their cells, and each inmate has an assigned tablet. These tablets can be used for various purposes, including programming, making phone calls, sending emails, reading books and watching movies, requesting information and games, learning a language, making video visits, receiving news updates, and seeking non-emergency medical care. CHS also provides a suicide hotline for immediate assistance. Juveniles can access free courses on their tablets, with the option to add additional programming. This list does not include the extra services offered by CHS. Furthermore, there is a canteen where juvenile inmates can order food; the menu offers healthier options, with items high in sugar and fat removed to comply with Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) guidelines.

Multi-County Juvenile Detention Operations
Denise Smith, Director of Pinal County Youth Justice Center
May 4, 2023

The [Pinal County Youth Justice Center \(PCYJC\)](#) provides a short-term, constructive living environment to stabilize juvenile offenders by fostering victim sensitivity and promoting community accountability. Juveniles begin the intake process at PCYJC through various legal pathways, including a Grand Jury Indictment, the County Attorney filing adult criminal charges, a judge making a custody decision during an initial appearance, or a court order directing the juvenile into the facility. PCYJC serves the Pinal County community and has contracts with Apache, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz counties, with an average detained length of around 19.9 days. However, juveniles from Pinal County typically stay an average of 17.20 days, while crossover youth (involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems) remain for approximately 24.73 days. The most common offenses leading to detention at PCYJC include assault, domestic violence, criminal damage, shoplifting, and status offenses. During their stay, juveniles have access to a variety of resources and programming, including yoga, Narcotics Anonymous, vocational opportunities, and various treatment groups such as Power Source, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), individual counseling, and crisis intervention.

Hope In Motion
Elizabeth Michaelis, Founder
Rachel Sloma, Director of Programming
September 14, 2023

[Hope in Motion](#) is a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides trauma-informed care, life skills training, mentorship, and community re-entry support for youth and young adults who have aged out of the juvenile justice system. Although at the time of the presentation, it had been an official 501(c)(3) organization for about 18 months, it has partnered with Adobe Mountain for longer, working with youth to help them become leaders. Rather than reinventing the wheel, Hope in Motion fills the gaps in transitional programming for juvenile justice-involved youth and those aged out, connecting them with appropriate resources and services from trusted partner organizations. Through insights from juvenile justice-involved and aged-out youth that have informed program development, programs address various issues, including domestic violence prevention, human trafficking trends, homelessness, public safety, child abuse prevention, education, healthcare, substance use, and mental health. While the programs are not explicitly faith-based, they aim to build trust with the youth, who may be more receptive to additional spiritual programming. In its first year as a 501(c)(3), Hope in Motion supported 56 youths who had aged out of the system, and as of September 2023, over 170 youths are participating in Intentional Programming at Adobe Mountain.

The Barbell Saves Project
Rob Best, Founder
September 14, 2023

[The Barbell Saves Project](#) promotes overall health by fostering a supportive community. All classes are peer-led, meaning that our staff members have lived experiences with substance use, which helps them serve the community more effectively. The organization is working to certify all staff and coaches as Peer Recovery Support Specialists through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). At the time of the presentation, three members had successfully transitioned into coaching roles, while three more were learning and shadowing with the potential to become coaches. Classes are offered daily and begin with coaches asking intentional questions about support and recovery. Coaches and staff assist participants in connecting the discipline gained from challenging workouts to their abilities in other aspects of life. On Saturdays, individuals are encouraged to bring supportive friends or family members who are not in recovery to witness the implementation of positive practices in their lives. In 2022, the Barbell Saves Project introduced a youth prevention component. Participants reported that they developed time management skills by prioritizing gym classes,

which improved their performance in school and other areas of life that require commitment. By the time of the presentation, the program had successfully served over 1,000 individuals.

*Arizona State University Youth Justice Lab
Dr. Adam Fine, Principal Investigator
December 14, 2023*

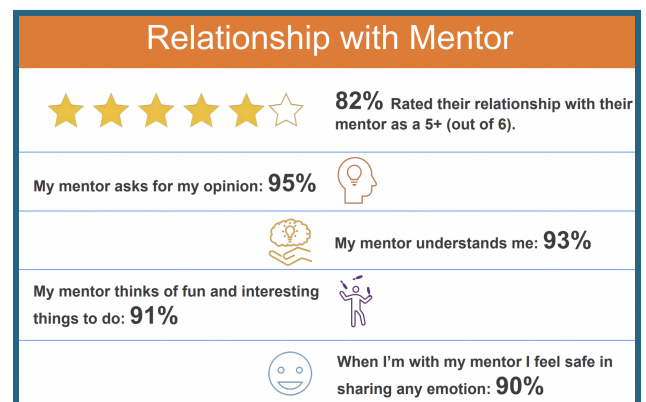
The [Arizona State University Youth Justice Lab \(ASU YJL\)](#) conducts rigorous empirical research on juvenile justice, utilizing program evaluations of randomized controlled trials, self-reported quantitative surveys, and in-depth qualitative ethnographies. The lab collaborates with policymakers, practitioners, and scholars to address critical issues, including racial and ethnic disparities, law enforcement relationships with youth, juvenile justice, and youth rights. In 2021, ASU YJL implemented various programs, such as a tutoring initiative for juveniles in short-term detention, within Maricopa County that has since expanded to Pinal and Mohave County. ASU students mentor participating youth while earning school credit for their time, benefiting the counties and young people by providing free tutoring. ASU YJL aims to expand its in-person tutoring services to a virtual format to reach more youth. The Destruction of Records project increases awareness of record-clearing options available to approximately 7,000 individuals in Maricopa County. These include record destruction, adjudication set aside, record expungement, and restoration of civil rights for juvenile offenses. Lastly, ASU YJL organizes two in-person events annually, where individuals can receive assistance from volunteers and appear before a judge on the spot. A public website with instructions for the e-filing process is also available for those who wish to navigate it independently. In addition to community activities, ASU YJL's research focuses on understanding the experiences of juveniles and their families while on probation. Surveys conducted after probation provide multiple viewpoints to assess the process and identify changes over time. The collected survey responses are available on a public dashboard, offering real-time data to counties and probation officers about the experiences of youth and their families.

*Arizona Youth Partnership Title II Program
Kelly Tanner, Director of Youth Services
February 1, 2024*

The [Arizona Youth Partnership \(AYP\)'s Solutions of Success: Mind Matters Program](#) is a comprehensive delinquency prevention initiative for youth aged 12 to 17 in Mohave and Yavapai Counties. Each year, the program supports approximately 150 status offenders and delinquent youth participating in their schools' Mind Matters: Overcoming Adversity and Building Resilience curriculum. In addition, 65 youths receive intensive case management and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to help reduce recidivism, raise awareness about substance abuse, and improve school attendance across three youth homelessness shelters.

*New Pathways for Youth Title II Program
Dr. Karen Johnson, President and CEO
February 1, 2024*

[New Pathways for Youth \(NPFY\)](#)'s Level Up program transforms youth's lives by providing the support, stability, and skills they need to flourish in the community and their families through a four-step approach that increases protective factors in social and emotional learning that relates to a decrease in at-risk behaviors in a cohort setting. At the time of the presentation, 112 youth reported experiencing significant improvements in conflict resolution, goal setting, problem-solving, academic behavior, and positive social interactions while decreasing individual and peer risk behaviors and delinquent values.



Child & Family Resources
Dianna Bonneau, Senior Program Director
Karely Bustamante, Program Director
May 2, 2024

[Child & Family Resources' Prevention Program for Youth \(PPY\)](#) consists of eight initiatives aimed at preventing substance use and misuse, addressing overdose, raising community awareness about mental illness, promoting resilience and emotional health, and developing essential skills such as leadership, self-regulation, and communication for children and youth; all vital skills for future success. The PPY impacts local communities by working with at-risk youth and their families, including individuals affiliated with the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), foster care participants, referrals from school social workers and counselors, and incarcerated individuals or group homes. The programs within the PPY include Empowering Families, Trauma-Informed Substance Abuse Prevention Program (TISAPP), Building Thriving Communities, Marana Prevention Alliance (MPA) Coalition, Mental Health Matters, Empowering Youth, Guy Talk, and Ready4Life.

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections' Education Programs
Jenine Wright, Education Superintendent
May 2, 2024

All new ADJC Adobe Mountain School admissions complete a comprehensive screening, assessment, classification review, and orientation regarding the ADJC's policies, procedures, programs, and services to identify the rehabilitative programming appropriate to the youth's age, risk, needs, abilities, and committing offense(s). When the youth completes the required screenings and assessments, a Classification Assessment Summary (CAS) assigns the youth to a housing unit to develop an individualized Continuous Case Plan (CCP), which adapts to reflect the needs and progress of the youth that follows them through their transition back to the community. Adobe Mountain School provides training in various career and technical fields, including building trades, cosmetology, and culinary arts. The building trades program offers entry-level positions in construction, while the cosmetology program teaches haircutting, styling, barbering, waxing, manicure/pedicure, chemical balance for coloring, and braiding. Students also have the opportunity to visit other community barbershops and earn credits toward a certificate. In the culinary arts program, students can earn a ServSafe Foods Handlers national certificate and work in a mobile kitchen preparing meals with sous and head chefs. Adobe Mountain's career transition path provides help with developing skills, creating resumes, and building interview skills. In addition, Adobe Mountain now has a full-scale music studio. The studio includes a recording area so students can write lyrics in class and record them. They also have a music producer from Los Angeles working with the instructor, with whom they plan to continue their partnership to expand the program.

Canyon State Academy
Brian Heath, Executive Director
Jason Lane, Program Director
Erin Kelsey, Director of Student Services
May 2, 2024

[Canyon State Academy \(CSA\)](#) is a structured and rigorous year-round education program to help youth who are often two years behind in their studies due to previous educational disruptions. Multiple wraparound services are available for youth at the school, such as credit recovery programs and various courses to prepare students for re-entry into the community. The school has a farm where students can participate in equine therapy with goats, horses, donkeys, and turtles. Furthermore, they offer Rite Path Services, an integrated community model that provides counseling services to the students at CSA and families in the community. CSA encourages youth to participate in extracurricular activities such as football, basketball, and other sports, offering a range of options through their junior high program. The licensed group home facility spans over 180 acres in Queen Creek and provides shelter that caters to around 70 children. The DCS is the

referral source for most youth served, while the rest are crossover youth. The goal of CSA is to positively impact the lives of youth by keeping them out of jail, helping them develop strong relationships within the community, and helping them succeed in their lives.

Hustle PHX

Oye Waddell, Founder

September 5, 2024

[Hustle PHX](#) provides programs designed to break the cycle of poverty and equip justice-involved individuals with the tools and resources needed to create positive changes in their lives and communities. The Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) fosters partnerships with various agencies and organizations across the valley, helping young people connect with themselves, discover their purpose, and develop their careers and businesses. Launched in the spring of 2022, YEP has conducted 101 and 202 programs at the Durango Juvenile Detention Facility and Adobe Mountain. The length of each program varies depending on the partnering organization and available time. During the most recent Adobe Mountain 101 program pitch night, all 16 participating youth had the opportunity to present their business ideas to peers, friends, and family.

To find a complete summary of Commission meetings and presentations, [click here](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission recommends the following for the governor's consideration:

1. Renew the Commission for the next three years, aligning with the 2024 Three-Year State Plan to continue serving in an advisory capacity over the duties outlined in the JJDPa, as amended by the JJRA.
2. Utilize the 2024 Three-Year State Plan to incorporate evidence-based practices in juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment services to improve youth outcomes and reduce recidivism rates.
3. Continue to invest in stakeholders in Arizona to attend national conferences that provide best practices training for implementation in Arizona.
4. Create a shift in support to keep children in their community and not facilities by continuing to fund trauma-informed programs through the Title II Formula Grant.
5. Eliminate detention for status and other low-risk offenders to the greatest extent possible in favor of community-based services to minimize trauma.
6. Maintain strong partnerships with law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance with the JJDPa through compliance visits, ongoing training, and technical assistance.
7. Support county-wide efforts to implement alternatives to detention for status and low-risk offenders that address the needs of youth and their families to prevent future delinquency.
8. Seek opportunities to include youth and family input when creating or modifying justice-related policy and developing systems-improvement initiatives.
9. Build and maintain partnerships with tribal communities to proactively address the needs of at-risk and justice-involved youth living on tribal lands.
10. With the support of the R/ED Workgroup, continue monitoring data to determine whether it indirectly increases justice-involvement disparities for Arizona youth of color.

