

Monmouth County Youth Services Commission Youth Justice Strategic Plan

January 2027 – December 2029



NEW JERSEY YOUTH JUSTICE COMMISSION

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Introduction

The [Youth Justice Commission \(Commission\)](#) was established in 1995 to serve as the single agency of the State government with centralized authority for planning, policy development, and the provision of services in the youth justice system. The Commission is committed to implementing and promoting policies and practices that improve outcomes for young people at risk of or who are involved with the youth justice system, as well as for their families and communities.

The Commission's primary responsibilities include:

- Supporting local efforts to provide prevention and early intervention services to at-risk and court-involved youth.
- Providing care, custody, and rehabilitative services to youth committed to the agency by the courts.
- Supervising and coordinating services for youth released from custody on parole.

In fulfilling the first responsibility, the Commission works in partnership with counties to identify and address the unique needs of their youth populations. This collaboration is supported through funding, guidance, and technical assistance, enabling counties to strengthen local services, build effective delinquency prevention strategies, and expand opportunities for young people to thrive.

County Youth Services Commissions (CYSC) [N.J.A.C. 13:90-2.3](#), legislatively established planning bodies within each county, are charged with planning and implementing programs for youth at-risk of involvement and for youth involved in the youth justice system. Under [N.J.A.C. 13:90-2.3](#), each CYSC must develop and submit a triennial comprehensive plan that guides local youth justice programming priorities. The development of the county's Youth Justice Strategic Plan, prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Youth Justice Commission (YJC), fulfills this requirement. While adherence to N.J.A.C. 13:90 is required, this planning document should also be viewed as a valuable tool for leveraging resources. By clearly identifying the needs of youth in the county and the needs of the youth justice system, the design of these planning guidelines intentionally supports the potential to pursue local, federal, state, and foundation funding opportunities that expand and strengthen the broader continuum of community-based programs and services. The Plan is meant to become a strategic roadmap for creating a continuum of community-based programs and services that prevent delinquency, address the causes and correlates of youth justice involvement, and provide effective support and sanctions at each stage of the youth justice continuum—from primary delinquency prevention through successful reentry.

Youth Justice Strategic Planning Guidelines

The Commission produced Youth Justice Strategic Planning Guidelines (Guidelines) for use by County Youth Services Commissions (CYSC) when completing the County 2027-2029 Youth Justice Strategic Plan (Plan). Counties are expected to carefully review the Guidelines in their entirety and follow them carefully throughout the planning process.

The Guidelines establish the overall planning framework that will guide the county throughout the process. They outline all required components of the Plan and provide guiding questions to help structure meaningful discussions and thoughtful analysis. Additionally, the Guidelines offer direction as counties identify planning subcommittee members, review their existing continuum inventory and qualitative and quantitative data, and develop recommendations to address county-specific challenges or emerging trends.

A careful and thorough review of the Guidelines will help ensure that the County's Plan is comprehensive, collaborative, and data-informed, while aligning with the CYSC's priorities and the county's overall vision for youth justice.

Submission of County's YSC Youth Justice Strategic Plan

Using the results of the Planning Guidelines, the CYSC must complete and submit **Attachment A** to the Commission's YSC Grant Management Unit at **JCYSCGMU@YJC.NJ.GOV** no later than **October 5, 2026, at 3:00 PM**.

Attachment A outlines the county's funding priorities at each point in the youth justice continuum. After submitting Attachment A to the Commission, the CYSCs will review and discuss the types of programs needed at each system decision point. Based on these discussions, the CYSC will determine which programs and/or services the county intends to fund during the 2027-2029 funding cycle and will submit this information to the Commission through the Youth Justice Commission's funding application process.

As part of the application process, county planners will likely need to balance the continuation of core programs with the need to implement new or different service types to strengthen their local continuum of services. Programs identified in Attachment A but not selected as priorities in the Application should still be considered for future funding, either during update years of the three-year planning cycle or as additional funding becomes available.

The Commission will compile and share information on the types of programs identified as needed but not funded by the counties. This information will be shared with the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Committee to assist with informing the Committee's funding priorities

DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- I. Definition and Rationale
- II. Planning Requirements
- III. Existing Program Inventory
- IV. Quantitative and Qualitative Data
- V. Programming Recommendations

I. Delinquency Prevention Definition and Rationale

Delinquency prevention includes strategies, programs and services designed to increase the likelihood that youth remain positively engaged in their schools, families, and communities and avoid initial involvement with the youth justice system. The goal of delinquency prevention is to strengthen protective factors, reduce barriers to success, and support youth in making healthy choices that lead to positive development. For the purposes of this Plan, primary delinquency prevention programs are those directed at the entire at-risk youth population in a targeted area—such as a specific school, neighborhood, or community—where risk factors are present and where opportunities exist to build resilience. Secondary delinquency prevention programs are those directed at specific youth who demonstrate higher levels of need than the general population, based on behaviors or circumstances that place them at greater risk of youth justice involvement. Given this goal, delinquency prevention programs developed annually through the comprehensive planning process must serve a clearly identified population of at-risk youth and must provide services that strengthen protective factors, address underlying needs, and expand pathways to positive outcomes.

In addition, counties provide crisis intervention for families through either a Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) or Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS), offering timely support to stabilize crises and prevent escalation to court involvement or out-of-home placement. Because both serve similar populations, counties may integrate FCIUs and MRSS into combined units (CUs) through an affiliation agreement between the Judiciary and the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

FCIUs provide short-term, family-centered intervention to resolve crises early and prevent deeper system involvement, with the authority to initiate court action only when a youth's safety remains at risk after all services have been exhausted. MRSS provides a 24/7, face-to-face behavioral health response focused on immediate stabilization, de-escalation, and connecting families to ongoing supports to prevent placement disruption and future crises.

Delinquency prevention data help counties understand youth population trends and the conditions that influence youth success. By identifying both risks and protective factors, counties can determine appropriate prevention programs and make informed decisions about where to invest resources.

For this Plan, the data serves as a starting point for prevention planning; however, effective prevention typically requires deeper, localized analysis at the school, neighborhood, and community levels.

II. Delinquency Prevention Planning Requirements

Planning Process

Provide a comprehensive description of the County's Youth Services Commission (CYSC) overall planning process in the development of its 2027 – 2029 Youth Justice Strategic Plan, including how the CYSC organized its work, involved key stakeholders, reviewed data, and set priorities. Describe how the process was structured to ensure collaboration, thoughtful decision-making, and a clear plan for moving forward.

Monmouth County established a Core Planning Team for the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. Input gathered from the community, youth and families, and other identified stakeholders was shared and integrated into the planning process. Outreach to key informants or topic experts was conducted to include their perspectives and knowledge on specific areas of the continuum and to obtain updated data.

Collaboration with other key county planning bodies took place such as Monmouth ACTS and the Positive Youth Development Hub. This includes the review and integration of other county plans such as the 2025 Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan section on children, youth and families.

To gather the youth and family voice, the Division of Child and Youth Services and the Department of Health and Human Services met with youth, parents/caregivers, and community stakeholders in Asbury Park on the topic of community violence. Information gathered, helps to identify service needs and capture the community's perspective. CIACC conducted youth focus groups at the School Based Youth Services Program at Red Bank Regional High School, Long Branch Middle School, the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County and Family Based Services. Information gathered from those focus groups, as well as the feedback received from interviews conducted of youth and families during the Youth Services Commission monitoring of the funded programs, helps to raise the youth and family voice in our planning process.

Delinquency Prevention Planning Subcommittee Members

Planning subcommittee members should include individuals and partners who can speak about early risk factors, community needs, and youth well-being. For example: school administrators, counselors, social workers, community-based youth service providers, mental and behavioral health providers, local nonprofits and faith-based organizations, municipal leaders and recreation departments, child welfare representatives, parents, caregivers, and youth with lived experience, and community members from neighborhoods disproportionately represented in referrals to the youth justice system.

Complete the chart below by entering the name and organization/communities of each planning subcommittee member. Also identify if a member is a youth or family member with lived experience or impacted by this point of the system.

Name	Organization / Community	Impacted Youth or Family (yes/no)
1. Dustin Knoblauch, Director	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
2. Ellen Cohen, Administrator	Youth Services Commission	No
3. Kathleen Peterson, Administrative Support	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
4. Desiree Whyte, Assistant Director of Operations	DHHS Administration Resident Voice/County Contracting	No
5. Trude Arnette, Social Worker	NJ Office of the Public Defender Detention/Court/YSC Review Team	No
6. Thomas Fichter, Director, Family Division & Domestic Violence Unit	Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Court/YSC Review Team	No
7. Christine Talbot, Family Navigator	MHAMC Family Navigator Court System/Mental Health	Yes
8. Samantha Muccini, Program Coordinator, 180 Turning Lives Around	PYD Chair, Monmouth ACTS /180 Turning Lives Around	No
9. Community Voice of Asbury Park- Community Violence Feedback	Division and DHHS met with nearly 30 youth, parents/caregivers, community stakeholders	Yes
10. Youth and Family Feedback -2025 Monitoring	YSC Funded Programs	Yes
11. Red Bank Regional High School- SBYSP- The Source Focus Group	Through CIACC, a Youth Focus Group was conducted at Red Bank Regional High School	Yes
12. Family Based Services Virtual Support Group	The CIACC Coordinator attended a virtual support group with families to listen to concerns expressed by parents	Yes
13. Steve Billingsley, Clinical Therapist CIACC Chair	CSOC Partners/Elevate & Project HEAL	No

14. Jennifer Hoffer, YJC Court Liaison	NJ Youth Justice Commission	No
15. Douglas Hoffman, Director	Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS) Youth and Family Crisis	No

III. Existing Program Inventory – Delinquency Prevention

Reviewing the Existing Program Inventory

Before identifying new priorities, counties assess the existing landscape of their existing programs and services within their local continuum. Conducting this inventory offers a comprehensive understanding of what is currently in place, how needs are being addressed, which target areas are being served, and the extent to which programs are being utilized.”

Complete the chart below by entering each program or service your county considers a part of its prevention point on the continuum, regardless of funding source. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	What need(s) does the program address? (e.g., truancy, teen pregnancy, expulsions, dropout, etc.)	What target area does the program serve? (e.g., specific school, age, gender, grade)	Is this program actively used? (Yes/No)	If not, please explain why. (e.g., lack of referrals, eligibility restrictions, staffing or capacity limitations)
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern NJ	Primary Delinquency Prevention-School Based Mentoring	Need for positive childhood experiences, educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, and socio-emotional competence. Match support to strengthen relationships and bonding.	Upper elementary age children and youth transitioning to Middle School-Thurgood Marshall in Asbury Park (youth in 3rd-5th grade)	Yes	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern NJ	Community and School Based Mentoring Program	Need for positive childhood experiences, educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, and socio-emotional competence. Match support to strengthen relationships and bonding.	At risk Monmouth County youth ages 9-12	Yes	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern NJ	After School and Summer Positive Youth Development (ACEs)	Need for positive childhood experiences, educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, and socio-emotional competence. Match support to strengthen relationships and bonding.	Targets youth, who have experienced one or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	Yes	

Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County	Triple Play: Social Recreation; SMART Moves and Phoenix	Need for after school and summer programming that promote positive youth development. Families face financial struggles and the youth face academic challenges. Services that build resilience and mitigate effects of childhood trauma.	Serves youth ages 9-12 at the Asbury Park, Long Branch, and Red Bank Boys and Girls Club locations	Yes	
Preferred Behavioral Health of NJ -Prevention First Div.	Life Skills Training & Internet Safety	To promote healthy alternatives to risky behaviors. Build self-esteem, self-confidence, and resilience. Teach drug resistance, personal self-management, and general social skills. Reduce substance use, violence, delinquency, and other high risk-behaviors.	Elementary age Children in Long Branch and Neptune Township School Districts and summer programs. Parents/Guardians and classroom teachers and/or administrators.	Yes	
Preferred Behavioral Health of NJ -Prevention First Div.	Character Counts	Secondary delinquency prevention-after school & summer. Character education-provides a safe space to practice and improve behaviors, build emotional resilience, and learn how to resist peer pressure. Social-emotional skills, emotional regulation, assertiveness and substance use awareness.	Monmouth County pre-teens ages 9-12, who reside in Neptune Township	Yes	
Wellspring Center for Prevention	Why Try Leadership Program & Life Skills Training	Need for life skills, such as communication, teamwork, leadership, and goal setting.	Asbury Park School district – 3rd grade, and 6th and 7th grades; Keansburg School district – 6th and 7th grades; and Neptune Township Recreation – Middle School age youth.	Yes	

YMCA of the Jersey Shore	Community School Based Mentoring	Need to increase problem solving skills, improve communication, provide education on healthy relationships, and provide education on substance use while reducing risk factors for juvenile delinquency.	Monmouth County youth ages 9-12. Mentoring includes parental involvement and the utilization of nurtured heart strategies	Yes	
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1. Based on the subcommittee's discussion of the guiding questions, provide a summary of the key insights, overarching themes, and notable observations that emerged during the review of the inventory. Highlight areas of concern, strengths, gaps, redundancies, identified through the conversation. Highlight any concerns, strengths, gaps, or patterns that were identified through the conversation.

Additional resources include but are not limited to:

Monmouth County Sheriff's Office- Youth Programs / County

Monmouth County Student Assistance Programs/ SACs/ School Districts

School Based Youth Services Programs- Asbury Park, Keansburg, Long Branch, Red Bank/ NJ DCF –Div. of Family & Community Partnerships

Family Success Centers- (Long Branch Concordance, Bayshore Family Success Center & Oceans Family Success Center)/ NJ DCF –Div. of Family & Community Partnerships

Boys & Girls Club of Monmouth County-Outreach to At-Risk Youth (OTARY)/ NJ DCF –Div. of Family & Community Partnerships

Municipal Alliances to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse/ DEDR funds- Monmouth County Municipal Alliances include Colts Neck Township; Eatontown Borough; Hazlet Township; Highlands/Atlantic Highlands Alliance (Atlantic Highlands Borough, Highlands Borough); Holmdel Township; Keyport Borough; Long Branch City; Millstone/Allentown Alliance- (Allentown Borough, Millstone Township); and Neptune Township.

Other county contracts administered by the Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services include: Trauma Based Outpatient Services for Youth and Families -Catholic Charities; Suicide Prevention for Youth -the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County; Child Family Crisis Clinicians and the Child and Adolescent Crises Diversion Program at Monmouth Medical Center; and Youth Based Innovation Proposal at the Boys and Girl Club of Monmouth County.

Monmouth ACTS Positive Youth Development - Focus is on ages 9-17 years with an emphasis on upstream prevention to help divert youth from the youth justice system and mental health crisis; youth behavioral health crisis is a strong focal point to drive upstream prevention efforts. Priority areas have been identified to support all youth in achieving overall wellness.

Monmouth ACTS restructure now includes 5 hubs: Early Childhood Success, Positive Youth Development, Transitioning to Adulthood (new), Productive Adulthood (new) and Successful Aging. The Transitioning to Adulthood hub is focused on ages 16-26.

Monmouth County's prevention efforts have focused on several key areas such as providing youth with life skills training, social emotional learning, and community and school based mentoring. Our focus has been on offering youth opportunities, skills and recognition that promote healthy youth development and fosters positive caring relationships. Prevention programs that teach youth and families stress management, conflict resolution and communication skills are desired, as well as those that promote restorative practices. After-school and summer programs that offers structured activities, quality programming and supervision for pre-teens, ages 9-12, in communities identified as exhibiting multiple risk factors for adolescent problem behaviors are needed.

For the Youth Justice Strategic Plan, Monmouth County conducted various focus groups/forums and listening sessions, to raise the voices of youth and families. Collaboration with other youth service planning groups, schools and service providers took place.

****Youth and Family Feedback received from the 2025 monitoring of the YSC funded programs in the Prevention Service Category indicated the following:

- Youth expressed they enjoyed the different activities facilitated and enjoyed the celebration at the program's conclusion. Youth would like to do the program again if possible and felt staff were involved and supportive. Another youth shared that their mentor helped with behavior improvement, and they enjoyed meeting with high schoolers.
- Youth shared they enjoyed several activities with their mentor, including golfing, bowling, Jets game, car show, and fishing. Program is exploring opportunities for youth transitioning to adulthood, to include college support, as well as trade/job exploration and support.
- Several different activities are offered to enhance positive youth development-music, mental health, art, gardening, job seeking, etc. and workplace development.
- Families and youth spoken directly with referenced family engagement nights and activities as a proactive approach to family engagement.
- Some classroom dynamics and scheduling can be challenging. A youth who completed a recovery program at New Hope was invited to speak to the students, which was well received. Staff have made efforts to make lessons as productive as possible by separating students where appropriate and providing autonomy by allowing students to choose topics. Safe Dates have proven to be a needed and appropriate curriculum.
- Numerous materials have been translated using Google Translate. A parent letter has been developed, which has been translated to Spanish and Portuguese. A newsletter has also been created and translated, along with pre- and post-tests. There is an ongoing effort to enhance curriculum and develop interactive lessons.
- Scheduling youth for the program has been challenging as parents do not want to disrupt any of their children's activities. The

agency continues to make every effort to accommodate youth and parents' schedules. The agency can provide transportation, through uber health contract.

- The agency has been providing services in Asbury Park for several years and has become recognized trusted adults in a vulnerable community that is marked by recent losses of young people. The continuity of staff is paramount, and the agency has been consistent.
- Caregiver feedback included the following comments: the program is amazing, consistent support and communication with caregivers is provided; noted work being done with caregivers to acknowledge mentorship as a respite. Transportation and in-home support were seen as positive, and the ability to engage as appropriate to situation/environment.

****Youth feedback related to youth-based violence and loss. Community Voice of Asbury Park – There have been several losses of young people connected to the Asbury Park community since October 2024. In a best effort to drive services and contracting, the Division of Child and Youth Services and the Department of Health and Human Services (Dustin Knoblauch and Desiree Whyte) met with nearly 30 youth, parents/caregivers, and community stakeholders. Notable areas include the following:

- Safe and Free Places - Unaware of resources/services. Would like more safe spaces and exposure outside of Asbury Park. Older kids need more services/activities to engage with. Several referenced the previous Westside Community Center as being a safe and free place for youth and adults. Sports offer a safe space but are limited to specific times throughout the year. There is interest in financial empowerment: would like to learn to manage, invest, and grow income. A need for work exposure opportunities.
- Family Empowerment and Engagement - There is a lack of supervision and parenting and an ask for role models/trusted adults/mentors. Race and gender noted as important, but youth referenced the need for the right person; qualities include good listeners, non-judgmental, and honest. Relationship building is key in understanding attachment and consistency. There is a reported uprising in teen pregnancy, which is likely related to a lack of love and connection.
- Marketing is important. Mental health should not be directly referenced for services due to strong stigma. Perception – “I’m not crazy. I just have a lot on my mind.” Substance use is an issue and starting at young ages. Lean is popular with the older kids.
- Overall issue of violence, which is amplified by social media. “Not like back in the day when you got into a fight and moved on. Now it’s an ongoing feud on social media. Kids get insulted and embarrassed. They get a gun to prove themselves, demanding respect and attention.”

****Youth feedback from CIACC focus groups, listening sessions or forums-

Monmouth County Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC) held several focus groups and listening sessions or forums with youth in Monmouth County to gain their voice and perspective. With the CIACC being part of the Division of Child and Youth Services, information was shared for inclusion in the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. The sites that the focus groups/listening sessions or forums took place included Red Bank Regional High School, the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County (youth ambassadors), Long Branch Middle School, Family Based Services (virtual support group for families with children in the system of care and at a Youth Partnership meeting), and the Culinary Arts School in Asbury Park with Vocational Education Students.

Youth were asked a series of questions and provided their feedback and responses. Youth were asked the following:

- What are the major issues teens are facing and what are the challenges you face.
- What three things are going great and what are your safe places.
- How do you cope with stress?
- Who are your trusted people? What support do they give you? How can adults be more supportive? What does “supportive” look like? How involved are your parents?
- What assumptions are adults making about teen mental health and do these assumptions match your reality?
- What is missing in your community and what is missing in other communities?
- Do Spanish speakers have enough resources.

Major issues and concerns identified by the youth included the following: social media, sleep schedules related to social media involvement, pressure to succeed in school, readapting to social life after Covid disruption, and loss of social skills when returning to in person social contact, pressure about the future, mental health, anxiety, stress, drugs and alcohol, not having a place to go, peer pressure, puberty, things at home, bullying and harassment, prom pressure, not getting invited to after prom parties, senior stress (balancing vocational program, internships, and classes at home school along with navigating post-secondary plans-college and financial assistance).

Things that are going great and are safe places identified by the youth included the following: the school-based youth services program called the “Source” at Red Bank Regional High School was identified as safe space where they can go when stressed, need to see a counselor, need to touch base, need to decompress, and be in this “Judgement free zone” when things pop up, and when they need a break; youth from Long Branch Middle School identified the beach as a safe place that is peaceful and being around friends/peers as important; youth at the Boys and Girls Club shared concerns about not having safe places after school and felt school was not a safe space, they do not want to be home alone and need somewhere else besides home; youth involved in the Vocational Education Program indicated that they share some issues and keep others to themselves (will turn to a best friend, trusted adult at the vocational school who listens, and their moms). Individual interests were varied and ranged from sports, music, art, fashion, playing with their dog, and video games, as well as other interests.

To cope with stress youth responded with the following: working out, gym and running, sports having a cup of coffee at a local shop, having a list of things to do, talking to friends and mom, using on-line mental health resources, texting with friends going for a car ride, late night walks, being with family / friends, calling a brother, time by myself, read, lay down, paint, journal, walk outside. Youth identified trusted people and the support provided by them and the ways adults can be more supportive with the following responses: Many youths at Red Bank Regional High School identified strong connections with specific teachers who are invested in them and indicated how helpful the School Based Youth Services Program known as the “Source” has been. Youth from Long Branch Middle

School indicated adults can be more supportive by hearing you out, showing you your worth, treating you as an equal-being able to hear you and understand you have thing going on and are “not just a teenager” but see what you are going through.

Assumptions made by adults about teen mental health identified by the youth included the following: Adults shouldn’t judge a book by its cover. They see us and portray us not how we are, but by what we are going through, and they label us as “overreacting” and say, “You’re fine.” Some parents don’t take us seriously and our mental health capacity is being overlooked. Students expressed the need for family education about the pressures and stress that comes along with trying to balance enjoying childhood “being a Kid” with the need to prepare for adulthood. Youth at the Boys and Girls Club voiced comments reflecting a lack of acknowledgement, understanding and support: doesn’t matter what you’re going through-You’ll be alright. Too young to be stressed out. They don’t know, it’s hard to move on after a hard time.

Youth identified the following as missing in their community: Long Branch Middle School students indicated cool spaces to play-more parks, places to socialize more: fairs, carnivals, outside places, more affordable places to hang out, to get off the phone and do something, some place we don’t have to drive. More sports and activities are needed (not everyone plays basketball) and that these need to be affordable, easy to get to since transportation was a problem and walking in town was “iffy”. Red Bank Regional High School youth indicated a need to educate parents about mental health issues. Parents push for education and expect high grades-higher achievements and live their lives through us. They think we need to get help for us when we don’t want to talk about things. Youth at the Boys and Girls Club expressed a desire for more places to go that are safe and free, better school lunches, free beach access and parking, and a teen club indicating there is one for kids but not for teens.

Relative to whether Spanish speakers have enough resources youth had the following responses: Hispanic students at Red Bank Regional High School noted that their parents need resources and mental health education and more accessible resources, including in-community translation, to help them get professional help. Youth at Long Branch Middle School indicated that there are resources for Spanish and Portuguese, but not for others. Vocational education students indicated that multilingual students’ families need more language-based support services.

The virtual support group conducted by Family Based Services that the CIACC Coordinator attended to gain feedback from families with children in the system identified the following: a main concern expressed by all parents was the “not being listened to” or having “concerns dismissed” by schools and agencies. They cited the group and facilitator as a “lifeline” and “very supportive”.

The Youth Partnership meeting held at Family Based Services focused discussion about resilience and well-being strategies. Youth were asked what do you do to get through? Responses of the youth included the following: talk to best friend, come to group, draw, play with dog, listen to music, volunteer at a food pantry. The Youth Partnership meeting provides youth involved with CSOC with an opportunity to share their challenges and offers support in addressing them.

****Additional Youth Feedback from the Source at Red Bank Regional High School on April 16, 2026 that included 15 students (half Juniors half Seniors).

- Awareness of support-
 - Blast emails
 - Tabling at school
 - Assemblies
 - Presentations in health class
 - Back of school ID
 - Posters in halls/bathrooms/classrooms
- Where do students go for help-
 - The Source
 - Trusted teachers
 - Peers
 - Guidance counselors
 - Trust dictates who you go to. Some have fear of stigma.
- Ease of Access-
 - Hard finding time to get help (don't want to miss class)
 - Take the first step is biggest hurdle
 - Worried about others' opinions
 - Worried about parents finding out, may be judgmental/not supportive
 - In the summer use mobile text line 2nd floor, not always responsive, keep self busy/distracted
- Need more info on resources outside of school
- After graduation, look to supports at college, get community referrals before leaving HS, look online (IG)
- Ideas
 - Student mental health club
 - College transition club
 - Financial
 - Transportation to/from college
 - Anxiety around finding supports, "your people" (friends, family)
 - Suddenly an adult and up to you to seek out help, no one approaches you to offer

- Family engagement for non-college bound students
- Help students explore alternative career paths
- Get info to youth by putting posters in everyday places: doctor, bank, stores, coffee shop, laundromat
- How to get youth to events
 - Peer led/involved
 - Offer community service hours
 - Free food
 - Advertise on IG & Snapchat
 - Social, will go if friends go
 - Giveaways

****Youth Partnership Group Feedback-Transition to Adulthood (T2A) Discussion-

The young people shared valuable insight regarding the challenges they are experiencing as they transition into adulthood.

The participants who contributed to this discussion ranged in age from 14-21 years old, with much of the conversation centered around preparing for adulthood, graduating high school, college, employment, and navigating support after turning 18.

Top Issues Youth Are Facing- Participants identified several major concerns impacting their age group, including:

- Mental health challenges and emotional stress
- Lack of guidance and support after high school graduation
- Difficulty transitioning into adulthood
- Limited awareness of available resources
- Housing instability and fear of homelessness after turning 18
- Financial stress and lack of preparation for independence
- Transportation barriers
- Difficulty building healthy relationships and support systems
- Feeling unprepared for adult responsibilities

A recurring concern expressed by youth was that many services decrease or end once they turn 18, despite continued need for support.

Where Youth Look for Support and Guidance- Youth shared that they often rely on:

- Trusted adults
- Therapists
- Social workers
- Mentors

- Friends and supportive peers

Several participants emphasized the importance of having at least one consistent adult who checks in regularly and provides guidance and encouragement.

How Youth Learn About Resources -Participants reported learning about resources through:

- Posters and flyers
- School staff
- Social workers
- Therapists
- Word of mouth

Despite this, many youth shared that they still do not know where to go for help or how to access available services.

Areas Where More Programming and Resources Are Needed-Mental Health Support-Youth identified a need for:

- Easier access to therapy and counseling
- Continued emotional support after graduation
- Greater awareness of mental health resources in college settings

Transition to Adulthood Support -Youth expressed interest in more preparation and education around:

- Budgeting and finances
- Credit and banking
- Employment readiness
- Apartment and housing navigation
- Transportation
- Insurance and healthcare
- Daily living skills

Education & Career Support-Participants discussed the need for:

- College navigation assistance
- Support understanding accommodations and campus mental health resources
- Alternative school-to-work pathways for youth not attending college
- Career mentoring and job readiness programs

Mentorship & One-on-One Support-Youth expressed interest in:

- Consistent mentoring programs

- Daytime support opportunities
- Safe spaces to ask questions and receive guidance

“Magic Wand” Question – Ideal Program or Initiative-When asked what type of program they would create for their age group, youth described wanting:

- Mentors and trusted adults
- Life-skills training
- Mental health support
- Step-by-step guidance through adulthood
- Transportation assistance
- Housing and employment support
- A supportive community where youth feel heard and understood
- Continued support after turning 18 rather than abrupt service endings

Many participants emphasized wanting programs focused on real-life preparation and long-term support, rather than short-term interventions.

Additional Discussion Themes-College Concerns-Some youth reported uncertainty regarding:

- Mental health resources available on college campuses
- How to access accommodations or support services
- Navigating the college system independently

Youth Not Attending College-Participants discussed the need for:

- More work and career options
- Job coaching and employment support
- Alternative pathways toward independence and stability

Overall Theme-

The strongest theme throughout the discussion was that many youth feel unprepared for adulthood and disconnected from support systems once they age out of children’s services. Participants consistently emphasized the need for continued guidance, mentorship, life-skills education, and accessible mental health support throughout the transition into adulthood.

*****Over 50 youth shared feedback, representing various socioeconomic groups throughout the county. Youth expressed less of a formal need for mental health treatment but would like more opportunities for social connectedness where transportation, cost, and safety are not barriers. It’s important to note that 3 % percent of teens are not working and are out of school. Data also shows a 22%

increase of reported bullying cases and a 10% increase of youth violence, additional stressors for youth."- Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

The Monmouth Medical Center's Child and Family Crisis Clinicians data has been aggregated by age group for the July 2025 – June 2026 contract period. Ages seen by the clinicians are broken down below:

5-10 = 39%

11-15 = 40%

16 + = 21%

This indicates a need for prevention services at the elementary age level.

NJ4S to continue programing for middle and high school students during the academic and summer months. NJ4S to prioritize high needs districts.

Positive Youth Development is an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) announced FY 2026 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Awards. Those listed for Monmouth County include Allenhurst Borough, Asbury Park Public Schools, Colts Neck Township Board of Education, Deal Borough, Englishtown Borough, Freehold Regional High School District, Hazlet Township Public Schools, Keyport Public Schools, Marlboro Township Public School District, Millstone Township Public Schools, Neptune City Board of Education, Roosevelt Public School, Sea Bright Borough, Sea Girt Borough, Tinton Falls School District, and Township of Ocean Schools. Grant Funding Will Help Improve Community Centers, Parks, Pools, Sports Fields, and Recreational Trails. The New Jersey State Council on the Arts announced the creation of a best practice guide for serving systems- and justice-impacted youth through high-quality arts learning programs: The Transformative Power of Art: A Guide to Arts Learning for Systems-Impacted Youth in New Jersey. This best practice guide and the local recreation improvement grant awards were shared with the Youth Services Commission membership.

Recreation, cultural activities and special events are included in the Monmouth County Park System Program Guide that are family friendly and designed for kids and teens. The Monmouth County Park System offers discounted programs to eligible county residents through the RecAssist for Individuals and Families program and a RecAssist for Groups program. Summer camps are offered through the Monmouth County Park System.

IV. Delinquency Prevention Data

Using both quantitative and qualitative data is essential when identifying the needs of youth at the point of delinquency prevention. Combining these data types allows counties to capture a holistic view of youth challenges and strengths, ensuring that delinquency prevention programs are responsive, targeted, and grounded in real-world experiences.

As the planning subcommittee looks more closely at its data, it should consider where the problem occurs most often, when it happens most frequently, and who is most affected. It is also important to identify any barriers that make the problem difficult to address.

Complete the chart below by documenting all data reviewed. Include details about the data type, source, and priority status as determined by the planning subcommittee. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

Data Set (include year)	Qualitative or Quantitative	Source
Youth Population 0 – 17 (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	OJJDP – Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: State Comparisons
Youth Population by Gender (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	OJJDP – Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: State Comparisons
Race of Youth Age 10 & Under (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	OJJDP – Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: State Comparisons
Race of Youth 11 – 17 (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	OJJDP – Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: State Comparisons
High School Enrollment (2017-2018 to 2023-2024)	Quantitative	NJ Dept. of Education, School Performance Reports
High School Drop Out Rates (2017-2018 to 2023-2024)	Quantitative	NJ Dept. of Education, School Performance Reports
Incidents of Violence, Vandalism, Weapons, Substance Abuse (2017-2018 to 2023-2024)	Quantitative	NJ Dept. of Education, School Performance Reports
Comparative Youth Arrest Rates by Year Youth Arrest (2018 – 2024)	Quantitative	Uniform Crime Report
Youth and Family Feedback received from the 2025 YSC Monitoring	Qualitative	2025 YSC Monitoring Interviews
Community Voice of Asbury Park-Focus Group -2024	Qualitative	Div. of Child and Youth Services and Dept. of Health and Human Services
Youth Focus Group at the Source at Red Bank Regional High School with 15 Juniors and Seniors -April 16,2026		
CIACC youth focus groups at the School Based Youth Services Program at Red Bank Regional High School and Long Branch Middle School, Youth Ambassadors at the Boys and Girls Club, and Family Based Services- 2024 / 2025	Qualitative	Monmouth County CIACC

Monmouth Vicinage-Court Processing Data 2025 (docketed juveniles)	Quantitative	Monmouth Vicinage-Family Division
Youth Served Forms/ Level of Service /JAMS Narrative Reports-2025	Quantitative	YSC Funded Programs
CIACC Summary of Activity for Monmouth County-February 2026	Quantitative	NJ Dept. of Children and Families-Children's System of Care-CIACC report
Number of Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Supervision and Children in Out-of-Home Child Protection & Permanency placements-2024	Quantitative	Kids Count-Advocates for Children of NJ
Student Safety and Discipline in New Jersey Public Schools School Year 2023-24- NJ Dept. of Education	Quantitative	Commissioner's Annual Report to the Education Committee of the Senate and General Assembly

1. What additional data does the CYSC wish were available to better identify, prioritize and assess the needs of youth? Where could the CYSC get this information (e.g., from schools, providers, community groups, surveys, local agencies, etc.)?

Uniform crime reports on juvenile arrest by municipalities would be helpful data in determining which towns have the highest number of juvenile arrests and provide information on nature and the type of offenses youths were arrested for in each municipality. Updated county level juvenile arrest data by race/ethnicity, gender and offense categories is also desired, as well as station house adjustments conducted by law enforcement.

2. What are the top three questions you wish you had more information to answer about this population? For each question, what specific data sources or types of data would be required to provide accurate answers?

What resources have youth utilized and what has been their experience. What strategies to engage youth do they find most effective. What resources would youth like to see in their school and community that do not currently exist. The 2nd Floor Youth Helpline may be a source to gather information from. A community or school resource mapping project conducted by youth would be an interesting way to find out what they are aware of. Often resource guides are developed targeting adults not youth.

3. Was any data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, or geographic region? If so, what insight does the data tell you when examined through these lenses?

Youth Served Forms are submitted by the YSC contracted agencies providing delinquency prevention services that provide a breakout by race/ethnicity and gender. Monmouth County contracted with 8 separate non-profit agencies in 2025. Combined the agencies delivered 15 separate programs. Based upon the youth served forms submitted and the quarterly narrative reports entered in the Juvenile Automated Management System, there were reported to be approximately 1,367 youth and families served in 2025. Prevention was the service category with the highest number of youths served in 2025.

Of Monmouth County's total population under age 5 in 2023, the race / ethnicity demographics indicates 5% as Asian, non-Hispanic; 7% as Black or African American non-Hispanic; 22 % as Hispanic; 63% as White,

non-Hispanic; and 3% as Multiracial, non-Hispanic.

In 2023, Monmouth County's population under 20 was 147,652 which comprised 15.10% of New Jersey's 2,230,186 total population under age 20. Of Monmouth County's total population under age 20 in 2023, the race/ethnicity demographics indicates 64% as White, non-Hispanic; 20% as Hispanic; 7% as Black or African American non-Hispanic; 6% as Asian-non-Hispanic, and 3% as Multiracial non-Hispanic.

2024 Public-School Enrollment - 91,285 -Monmouth County's total public-school enrollment comprised 15.1% of the state's total school enrollment of 1,379,988. The 22-24 % change was -1%. The race/ethnicity data for the 2023-24 Pre-K -12 Total Enrollment in Monmouth indicates 6% as Asian; 7% as Black; 22% as Hispanic; 61% as White; and 3% as Multiracial.

Based on the 2025 Monmouth Vicinage Court Processing Data, the race / ethnicity data for 2025 docketed juveniles indicates that: 116 (34.32%) identified as White; 129 (38.17%) identified as Black; 87 (25.74%) identified as Hispanic; 4 (1.18%) identified as Asian/Pacific Islander; zero (0%) identified as Alaskan Native or American Indian race or Other as race; and 2 (.59%) juveniles docketed did not indicate a race/ethnicity.

Number of Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Supervision-In 2024, Monmouth had 1,099 children receiving in-home CP&P supervision. NJ's total in 2024 was 28,266. Race/ethnicity information of the children receiving in home CP&P supervision in Monmouth in 2024 indicates 262 or 24% as Black or African American; 354 or 32% as Hispanic; 407 or 37% as White; 40 or 4% as Another Race; and 36 or 6% whose race/ethnicity data was missing or undetermined.

Children in out-of-home Child Protection & Permanency placements- In 2024, there were 198 Monmouth County children in out-of-home placements. New Jersey had 2,937 children in out-of-home placements in 2024. Of the Monmouth County children in out of home placements in 2024, 74 or 37% are Black or African American; 42 or 21% are Hispanic; 72 or 36% are White; and less than 10 are another race.

CIACC Summary of Activity for Monmouth County-February 2026-The highest call reasons to PerformCare for Monmouth County during the month of February 2026 were for In Home Service Requests which, comprised 326 or 66.7% and Intellectual/Developmental Disability Inquiry which comprised 85 or 17.4%. The total unique active youth and children during February for Monmouth County was 1,772. The Gender of the active youth and children indicates 989 or 55.6% as Male and 786 or 44.4% as Female. The Ages of the youth and children indicate the following (highest to lowest number and percentage): Ages 14-17 comprised 606 or 34.1%; Ages 5-10 comprised 565 or 31.9%; Ages 11-13 comprised 368 or 20.8%; Ages 18-20 comprised 177 or 10%; Ages 0-4 comprised 55 or 3.1%; Age 21 comprised 3 or 0.2% and there was 1 youth indicated greater than 21. The Race of the active youth and children indicates the following (highest to lowest number or percentage): 907 or 54.7% as White; 309 or 17.4% as Black or African American; 247 or 13.9% as Some Other Race; 133 or 7.5% as Two or More Races; 64 or 3.6% as Unknown; 28 or 1.6% as Asian; 19 or 1.1% who Declined; and 2 or 0.1% as American Indian/Alaska Native. The Ethnicity of the youth and children indicates the following (highest to lowest number and percentage): Non-Hispanic or Latino as 1,160 or 65.5%; Hispanic or Latino as 559 or 31.5%; and 53 or 3.0% there was no ethnicity data.

"In Monmouth County the total population for children 0-18 years old is 140,971, and considerable segments of these children are living in poverty. As of 2021, data from the Census Bureau indicated that only 5.53% of White residents in Monmouth County were living at the poverty level. In contrast, Black, Native American, Asian, multiracial, and other racial groups collectively constituted 40.39% of those in poverty. A recent report from the Commonwealth Fund reveals that New Jersey faces more severe racial

and ethnic disparities compared to other states in the region. Identified trends include financial stress, racial gaps in mortality, postpartum depression, and lack of education. Interwoven through these issues are persistent barriers to well-being, such as inadequate education, transportation challenges, financial instability, and unstable housing. Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families." - Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

The race of youth age 10 and under from Monmouth County in 2023 indicates 62,738 as White; 7,176 as Black; 491 as American Indian; 4,632 as Asian and 15,810 as Hispanic. For the six year period (2017 to 2023), Hispanic youth ages 10 and under showed the largest increase in count at +1,821 followed by White youth at +1,211; and American Indian at +94. Asian youth age 10 and under from Monmouth County showed the largest decrease in count at -120 during the six year period (2017 to 2023); followed by Black youth at -81. For the 3 year period, (2020 to 2023) the youth races ages 10 and under from Monmouth County that showed a decrease in both the count and percentage change included White, Black, Asian and Hispanic. American Indian was the only race for ages 10 and under that showed an increase in both count and percentage change for the 3 year period (2020 -2023). Likewise, for the 1 year period (2022 to 2023) the count and percentage change for Monmouth County youth, ages 10 and under, decreased for the following races White, Black, Asian and Hispanic.

The race of youth ages 11-17 from Monmouth County in 2023 indicates 48,371 as White; 4,964 as Black; 340 as American Indian; 4,072 as Asian and 11,084 as Hispanic. For the six year period (2017 to 2023), Hispanic youth 11-17 from Monmouth County showed the largest increase in count at +2,849; followed by Asian youth at +128; and American Indian at +91. The race of youth 11-17 from Monmouth County with the largest decrease in count during the six year period (2017 to 2023) was White youth at -1,393 followed by Black youth at -289. For the 3 year period (2020 to 2023) Hispanic youth, ages 11 to 17 years, from Monmouth County showed an increase in both the count at +246 and the percentage change at +2.3%. American Indian also showed an increase in count at + 10 and the percentage change of +3.0%. White, Black, and Asian youth, ages 11-17, from Monmouth County all showed a decrease in both count and percentage change for the 3 year period (2020-2023). For the 1 year period (2022 to 2023) the count and percentage change for all races of Monmouth County youth ages 11-17 decreased with White youth comprising the highest count at -1,100 and percent change at -2.2%.

Monmouth County High School Enrollment based on students enrolled in Grades 9-12 has been on a steady decline, from a high of 30,565 in school year 2017-2018 to a low of 29,038 in school year 2023-2024. This represents 1,527 fewer High School students enrolled in Monmouth County in the school year 2023-2024 compared to 2017-2018 and a -5.0 change.

Incidents of Violence, Vandalism, Weapons, Substance Abuse in Monmouth County Schools for the 2023-2024 school year indicates violence as 613; weapons as 45; vandalism as 94; and substances as 436. Over several school years (2017-2018 through 2023-2024), the highest number of reported incidents in Monmouth County were consistently for violence, followed by substance abuse. The highest reported count of weapons in Monmouth County Schools was reported as 75 in the 2022-2023 school year; which decreased to 45 in the 2023-2024 school year. The highest reported count of vandalism in Monmouth County Schools (2017-2018 through 2023-2024 school years) was 98 in 2018-2019 followed by 94 in 2023-2024. For the 3 year period (2020-2021 to 2023-2024 school years) all categories of incidents showed an increase in count and percent change.

" For the 2023-24 school year, New Jersey schools reported a decline in reported incidents across all categories, including a notable drop in weapons-related incidents. Marijuana remained the most frequently

reported substance. Although overall violence incidents decline, the number of fights increased. Most HIB incidents were verbal in nature and occurred in grades 6 through 8. Of the 59,877 students suspended, the following groups were overrepresented: Black or African-American , male, and grades 6 through 12. For the second year of restraint and seclusion reporting, data showed that among 2,747 students who were restrained and/or secluded most were in preschool through grade 2 and eligible to receive special education and related services." - Source: Student Safety and Discipline in New Jersey Public Schools - School Year 2023-24- New Jersey Department of Education.

V. Delinquency Prevention Program Recommendations

The following sections ask the County Youth Services Commission to use its review and discussion of available data to guide decision-making for the county prevention plan. This includes identifying priority problems, identifying core programming types, and recommending new program types. Recommendations should reflect county trends, address gaps or challenges, and incorporate considerations of race, ethnicity, and gender to promote equitable outcomes for all youth.

Below, you are asked to complete two charts. In the first chart, list any core programs that have provided essential support, address critical needs, and have shown an impact at this point of the continuum. In the second chart rank, in order of priority, the recommended problems and proposed strategies the county is seeking to address. When ranking, consider each strategy's effectiveness, scope and scale, and strength of evidence (proven results or promising opportunities). Recommendations should align with identified problems and county trends and reflect efforts to advance race equity and promote similar outcomes for similarly situated youth.

Identify Core Programs/Services

After reviewing your existing inventory and the available data, are there currently funded types of programs or services that the CYSC considers essential to this point of the continuum, even if current data does not show a clear need or there is no or sufficient data is not available to fully demonstrate the need? Core programming is defined as existing delinquency prevention programming that the planners believe are currently effective in supporting youth as they transition back into the community, addressing risk factors, strengthening protective factors, and reducing the likelihood of further rule-breaking or deeper system involvement. Core programs may be identified by reviewing utilization data and planners' opinions, and by considering whether reductions or defunding would likely result in increased unmet needs or lead to negative outcomes for youth. These programs are designed to help youth succeed before they fail by strengthening families, schools, and communities and by addressing challenges as early as possible.

Program/Service	What need(s) is the program addressing?	Justification for Continued Funding
Community and School-Based Mentoring Programs for Youth-	There is a need for caring adults and positive peers in the lives of children and youth. There is a need to recruit mentors	Mentoring will continue to be a priority area. The benefits of mentoring, positive role models and trusted adults working with at risk in programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and the YMCA

We seek to connect youth to caring adults, positive peers and prosocial activities in their schools and communities that foster positive youth development.	from diverse backgrounds and ensure adequate supervision, background checks and training is provided. One listening session/ focus group identified a lack of supervision and parenting as a concern and a need for role models/trusted adults/mentors. Race and gender noted as important, but youth referenced the need for the right person; qualities include good listeners, non-judgmental, and honest. Relationship building is key in understanding attachment and consistency.	have been very important. There may be a focus on specialist mentoring focused on school to work and / or college bound youth; and continued mentoring where older youth mentor younger youth which have shown to have a positive impact. Successful mentoring relationships have shown to increase youth's self-esteem, improve academic achievement, and steer them away from delinquency, substance use, and other high-risk behaviors. Mentoring youth creates positive impacts for both the mentees and the adults who mentor them. Youth with mentors have increased likelihood of going to college, better attitudes towards school, increased social and emotional development and improved self-esteem.

Recommended Types of New or Adapted Programs

When identifying strategies to address a local issue or county trend, counties are encouraged to fund proven types of programming and also consider innovative or emerging approaches. This may include piloting new program types, adapting existing programs types to meet local needs more effectively, or leveraging cross-system partnerships and community-generated solutions. Note, a specific agency or programs should not be named, just list the type of programs the CYSC has identified (e.g., community service).

Rank	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?	Cite the data that indicated the problem or trend	State the type of program the county identified to address the problem or county trend.
1	Skill development for children in the area of conflict resolution, problem solving, and anger management, gang prevention, bullying prevention, self-esteem building, empathy and communication is recommended.	Incidents of Violence, Vandalism, Weapons, Substance Abuse in Monmouth County Schools for the 2023-2024 school year indicates violence as 613; weapons as 45; vandalism as 94;	A focus on evidence-based programming and skill development was discussed and thought to be important. Additional information on the status of whether NJ4S will be renewed is needed. It is unclear if they will continue with a prevention or

		and substances as 436. Individual/Peer risk factors include: rebelliousness, friends who engage in problem behavior, favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior and early initiation of the problem behavior. Monmouth Medical Center's Child and Family Crisis Clinician data has been aggregated by age group for the July 2025 – June 2026 contract period. Base on the CFCC data a need is indicated for prevention services at the elementary age level, for 39% of their caseload was 5 years old to 10 years old.	mental health focus. Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse also exist. We look to support and recommend evidence based prevention programs that provide skill development for children.
2	Safe Environments for Youth After School and during the Summer To provide opportunities, skills and recognition to promote healthy youth development that fosters positive relationships.	To encourage the development of safe environments that include structured activities, quality programming and supervision for children and youth after-school and during the summer. Youth expressed less of a formal need for mental health treatment but would like more opportunities for social connectedness where transportation, cost, and safety are not barriers. Community risk factors for adolescent problem behavior include availability of drugs,	To recommend afterschool and summer prevention programs that expose youth to constructive recreational activities and pro-social hobbies and interests. To promote positive childhood experiences and resilience. Municipalities exhibiting multiple risk factors for adolescent problem behaviors should be prioritized for delinquency prevention services. Some county wide prevention services should also be made available. Adverse Community Environments include poverty, discrimination, violence, community disruption, lack of opportunity, economic

		availability of firearms, community laws and norms favorable toward drug use, firearms and crime, media portrayals of violence, transitions and mobility, low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization.	mobility & social capital and poor housing quality & availability. Regarding Prevention Services in identified high need municipalities, There is a lot of overlap with other planning entities targeting the same communities. There is a desire to provide some county-wide prevention services, as well as those to some targeted areas.
3	Bullying Prevention and Social Emotional Competencies Anti-bullying programs and delinquency prevention services that integrates social emotional learning are needed. Social and emotional competencies include: self-awareness; self-management; social awareness; responsible decision making and relationship skills.	Most HIB incidents were verbal in nature and occurred in grades 6 through 8. School risk factors include: early and persistent antisocial behavior, academic failure beginning in late elementary school, academic failure and lack of commitment to school.	Bullying Prevention Social and Emotional Learning
4	Family Engagement in Prevention Programs Family outreach and engagement in prevention programming is needed..	Family risk factors include: family history of the problem behavior, family management problems, family conflict and favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the problem behavior. Youth of Spanish speaking parents specifically highlighted family support as a challenge. The overall community voiced concerns for Spanish translation and Spanish speaking support and resources. It is important to take	Prevention services that include strategies to engage families and start prevention services at the elementary age level will be included.

		into consideration that 15% of children in Monmouth County are first generation citizens, and 45% have parents that are non-citizens. This, in turn, may affect their willingness to access services for their children.	
5	Career and Workforce Development for Youth There is a need to increase youth's connections to individuals knowledgeable about the local labor market and increase their awareness of different careers and employment opportunities.	3% percent of teens are not working and are out of school.	Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development- Youth Services is designed to assist young adults and students as they explore careers and build a bright future. The Youth Program can provide youth with the following services: Tutoring in Math and Reading; GED Preparation and/or Testing; Exploring Different Career Options; Internships; Resume Assistance; Job Placement Assistance; Financial Literacy; Leadership Activities; and Adult Mentoring. Eligible Youth are individuals between the ages of 16-24 who fall under the following areas: need help finding a job or a training program; have a criminal background or have been arrested; have not received my High School diploma or GED; homeless, a runaway, or a foster child; pregnant or a single parent; have a learning disability and/or disabled; need help with math and reading. The Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP) is a state-funded program that empowers teens and young adults (ages 16-24) with valuable work experience, enabling them to develop skills and earn money through a stipend.
6	Creative Innovative Programs that Engage Youth	Programs that meaningfully incorporate arts learning help	The integration of arts programming in prevention programs is a strategy to engage

	There is a need to engage youth in prevention programs. Arts programming represents a uniquely engaging and nonthreatening approach to connecting with youth. The Transformative Power of Art- A Guide to Arts Learning for System Impacted Youth in New Jersey describes the arts as a powerful tool for youth development. Arts-based interventions can take many forms, including visual and performing arts, podcasting, filmmaking, creative writing, and countless other creative expressions.	youth develop and strengthen cognitive, regulatory, and social-emotional skills that can positively influence their futures. These programs work because they honor young people's creativity and potential while building essential life skills.	youth. There is a desire for innovation-especially related to providing safe and free places for youth.
7			

DIVERSION

- I. Definition and Rationale
- II. Planning Requirements
- III. Existing Program Inventory
- IV. Quantitative and Qualitative Data
- V. Programming Recommendations

I. Disposition Definition and Rationale

Diversion is an approach that redirects youth from being arrested, from formal youth justice system prosecution, or from formal court processing and instead requires that diversion programming provide proportionate accountability and/or opportunities to repair community or victim harm in lieu of subjecting the youth to the potentially harmful effects of prosecution, adjudication, and incarceration. Youth may be connected to community-based programs to address needs that may arise.

Given the purpose and potential of diversion, programs developed through the comprehensive planning process should intentionally focus on positive youth development and may include integrating restorative practices that promote accountability, repair harm, and support healing for both the youth and those impacted.

Diversion Process

There are several types of diversion programs in New Jersey. At the arrest decision point, law enforcement may use a Station House Adjustment ([Attorney General Directive 2020-12](#)) in lieu of arrest and prosecutors may use their discretion to divert a young person from formal prosecution. The juvenile court operates diversion programs that redirect young people from the formal youth justice system process through Family Court Juvenile Conference Committees or Family Court Intake Service Conferences. Family Crisis Intervention Units (FCIU) can also be used to prevent escalation to court involvement or out-of-home placement. These existing processes provide key access points to implement restorative strategies.

Diversion Programs

Diversion programs require young people to perform certain activities in lieu of a formal arrest, a formal prosecution, or formal court processing. The activities focus on restoring relationships and making amends. These programs can be operated by law enforcement agencies, the court, or a contracted service provider.

Diversion data should guide counties in allocating resources toward programming that prioritizes successful diversion outcomes. When reviewing these data, special attention should be paid to racial and gender disparities, with the goal of ensuring all youth have equitable access to diversion, regardless of race or gender.

II. Diversion Planning Requirements

Planning Process

Provide a comprehensive description of the County's Youth Services Commission (CYSC) overall planning process in the development of its 2027 – 2029 Youth Strategic Justice Plan, including how the CYSC organized its work, involved key stakeholders, reviewed data, and set priorities. Describe how the process was structured to ensure collaboration, thoughtful decision-making, and a clear plan for moving forward.

Monmouth County established a Core Planning Team for the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. Input gathered from the community, youth and families, and other identified stakeholders was shared and integrated into the planning process. Outreach to key informants or topic experts was conducted to include their perspectives and knowledge on specific areas of the continuum and to obtain updated data. Access to the most current Uniform Crime Data on Juvenile Arrests and the use of Station House Adjustments conducted by Law Enforcement was limited, as to what was available. Feedback received from law enforcement and service providers at a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training was gathered that identified youth related situations experienced, and resources found to be helpful. For the diversion service category, 2025 Monmouth Vicinage Court Processing Data on docketed, diverted and adjudicated delinquent (juveniles, cases, and offenses) was obtained from the Family Division. Information on gender, age, race/ethnicity at the three points in the system was reviewed. Information on the Family Crisis Intervention Unit and Mobile Response and Stabilization Services was included, as well as other crisis diversion programs within Monmouth County. The 2025 Youth Services Commission -List of Contracted Agencies with a Snapshot of Performance was shared with the Core Planning Team. Keys to Innervisions- Youth Program Evaluations, Parent Evaluations, and Pre/Post Surveys include youth and family voices regarding program services and the knowledge and skills learned.

Diversion Planning Subcommittee Members

The Planning subcommittee should include stakeholders who directly influence or support decisions to divert youth from formal system processing. For example: law enforcement (youth officers, chiefs, community policing representatives), county juvenile prosecutor, Family Court intake staff, juvenile probation representatives, community-based diversion program providers, defense attorneys, school officials who handle alternative responses to misconduct, restorative justice practitioners, youth and families who have participated in diversion programs, and community members from neighborhoods disproportionately underrepresented at the diversion decision point.

Complete the chart below by entering the name and organization/communities of each planning subcommittee member. Also identify if a member is a youth or family member with lived experience or impacted by this point of the system.

Name	Organization / Community	Impacted Youth or Family (yes/no)
1. Dustin Knoblauch, Director	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
2. Ellen Cohen, Administrator	Youth Services Commission /Division of Child and Youth Services	No
3. Kathleen Peterson, Administrative Support	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
4. Desiree Whyte, Assistant Director of Operations	DHHS Administration Resident Voice/County Contracting	No
5. Trude Arnette, Social Worker	NJ Office of the Public Defender Detention/Court/YSC Review Team	No
6. Thomas Fichter, Director, Family Division & Domestic Violence Unit	Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Court / YSC Review Team	No
7. Christine Talbot, Family Navigator	MHAMC Family Navigator Court System/Mental Health	Yes
8. Samantha Muccini, Program Coordinator,180 Turning Lives Around	PYD Chair, Monmouth ACTS /180 Turning Lives Around	No
9. Tara Buckley (Key Informant)-Family Division Manager	Monmouth Vicinage Family Division-	No
10. Steven Billingsley, Clinical Therapist CIACC Chair	CSOC Partners/Elevate & Project HEAL	No
11. Jennifer Hoffer, YJC Court Liaison	NJ Youth Justice Commission	No
12. Douglas Hoffman, Director	Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS) Youth and Family Crisis	No

13.		
14.		
15.		

III. Existing Program Inventory – Diversion

Reviewing the Existing Program Inventory

Before identifying new priorities, counties assess the existing landscape of their existing programs and services within their local continuum. Conducting this inventory offers a comprehensive understanding of what is currently in place, how needs are being addressed, which target areas are being served, and the extent to which programs are being utilized.”

Complete the chart below by entering each program or service your county considers a part of its diversion point on the continuum, regardless of funding source. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	What need(s) does the program address? (e.g., truancy, teen pregnancy, expulsions, dropout, etc.)	What target area does the program serve? (e.g., specific school, age, gender, grade)	Is this program actively used? (Yes/No)	If not, please explain why. (e.g., lack of referrals, eligibility restrictions, staffing or capacity limitations)
Mental Health Association of Monmouth County	Juvenile / Family Crisis Intervention Unit	To provide a continuous 24-hour on call service designed to attend and stabilize juvenile-family crisis. Reason for Referrals include: Truancy, Runaway Behavior, Conflict with parent/caregiver, Involvement in Human Trafficking.	Monmouth County adolescents, ages 10-17, and their families	Yes	
Mental Health Association of Monmouth County	Adolescent Early Intervention Services	Services are focused on Truancy Reduction and Parent Child Conflict Resolution as a juvenile-family crisis intervention and school resource.	Monmouth County youth between the ages of 10-17, and their families	No	The 2025 level of service for the Adolescent Early Intervention Services and Parent Child Conflict Resolution Program was limited.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal	Adolescent Early	Mentoring- Workplace, Community Based,	Workplace Mentoring Programs include	Yes	

and Northern NJ	Intervention Services	and College	Long Branch High School /Monmouth Medical Center, and Asbury Park High School / Jersey Shore University Medical Center. The Community Based Program focuses on individualized attention and time spent between an adult volunteer and a child. The College Program is in partnership with Monmouth University. College students volunteer to mentor Asbury Park High School students.		
Monmouth Vicinage-Family Division	Juvenile Conference Committees (JCC), Intake Service Conference	Designed to divert juveniles charged with first or second time minor offenses	A JCC is a six to nine member citizen volunteer panel appointed by the Family Division Judge	Yes	
Preferred Behavioral Health of NJ- Prevention First Div.	Keys to Innervisions	Stationhouse Adjustment and Family Court Diversion Program-To provide adolescent anger management and alcohol and drug abuse early intervention / education services.	Monmouth County youth, ages 10-17 years of age, who may be a male or female with a minor delinquency offense. Referrals may come from Law Enforcement, School Resource Officers, Substance Awareness Coordinators (SACs), Juvenile Conference	Yes	

			Committees and Intake Service Conference at the Family Court.		
CPC Behavioral Health Care	Mobile Response & Stabilization Services- Access through Perform Care	Reason for Referrals include: Escalation in youth's behavioral and/or emotional state; Mental Health Challenges; Substance abuse issues; Caregiver needs relative to youth's needs. Emotional or Behavioral Crisis Immediate In-Home Outreach	Ages 3-21	Yes	
Monmouth Medical Center	Child & Family Crisis Clinicians	Mobile crisis evaluation intervention with the goal to limit the exposure to emergency and psychiatric emergency services. Includes: Assessment of risk for hospitalization. Recommendation and/or referral to appropriate community resources. Support, crisis counseling and guidance to community groups, families and children subsequent to a traumatic event.	Children and youth, ages 5 to 17, and their families at school or at their home	Yes	
	Children and Adolescent Crisis Diversion Program	A brief outpatient program that focuses on meeting the emotional, behavioral and psychiatric needs of children and adolescents	Children & adolescents, ages of 5- 17, and their families.		

	Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (P.E.S.S.)	P.E.S.S.- Suicidal, Homicidal, Destroying Property, Psychotic	State-designated emergency screening service for Monmouth County		
	Children's Crisis Intervention Services (CCIS)	CCIS is an acute inpatient hospitalization for 5 – 17 year olds All inpatient hospitalizations are accessed through the local Psychiatric Emergency Services	5-17 year olds		

1. Based on the subcommittee's discussion of the guiding questions, provide a summary of the key insights, overarching themes, and notable observations that emerged during the review of the inventory. Highlight areas of concern, strengths, gaps, redundancies, identified through the conversation. Highlight any concerns, strengths, gaps, or patterns that were identified through the conversation.

Monmouth County's diversion section of the Youth Services Plan in prior years, included a focus to increase law enforcement's use of the stationhouse adjustment process, and to reduce the number of youth that delinquency complaints are filed in court, specifically the number of complaints filed for youth of color. There continues to be a desire to promote uniformity and consistency in the application of diversion criteria to ensure that similarly situated youth receive similar outcomes across racial/ethnic groups. Unfortunately, current data on the use of Station House Adjustments is not readily available. A parent/guardian component of diversion programs that provide information on the resources that exist in Monmouth County continues to be a need. Juvenile family crisis intervention services that teach the youth and family skills that promote peaceful alternatives to conflict situations, improve family management, and reduce the stressors that can escalate into violence are needed. Juvenile Family Crisis Intervention Units continue to play a role to stabilize family crisis as to avoid an out-of-home placement; and to prevent delinquent behavior of at-risk youth. Restorative practices can be used to address minor school-based incidents by responding to the offending student's underlying issues while restoring the harm caused to the victim. Restorative Practices like Responsive Circles and Community Conferences help parties (the offending student and victim) come to agreement on the appropriate consequence / response. Restorative practices address the underlying issues triggering delinquent behavior by empowering students to resolve their own conflicts while providing a voice for the victim to be heard. There is a need to engage youth and families as partners in the decision process, including when creating service plans and ensure they receive adequate assistance or resources to participate fully (e.g. language interpreters, transportation support). There continues to be a need for an array of diversion options as a referral resource for the Family Court to utilize to divert minor offenses related to conduct disorder, anger management problems, alcohol and drug abuse, sexting and inappropriate use of social media.

There has been an overall decrease in Juvenile Arrests and Index since 2018. The grand total of youth arrests in 2024 for Monmouth County was 397 (207 index and 190 non-index offenses). In 2024, the subtotal of index offenses for Monmouth County was 207. Of the 207 index offense for Monmouth County juvenile arrests in 2024, larceny-theft comprised 124 or 59.90 %; aggravated assault comprised 35 or 16.9%; robbery comprised 16 or 7.7 %; motor vehicle theft comprised 16 or 7.7%; burglary comprised 11 or 5.3%; and rape comprised 5 or 2.4%. In 2024, there were 190 youth arrests for non-index offenses for Monmouth County. The top non index offenses listed for Monmouth County juvenile arrests in 2024 included the following: other assaults as 39 or 20.5%; weapons; carrying, possessing, etc. as 38 or 20%; disorderly conduct as 35 or 18.4%; and all other offenses (except traffic) as 32 or 16.8%; and vandalism as 17 or 8.9%; and stolen property: buying, rec., poss., etc. as 11 or 5.7%.

Monmouth Vicinage Court Processing data for 2025 indicates that there were 128 juveniles diverted, 136 cases diverted, and 189 offenses diverted. Youth aged 13-14 comprised the largest number and percentage of juveniles diverted. Overall, males continue to comprise the largest number and percentage of those diverted compared to females. The race / ethnicity data for 2025 diverted juveniles indicates: 40 (31.50%) identified as White; 58 (45.31%) identified as Black; 26 (20.31%) identified as Hispanic; 3 (2.34%) identified as Asian/Pacific Islander; zero (0%) identified Alaskan Native, American Indian or Other as race; and 1 (.78%) of the juveniles diverted did not indicate a race/ethnicity. In 2025, for the third straight year, simple assault (purposely/knowingly cause bodily injury) comprised the largest number of charges for juveniles docketed and diverted.

The lead degree* (of a single charge within a case) for the 491 new filing cases in 2025 indicates: 10 (2.04%) 1st Degree; 65 (13.24%) 2nd Degree; 130 (26.48%) 3rd Degree; 69 (14.05%) 4th Degree; 132 (26.88%) Disorderly Persons; 51 (10.39%) Petty Disorderly Persons; 33 (6.72%) No Degree offenses; and 1 (.20%) Degree Not Indicated offenses filed.

The statute category grouping* for the 882 new filing offenses in 2025 indicates the following: 1 (0.11%) Homicide; 4 (0.45 %) Sex Offenses; 12 (1.36 %) Robbery/Car Jacking; 119 (13.49%) Assaults; 2 (.23 %) Arson; 57 (6.46%) Weapons; 3 (.34%) Drugs and Alcohol; 38 (4.31%) Burglary; 63 (7.14%) Theft/Fraud/Forgery; 20 (2.27%) Other Person Offenses; 46 (5.22%) Admin. of Law and Order; 1 (.10%) Inchoate Offenses; 16 (1.81%) Other Property Offenses; 75 (8.50%) Public Order or Decency; 33 (3.74%) Violation of Probation; 17 (1.93 %) Other; 6 (.68%) Megan's Law; 0 (0%) Prostitution; and 370 (41.95%) Not Categorized offenses were filed.

Youth and Family Feedback received from the 2025 monitoring of the funded programs in the Diversion Service Category indicated the following: -Mother could not provide much feedback considering services recently started. She noted that it took a month to get connected to FCIU. Regardless, the family was thankful to receive the support thus far. Comment-timeliness of response to families is critical. -The Crisis counselor's involvement in public speaking and connecting to schools, agencies, and law enforcement is important, as well as their participation in the Division's youth-based presentations.

"Reports of heightened anxiety, educational disparities, insufficient free or affordable programs, lack of transportation, and parental conflict and stress directly impact the overall wellness of Monmouth County youth and families. This supports a strong need for further family and caregiver support." -Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

A Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training was held September of 2025 -Feedback from law enforcement and providers in attendance regarding the most common experiences in dealing with youth and mental health issues included the following: Disrespectful with no fear of consequences; Lack of family structure or parental supervision-look to the streets for love, money, and attention because they are not getting needs met at home; Negative Influences, Gangs, and drug use- both peers and family; Run Away due to not willing to follow rules with added complications when developmental issues are present; Truancy-including threats toward school and staff; Fear, anxiety and frustration possibly due to family Mental Health issues-so avoid help-also adding financial burdens which outcome could be homelessness; Conflict with parents who are not living in same home that have different parenting beliefs; Disconnect between schools, Law enforcement and DCP&P; Social media, cell phones, laptops -improper use-cyber abuse, bullying; Curbside warning, station house adjustments seem to have little to no effect. Those in attendance at the CIT training indicated that they learned about valuable resources such as Mobile Response; Perform Care; PESS and that DCP&P isn't the only resource. More Mental Health assistance for those that are NOT dual diagnosed (drug use);*Many comments were in appreciation of the fact that there are resources for services that they now know exist, when before the call was always to DCP&P.

CIT TRAINING-APRIL/MAY 2026

"Top (3) Things kids (youth)are faced with"

Truancy-many commented that truancy was a big issue

Curfew issues

Family Conflict seemed to be thought of as a common issue

Youth are more mature than grownups in their lives

Families not being supported

Parents cannot control youth

Behavioral issues seemed to be thought of as a common issue

Substance use seemed to be a common issue

Gang Association-observing a lot of Gang involvement

Gang intervention needed

Car Thefts

Strong Arm Robberies (cell phones, jewelry, others property and convenience store theft)

Gun charges, weapon possession-common

Runaway Youth-many reported this was something they are seeing.

Engaging in more physical fighting-Youth fighting on the rise

Criminal Mischief

Authority Defiance, no respect for authority or school staff, peers, parents

Failed Diagnosis or not seeking a diagnosis

System failure

No aftercare
No follow up
Recommending adding a youth psychologist
Techniques, dealing directly with youth
JV's sexting issues, images and videos, nude photos
JV's increase in vaping, smoking, smoking weed, drug use-common answer
More knowledge of resources, outside of PESS
Have reference guides at facility
The resources provided in the training have covered what we see in the field
DCP&P calls regarding abuse
Wealthier kids feeling like they are better
Behavioral youth homes not allowing kids to leave and or seek other services
Younger youth hanging out with older youth and being influenced
e-bike rules
General neglect-youths are at home alone too much
Parents at work and youth left alone
Court involvement before they reach high school
Overnight services for youth that do not feel safe

The Juvenile Family Crisis Unit Manual was revised 2025. The manual is intended to provide procedural and operational guidance for staff in the operation of Family Crisis Intervention Units (FCIUs), including those in programs operating as combined Mobile Response and Stabilization Services/Family Crisis Intervention Unit programs (CUs).

"Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days, has been identified as a major issue, as research has shown that chronically absent students face substantial hurdles with academic recovery. New Jersey's 14.4% chronic absenteeism rate for 2024-2025 remains much lower than the estimated national rate of 22% for the same year. While New Jersey's chronic absenteeism rate has edged downward in recent years, it has not returned to the pre-pandemic level of 10.6% in 2018- 2019." Source: NJ Department of Education -May 7, 2026.

"In 2024-2025, New Jersey schools reported 56,564 in-school and out-of-school suspensions – as well as 29,829 instances of violence, vandalism, substance abuse, and harassment/intimidation/bullying. The discipline figures have shown a positive downward trend in recent years, but have not returned to pre pandemic levels. "Source: NJ Department of Education-May 7, 2026.

Monmouth Vicinage reports there is one Juvenile Conference Committee (JCC). They meet once per month. Usually, the 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of the month at Ocean Township Probation. They keep the number of cases to about 4-5 at maximum; and the meetings typically go

from about 3 pm to a little after 5 pm. The charges the JCC currently hears are usually simple assaults (punches, mutual fights, etc.) and/ or bullying. The JCC gets some harassment cases, again usually bullying but focused on name calling, harassment, on online cyber harassment. Not too many but occasionally criminal mischief (spray painting walls, damaging someone's cell phone etc.). And lastly shoplifting cases. Substance abuse cases were reported to be fewer than in years past, perhaps due to the schools handling them. It was indicated that the JCC has some good programs, and frequently make referrals to programs such as Project Heal, IEP Youth Services -program for anger management and the YES program for shoplifting. The Juvenile Conference Committee can make Perform Care referrals and in many instances juveniles may already be involved in the Children's System of Care with CMO involvement. For these cases, the JCC monitors for compliance.

IV. Diversion Data

Using both quantitative and qualitative data is essential when identifying the needs of youth at the point of diversion. Combining these data types allows counties to capture a holistic view of youth challenges and strengths, ensuring that diversion programs are responsive, targeted, and grounded in real-world experiences.

As the planning subcommittee looks more closely at its data, it should consider where the problem occurs most often, when it happens most frequently, and who is most affected. It is also important to identify any barriers that make the problem difficult to address.

Complete the chart below by documenting all data reviewed. Include details about the data type, source, and priority status as determined by the planning subcommittee. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

Data Set <i>(include year)</i>	Qualitative or Quantitative	Source
Station House Adjustment Data	Quantitative	Law Enforcement Prosecutor's Office
Youth Arrests 2018-2024 Monmouth County	Quantitative	Uniform Crime Reports
Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) and Adolescent Early Intervention Services & Parent Child Conflict Resolution Program- 2025 Youth Served Forms	Quantitative	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County
Monmouth Vicinage Court Processing Data-2025 - juveniles, cases, offenses diverted by gender, age, race/ethnicity	Quantitative	Monmouth Vicinage-Family Court
Keys to Innervisions-2025 Youth Served Form	Quantitative	Preferred Behavioral Health of NJ- Prevention First, Division
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training-2025 & 2026	Qualitative	Law Enforcement & Providers
Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025- Children, Youth and Families	Qualitative	Monmouth County
Court Interpreting Statistics-Statewide Completed Activities by Court Official-Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 - Monmouth Vicinage	Quantitative	NJ Administrative Office of the Courts
Juvenile Conference Committee (JCC) -2026 update	Qualitative	Monmouth Vicinage

1. What additional data does the CYSC wish were available to better identify, prioritize and assess the needs of youth? Where could the CYSC get this information (e.g., from law enforcement, schools, providers, surveys, etc.)?

To analyze the violence, vandalism and substance abuse reports, and the incidents of harrassment intimidation and bullying, individual school district reports need to be reviewed. With the number of

schools and districts in Monmouth County, that task is very time consuming and challenging. It would be extremely helpful if the school performance reports could provide a county wide summary indicating the districts with the top numbers of incidents. Current station house adjustment data and juvenile arrests by municipality would be helpful. New Jersey Department of Education would need to modify their school performance reports to provide a county wide summary. New Jersey Office of the Attorney General would need to issue reports on the station house adjustment data and the New Jersey State Police would need to issue juvenile arrest data by municipality.

2. What are the top three questions you wish you had more information to answer about this population? For each question, what specific data sources or types of data would be required to provide accurate answers?

Who are the natural helpers, trusted adults, and positive role models that youth go to for help. How can we best intervene before the problem adolescent behavior escalates. What supports do families need, and what challenges are they experiencing with their child/adolescent. Responses to these questions likely will vary. Feedback directly from youth and families is essential to provide accurate answers to these questions. Programs in the diversion service category could help gather this specific information and research on best approaches could be reviewed.

3. Was any data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, or geographic region? If so, what insight does the data tell you when examined through these lenses?

The race / ethnicity data for 2025 diverted juveniles indicates: 40 (31.50%) identified as White; 58 (45.31%) identified as Black; 26 (20.31%) identified as Hispanic; 3 (2.34%) identified as Asian/Pacific Islander; zero (0%) identified Alaskan Native, American Indian or Other as race; and 1 (.78%) of the juveniles diverted did not indicate a race/ethnicity.

Based upon the Youth Served Forms submitted- The Keys to Innervisions program under the diversion service category provided services to 39 youth in 2025. The gender of the youth indicates 32 (82%) as male and 7 (18%) as female. The race/ethnicity of the youth served indicates 27 (69%) as White, 2 (.05%) as Black, and 10 (26%) as Hispanic.

The Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) provided services to 111 youth and families in 2025. The gender of the youth indicates 64 (58%) as male and 47 (42%) as female. The race/ethnicity of the youth served indicates 56 (50%) as White, 28 (25%) as Black, 15 (13.5%) as Hispanic, and 12 (11%) as Other.

The Adolescent Early Intervention Services & Parent Child Conflict Resolution program provided services to 39 youth and families in 2025. The gender of the youth indicates 19 (49%) as male and 20 (51%) as female. The race/ethnicity of the youth served indicates 16 (41%) as White, 16 (41%) as Black, 2 (5%) as Hispanic and 5 (13%) as Other.

"The youth also reported that is difficult to look to their families/parents/caregivers for guidance and support. Youth of Spanish speaking parents specifically highlighted family support as a challenge. The overall community voiced concerns for Spanish translation and Spanish speaking support and resources. It is important to take into consideration that 13.15% of children in Monmouth County are first generation citizens, and 4.45% have parents that are non-citizens. This, in turn, may affect their willingness to access services for their children." - Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

Court Interpreting Statistics-Statewide Completed Activities by Court Official-Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025- indicated that Monmouth Vicinage had a total of 3,525. The top three most interpreted languages for Monmouth were

Spanish 2,744 (77.84%); Portuguese 400 (11.34%); and 112 (3.17%) Haitian Creole. The completed activities by court official for Monmouth indicated 3,066 (86.97%) as Judge; 80 (2.26%) as Hearing Officer; 15 (.42%) as Mediator / Arbitrator; and 364 (10.32%) as Any Court Support Service*. *Completed activities involving Judiciary staf (probation officers, ombudman and other staff member) as well as attorneys, sheriffs and volunteers.

V. Diversion Program Recommendations

The following sections ask the County Youth Services Commission to use its review and discussion of available data to guide decision-making for the county diversion plan. This includes identifying priority problems, identifying core programming types, and recommending new program types. Recommendations should reflect county trends, address gaps or challenges, and incorporate considerations of race, ethnicity, and gender to promote equitable outcomes for all youth.

Below, you are asked to complete two charts. In the first chart, list any core programs that have provided essential support, address critical needs, and have shown an impact at this point of the continuum. In the second chart rank, in order of priority, the recommended problems and proposed strategies the county is seeking to address. When ranking, consider each strategy's effectiveness, scope and scale, and strength of evidence (proven results or promising opportunities). Recommendations should align with identified problems and county trends and reflect efforts to advance race equity and promote similar outcomes for similarly situated youth.

Identify Core Programs/Services

After reviewing your existing inventory and the available data, are there currently funded types of programs or services that the CYSC considers essential to this point of the continuum, even if current data does not show a clear need or there is no or sufficient data is not available to fully demonstrate the need? Core programming is defined as existing diversion programming that the planners believe are currently effective in redirecting youth away from deeper system involvement, addressing underlying risk factors, and building protective factors, either before or shortly after rule-breaking behaviors occur. Core programs may be identified by reviewing utilization data and planners' opinions, and by considering whether reductions or defunding would likely result in increased unmet needs or lead to negative outcomes for youth. These programs are designed to help youth succeed before they fail by strengthening families, schools, and communities and by addressing challenges as early as possible.

Program/Service	What need(s) is the program addressing?	Justification for Continued Funding
Juvenile / Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) To provide a continuous 24-hour on	Services will provide a 24-hour on-call service to youth and their families. Services are designed to stabilize family crises, refer juveniles and their families to	Juvenile Family Crisis Intervention Unit will follow the New Jersey Code of Juvenile Justice, the Rules of the Court, and the provisions of the New Jersey Judiciary, Juvenile/Family Crisis Operations Manual.

call service designed to attend to and stabilize juvenile-family crisis. Reason for Referrals include: Truancy, Runaway Behavior, Conflict with parent/caregiver, Involvement in Human Trafficking. A revised 2025 Juvenile Family Crisis Unit Manual was issued in April 2025. The Manual provides procedural and operational guidance for staff in the operation of Family Crisis Intervention Units (FCIUs), including those programs operating as combined Mobile Response and Stabilization Services / Family Crisis Intervention Unit programs (CUs).	the appropriate community service and divert juveniles from entering the youth justice system. The Family Crisis Intervention Unit is a mandated program. We need to evaluate the level of service and the funding allocated for this program. There is an expectation that the FCIU will accept truancy cases. There is a need to develop strategies to address truancy and reduce the number of school related disciplinary referrals, school suspensions and/or referrals to juvenile court for minor school-based complaints. There is a need to encourage school districts to utilize the services of the Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) to address truancy and develop an early warning system and intervention plan for students with school attendance issues.	Truancy has been clearly identified as one of the early warning signs of students headed for potential delinquent activity, social isolation, or educational failure via suspension, expulsion, or dropping out. Source: National Center for School Engagement. Research shows that absences impact a student's ability to succeed in school. In addition, research shows that chronic absenteeism, or having missed 10 percent or more of the school year, is a primary cause of low academic achievement and a powerful predictor of a student's risk of dropping out of school. Source: NJ Department of Education- Reporting Student Attendance and Determining Chronic Absenteeism Rates -September 2025.
Possible Pathway through Monmouth County Youth Behavioral Health Hospital Diversion Programs- Youth in acute crisis connects with the Child Family Crisis Clinician Program as an alternative to an emergency department visit for a psychiatric screening. The screeners connect the youth to the Child and Adolescent Crisis	Monmouth County's Child Family Crisis Clinician (CFCC) and Child Adolescent Crisis Diversion (CACDP) programs with RWJ, as well as our Children's System Review Committee were highlighted and included in the Children's Mental Health Services Mapping Report for consideration for replication. There is a recommendation to create similar models across the state, expanding crisis services outside of the emergency department.	The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute has shared the release of the Children's Mental Health Services Mapping Report, a comprehensive assessment of mental health services and supports available to children, youth, and families across New Jersey. This report was developed to better understand the current landscape of children's mental health services, identify strengths and gaps in access and coordination, and make recommendations for system improvement. The report highlights opportunities to strengthen pathways to care, improve service integration, and support equitable access to mental health services throughout the state.

Diversion Program for short-term services including an evaluation for psychiatric medication.

After stabilization through the diversion program, the youth may be connected to PerformCare for ongoing services, including local CMO care management or home-based therapy.

Recommended Types of New or Adapted Programs

When identifying strategies to address a local issue or county trend, counties are encouraged to fund proven types of programming and also consider innovative or emerging approaches. This may include piloting new program types, adapting existing programs types to meet local needs more effectively, or leveraging cross-system partnerships and community-generated solutions. Note, a specific agency or programs should not be named, just list the type of programs the county has identified (e.g., community service).

Rank	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?	Cite the data that indicated the problem or trend	State the type of program the county identified to address the problem or county trend.
1	Youth Justice Family Support Program There is a need for Youth Justice Involved Family Support Services. Many families are experiencing tremendous challenges. Outreach to engage and involve parent(s) / guardian(s) is recommended. A parent /guardian component of diversion programs that provide information on the resources that exist in Monmouth County	Family risk factors include: family history of the problem behavior, family management problems, family conflict and favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the problem behavior. There has been strong feedback from youth, families, and community stakeholders to	In the service category of diversion-efforts to help youth avoid arrest will include the biggest shift. With the changes in JDAI Innovations funding at the state level and what is available to Monmouth County being lost, we are proposing a Youth Justice Family Support Program. The Youth Justice Family Support Program will be implemented by the county. Integration of the Youth and

	continues to be a need. Family Relations and Parenting Skills aim to increase desirable positive behaviors and decrease undesirable negative behaviors among youth by improving parent-child relationships and/or promoting positive parenting behaviors. Family relations and parenting skills programs are intended to change youth behavior primarily by enhancing or improving parental or family influences on youth.	strengthen Monmouth County family support services. (This effort included voices of families/youth who received JDAI and Family Navigator services). In a focus group/listening session of nearly 30 youth and families impacted by justice involvement and/or community-based violence, an overarching theme was an ask for enhanced family support, guidance and education. “Children exposed to violence in the home also are victims of physical abuse. Children who witness domestic violence or are victims of abuse themselves are at serious risk for long-term physical and mental health problems. Children who witness violence between parents also could also be at greater risk of acting violent in their future relationships.” Source: Administrative Office of the Courts - Report on the Prevention of Domestic	Family Support Services will provide enhanced coordination and communication between our JDAI Unit, the Court, the Family Crisis Intervention Unit, Child and Family Crisis Clinicians and the Elevate Program, etc.. Incentives and restorative practices will be included. It will be run by the division within the department, creating more direct lines of communication and connection to other supports and services that can address some of those other family needs that were highlighted in feedback from family navigator. Essentially leveraging the connection within the Department to help best connect and support whole family (social services, adult behavioral health, etc.). There is a need to reduce the sources of stress in the lives of children and families and to engage youth and families as partners in the decision process, including when creating service plans and ensure they receive adequate assistance or resources to participate fully (e.g. language interpreters, transportation support).
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		Violence Act 2022. The Domestic Violence Annual Report for the period between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, indicates that Monmouth had 1,856 New Complaints Filed.	
2	Restorative Justice Practices Youth need strategies to resolve conflict situations in a peaceful manner with their peers in both school and community settings. There is a need to integrate resorative justice practices in diversion programs where the person harmed has an opportunity to share how they were affected and what they need to heal. The young person assumes responsibility for causing harm and articulates what they need to reduce the likelihood of it happening again.	In 2025, for the third straight year, simple assault (purposely / knowingly cause bodily injury) comprised the largest number of charges for juveniles docketed and diverted. Simple assault, as of 2025, now also comprises the largest number of charges for juveniles adjudicated delinquent, whereas it was second highest charged offense for juveniles adjudicated delinquent in 2024.	To integrate Restorative Justice practices in diversion programs. To enhance the continuum of juvenile court diversions with the inclusion of Restorative Community Conferences. Restorative practices are used in conflict resolution, creating dialogue, bridging gaps across divided groups, and building cultures where all members have a voice, work more effectively together, and become more innovative. The Sentencing Project "Restorative Justice Diversion A Better Way to Provide Meaningful Accountability for Youth", March 2026 was funded through the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and highlights the benefits of this approach.
3	Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office cyberbullying diversion program for juveniles is an educational training designed to	There is a need to have an array of diversion options, as a referral resource, to utilize to	Schools are encouraged to apply age-and grade-appropriate access controls uniformly across all student devices unless documented exceptions for the purpose of

intervene with youth who engaged in any type of cyberbullying to combat the rise in such crimes. The program is primarily geared towards juvenile offenders who have been afforded the opportunity of a station house adjustment or benefitted from a diversion of juvenile charges. Juveniles referred to the program must attend this presentation with at least one parent or guardian.

The referral sources for the Keys to Innervisions was broaden to include referrals from school Student Assistance Counselors.

divert minor offenses related to conduct disorder, anger management problems, alcohol and drug abuse, cyberbullying, sexting and inappropriate use of social media.

25% of Adolescents Spend Over 2 Hours on Phones During the School Day. Reveals a significant challenge for educators and raises questions about how this impacts focus, learning, and classroom engagement.

Adolescents Who Use Social Media for More Than 3 Hours Per Day Have Double the Risk of Depression and Anxiety.

Teens aged 12–15 who spend more than 3 hours daily on social media are twice as likely to experience symptoms of depression and anxiety compared to those who use it less.

This finding

instruction and/or accommodation are approved. At a minimum, schools must prohibit the use of personal internet-enabled devices during the entirety of the school day for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Source: "Guidance for Schools on Student Use of Internet Enabled Devices"- NJ Department of Education January 2026.

IEP Youth Services, Inc. can respond on an individualized basis to referrals from the Family Court. Preferred Behavioral Health-Prevention First division offers the Keys to Innervisions as a diversion resource.

		emphasizes the importance of monitoring screen time to support adolescent mental health. 77% of High School Students Do Not Get Enough Sleep. CDC's National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) - Chronic sleep deprivation interferes with neurological development & emotional stability. Excessive nighttime screen use is a key contributor.	
4	Station House Adjustment, Court and School Resources focused on Early Intervention and Diversion Discussion on Station House Adjustments is a topic for the Juvenile Officers Association meeting. It is unclear whether Station House Adjustments are being provided on a consistent basis for similarly situated youth. There is some police discretion in the handling of individual cases. There may be challenges encountered by local police departments in applying diversions uniformly. More dialogue with the local police departments on staffing, reporting requirements, resources and their encounters and contact with youth is recommended.	Juvenile Arrests (Number and Rate) - The number of juveniles arrested and the rate per 1,000 youth under age 18. There were a total of 407 juvenile arrests in Monmouth County in 2024 at a rate of 3.1. Statewide, there were a total of 7,044 juvenile arrests in NJ in 2024 at a rate of 3.4.	There have been challenges obtaining current station house adjustment data. Additional information is needed to determine if police officers are conducting them. Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office cyberbullying diversion program for juveniles is an educational training designed to intervene with youth who engaged in any type of cyberbullying to combat the rise in such crimes. The program is primarily geared towards juvenile offenders who have been afforded the opportunity of a station house adjustment or

			benefitted from a diversion of juvenile charges. Juveniles referred to the program must attend this presentation with at least one parent or guardian. The referral sources for the Keys to Innervisions was broaden to include referrals from school Student Assistance Counselors.
5	Training and support for Threat Assessment Teams Training and support is needed for school districts in Monmouth County relative to their implementation of threat assessment teams. Policies and procedures relative to the handling of threats need to be clearly communicated.	NJ Department of Education provided guidance for school-districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects (local education agencies) for establishing and training threat assessment teams, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4. Training is being provided to Monmouth County school- districts and their threat assessment teams.	The Memorandum of Understanding between School Districts and Law Enforcement outlines the seven mandatory reports to law enforcement. Mandatory report offenses include the following: Controlled and Dangerous Substances, Firearms and Dangerous Weapons; Planned or Threatened Violence; Sexual Offenses; Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees; Bias-Related Incidents; and Potentially Missing, Abused, or Neglected Children. A mandatory report to law enforcement does not preclude the law enforcement agency's ability to investigate the act and decide that no further action is needed or recommend a station house adjustment.
6			
7			

DETENTION UTILIZATION AND DETENTION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING

- I. Definition and Rationale
- II. Planning Requirements
- III. Existing Program Inventory
- IV. Quantitative and Qualitative Data
- V. Programming Recommendations

I. Detention Utilization and Detention Alternative Programming Definition and Rationale

This decision point prioritizes expanding and developing the county continuum of community-based detention alternative programs for pre-adjudicated youth who score for a detention alternative program on the court's Risk Screening Tool, or who are later able to be released after placement in secure detention. These programs provide various levels of community-based supervision and proactive engagement to pre-adjudicated youth in lieu of secure detention placement or to safely reduce length of stay in secure detention. The purpose of detention alternative programs is to ensure that a youth returns to court and remains arrest free until the final disposition of their case. In this way, detention alternative programs are considered community-based detention.

County Youth Detention facilities provide for the temporary care of youth in physically restricting facilities pending court disposition (N.J.S.A 2A:4A-22c; [N.J.A.C. 13:92-1.2](#)). As provided in 2A:4A-34, youth detention should only be used when the court makes a determination that detention for a youth charged with delinquency is necessary to secure their presence at the court next hearing or to protect public safety. The statute requires a presumption of release, with exceptions. A young person may be released to their parent or guardian or temporarily placed in a shelter or other non-secure placement.

Detention alternative programs serve as crucial **community-based supervision programming options**, supporting youth who would otherwise be in a secure youth detention facility. Detention alternative programs are specialized in that they act as detention in the community. Youth who successfully complete a detention alternative will remain arrest free and will attend all court hearings while in the program. Counties should consider investing in an appropriate continuum of detention alternative programs, determining the need for programs based on their detention utilization data. Through the analysis of detention utilization data, counties can better understand the characteristics and charges of youth at this decision point. Detention utilization data is used to identify programs that strengthen the continuum of detention alternative programs that are available to the court and help counties make informed decisions about resource allocation.

II. Detention Utilization and Detention Alternative Programming Planning Requirements

Planning Process

Provide a comprehensive description of the County's Youth Services Commission (CYSC) overall planning process in the development of its 2027 – 2029 Youth Strategic Justice Plan, including how the CYSC organized its work, involved key stakeholders, reviewed data, and set priorities. Describe how the process was structured to ensure collaboration, thoughtful decision-making, and a clear plan for moving forward.

Monmouth County established a Core Planning Team for the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. Input gathered from the community, youth and families, and other identified stakeholders was shared and integrated into the planning process. Outreach to key informants or topic experts was conducted to include their perspectives and knowledge on specific areas of the continuum and to obtain updated data. Through youth and family interviews at the Youth Services Commission monitoring visits, feedback is gathered from youth and families as to the services provided. The Family Navigator Program has been valuable in helping families navigate the court system and connect youth and families to needed resources and services. A continuum of juvenile detention alternatives is provided that offers community based supervision to youth while they await their court disposition. Updated admission data on juvenile detention and juvenile detention alternatives was gathered and will be reviewed by the Core Planning Team. The work of the local Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement will be integrated into the Youth Justice Strategic Plan where applicable.

Detention Utilization and Detention Alternative Programming Planning Subcommittee Members

Planning subcommittee members should include those who work in, refer to, or are affected by secure detention decision-making. For example: detention center administrators and staff, Family Court judges and court staff, prosecutors and defense attorneys, juvenile probation (especially intake and detention alternatives staff), law enforcement, behavioral health clinicians working within or with detention, service providers offering detention-based programming, detention alternative providers, JDAI Research and Reform Specialist, families of detained youth and individuals with lived experience, and community members from neighborhoods disproportionately represented in referrals.

Complete the chart below by entering the name and organization/communities of each planning subcommittee member. Also identify if a member is a youth or family member with lived experience or impacted by this point of the system.

Name	Organization / Community	Impacted Youth or Family (yes/no)
1. Dustin Knoblauch, Director	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
2. Ellen Cohen, Administrator	Youth Services Commission / Division of Child and Youth Services	No
3. Kathleen Peterson, Administrative Support	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
4. Desiree Whyte, Assistant Director of Operations	DHHS Administration Resident Voice/County Contracting	No
5. Trude Arnette, Social Worker	NJ Office of the Public Defender Detention/Court/YSC Review Team	No
6. Thomas Fichter, Director, Family Division & Domestic Violence Unit	Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Court / YSC Review Team	No
7. Christine Talbot, Family Navigator	MHAMC Family Navigator Court System / Mental Health	Yes
8. Samantha Muccini, Program Coordinator, 180 Turning Lives Around	PYD Chair, Monmouth ACTS /180 Turning Lives Around	No
9. Ivan Kaplan (key informant)- JDAI Director	Juvenile Detention Alternatives	No
10. Sebastian Trapani (key informant)	Monmouth County Sheriff's Office	No
11. Steven Billingsley, Clinical Therapist CIACC Chair	CSOC Partners/Elevate & Project HEAL	No
12. Jennifer Hoffer, YJC Court Liaison	NJ Youth Justice Commission	No

13. Douglas Hoffman, Director	Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS) Youth and Family Crisis	No
14.		
15.		

III. Existing Program Inventory – Detention Utilization and Detention Alternative Programming

Reviewing the Existing Program Inventory

Before identifying new priorities, counties assess the existing landscape of their existing programs and services within their local continuum. Conducting this inventory offers a comprehensive understanding of what is currently in place, how needs are being addressed, which target areas are being served, and the extent to which programs are being utilized.”

Complete the chart below by entering each program or service your county considers a part of its detention point on the continuum, regardless of funding source. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	What need(s) does the program address? (e.g., truancy, teen pregnancy, expulsions, dropout, etc.)	What target area does the program serve? (e.g., specific school, age, gender, grade)	Is this program actively used? (Yes/No)	If not, please explain why. (e.g., lack of referrals, eligibility restrictions, staffing or capacity limitations)
Mental Health Association of Monmouth County	Family Navigator-Partners with Families	To provide support to court-involved families.	Monmouth County youth and families involved with the court system	Yes	
Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services	Juvenile Detention Alternatives-S.T.E.A.D.Y.	To increase successful transitions of youth from the Detention Alternative Program to Probation Supervision	Monmouth County	No	Limited referrals
Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services- Juvenile Detention Alternatives	House Arrest A House Arrest B Home Detention Program Electronic Monitoring (EM) Expansion program	Juvenile Detention Alternatives	Monmouth County	Yes	

	Juvenile Shelter				
Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Facility	Monmouth County's contract with Middlesex County- 10 beds (Secure detention) and 3 beds (shelter). The 3 beds for shelter include 2 male and 1 female. Decision to accept additional juveniles in excess of 10/3 is at the discretion of the facility and is subject to \$225 per diem rate.	The NJ Youth Justice Commission has posted the Manual of Standards for Juvenile Detention Facilities - Effective April 2025 on their website.	Juveniles who are deemed a threat to the physical safety of the community and/or whose confinement is necessary to ensure their presence at the next hearing	Yes	
Ocean County Youth Detention Center	Monmouth County's contact with Ocean County YDC -2 beds (Secure detention)- 1 additional bed on an as needed basis be made available and billed at a per diem rate of \$325 per day	The NJ Youth Justice Commission has posted the Manual of Standards for Juvenile Detention Facilities - Effective April 2025 on their website.	Juveniles who are deemed a threat to the physical safety of the community and/or whose confinement is necessary to ensure their presence at the next hearing	Yes	

1. Based on the subcommittee's discussion of the guiding questions, provide a summary of the key insights, overarching themes, and notable observations that emerged during the review of the inventory. Highlight areas of concern, strengths, gaps, redundancies, identified through the conversation. Highlight any concerns, strengths, gaps, or patterns that were identified through the

conversation.

There is a need to continue to enhance the youth and family engagement (FE) component of the alternative program continuum. While youth are on any of the alternatives; youth/family incentives, pro-social activities/events, and team meetings have been used as a way to engage the families. There is a need to maintain a Family Navigator position to provide support to court involved families. Through the implementation of surveys and focus groups of court involved youth and families, we help to raise their voices of areas needing system improvement.

In 2025, there were 25 participants on Home Detention /Electronic Monitoring, 1 admission on Electronic Monitoring Expansion-Wireless/GPS, 0 admissions on House Arrest A, 0 admission on House Arrest B, 2 admissions to the Juvenile Shelter and 1 admission on the STEADY transition program. In 2025, a combined total of 25 youth admissions were under the Monmouth County Division of Juvenile Detention Alternatives supervision. The gender of the youth indicates 24 (96 %) as male and 1 (4%) as female. The race/ethnicity of the 25 youth indicates 14 (56%) as African American, 5 (20%) as White, 3 (12%) as Hispanic and 3 (12%) as "Other". In 2025, there were a total of 22 (100%) successful completions. The departures include some youth carried over from the prior year. In 2025, there were 3 youths carried over into 2026.

In 2024, a combined total of 33 youth admissions were under the Monmouth County Division of Juvenile Detention Alternatives supervision. The gender of the 33 youth indicates 27 (82 %) as male and 6 (18%) as female. The race/ethnicity of the 33 youth indicates 21 (64%) as African American, 0 (0%) as White, 11 (33%) as Hispanic and 1 (3%) as "Other". In 2024, there were a total of 27 (84%) successful completions and 5 (16%) non successful. The departures include some youth carried over from the prior year. In 2024, there were 5 unsuccessful terminations.

The average daily population for Monmouth County youth in detention alternative programs, for the years of 2017 through 2024, indicates a high of 10.5 in 2020 and a low of 1.9 in 2023. The average daily population for Monmouth County youth in detention alternative programs in 2024 indicates 3.5. The average length of stay on detention alternative programs for Monmouth County youth, during the years of 2017 through 2024, indicates a high of 131.3 in 2021 and a low of 40.9 in 2019. For 2024, the average length of stay on detention alternative programs for Monmouth County youth in 2024 was 44.6. Detention Alternative Program Outcomes for Monmouth County youth, during the years of 2017 through 2024, indicates 100% successful completions in 2023. However, in 2024 the Detention Alternative Program Outcomes indicates 76.2% as successful completions; 4.8% as violation/non-compliance; and 19.0% as new charges.

Monmouth County Average Daily Population of Youth in Detention, during the years of 2017 to 2024, indicates it ranged from a high of 9.7 in 2022 to a low of 4.0 in 2024. Of the total juvenile detention admissions for Monmouth County between the years of 2017 to 2024, there was a high of 87 admissions in 2017 and a low of 33 admissions in 2023. For 2024, the total detention admissions for Monmouth County increased to 52. The degree of the most serious current offense at detention admission for youth in Monmouth County in 2024 indicates

1st/2nd degree as 78.7%; 3rd degree as 10.1%; 4th degree/DP as 4.5% and Other as 6.7%. There has been a significant increase in detention admissions for 1st/2nd degree offenses (between 2017-2024) indicating a +28.1 percentage point change. Other degrees (3rd, 4th/DP, and Other) showed a decrease for the same time frame. Monmouth County Detention Admissions for Technical Violations in 2024 indicated that there were 9 for VOPs, 0 for FTA, and 2 for Detention Alternative Violation/Other Violation. The average length of stay in detention for Monmouth County youth between the years of 2017 and 2024 indicates a high of 106.4 in 2023 and a low of 12.5 in 2019. ALOS is calculated using the admission date and release date. only youth released from detention during that period are captured in the analysis for each year. For the year 2024, the average length of stay in detention for Monmouth County youth was indicated as 44.5. The median length of stay in detention for Monmouth County youth, for the years 2017 through 2024 , indicates a high of 48 in 2023 and a low of 2 in 2019. The average length of stay in detention for Monmouth County youth released upon disposition between the years of 2017 through 2024 indicates a high of 231.5 in 2021 and a low of 55.4 in 2019. In 2024, the average length of stay in detention for Monmouth County youth released upon disposition was 72.3. The average length of stay in detention for Monmouth County youth on snapshot date (January to December 2025) indicates a high of 109.7 in September 2025 and a low of 29.5 in January 2025 (Please note data for October 2025 was missing).

There were 42 Monmouth County Admissions to secure Juvenile Detention in 2025 (40 in Middlesex County and 2 in Ocean County). The average length of stay was 47 days. There were 1,978 childcare days provided. The total average daily population was 5.3 in 2025. The minimum average daily population was 1 and the maximum average daily population was 10. The race/ethnicity of the Monmouth County youth admitted to Juvenile Detention in 2025 indicates 25 (59.5%) as Black; 13 (30.9%) as White; and 4 (9.5%) as Hispanic. The gender of the Monmouth County youth admitted to Juvenile Detention in 2025 indicates 41 (97.6%) as male and 1 (2.3%) as female. In 2025, Long Branch had the highest number of admissions to juvenile detention with 8, followed by Asbury Park with 7 and Neptune Township with 3. Of the 42 admissions to Juvenile Detention in 2025, 9 (21%) were from out of county.

There were 51 admissions of Monmouth County juveniles to secure detention in 2024. The average length of stay in juvenile detention for Monmouth County juveniles in 2024 was 28.8 days. There were 1,473 child-care days provided to Monmouth County juveniles at the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention in 2024. The total average daily population of Monmouth County juveniles detained in 2024 was 4.9. The total number of Monmouth County Black Juvenile Admissions in 2024 was 35. The total number of Monmouth County White Juvenile Admissions in 2024 was 4. The total number of Monmouth County Hispanic Juvenile Admissions 2024 was 12. In 2024, the gender of the Monmouth County admissions to the juvenile detention indicates that 40 or 78% are male and 11 or 22% are female. The municipalities with the highest number of admissions of Monmouth County juveniles to Juvenile Detention Facilities in 2024 were Asbury Park (15); Long Branch (13); and Freehold (5).

Monmouth County had 33 youth admissions to county detention in 2023; 55 youth admissions to county detention in 2022; and 36 youth admissions to county detention in 2021. The 21-23 % change indicates -8%. Statewide, NJ had 1,732 total youth admissions to county detention in 2023; 1,613 total youth admissions to county detention in 2022; and 1,411 total youth admissions to county detention in

2021. The 21-23% change indicates a statewide increase of 23% in total youth admissions to county detention. The percentage of youth admissions to county detention by race/ethnicity for Monmouth County in 2023, indicates 67% as Black or African American; 21% as Caucasian; and 12% as Hispanic.

Youth and Family Feedback received from the 2025 monitoring of the funded programs in the Detention Alternatives Service Category included the following:

- Family feedback indicated they could call the JDAI unit for anything and appreciated the Thanksgiving basket.
- Mother interviewed has been involved with the Family Navigator for several years. Her son recently graduated from high school. Mom cannot say enough how much the Family Navigator helped the family connect to resources including CMO. He is now finishing probation, and mom is hopeful that he's turned the corner. The Family Navigator helped the family navigate the court process and youth services, which was overwhelming. The Family Navigator checks in with us and is always available to help. Mom commented on the Family Navigator's sincere interest in helping the family during a very stressful time when they did not understand what was happening.
- There has been strong feedback from youth, families, and community stakeholders to strengthen Monmouth County family support services. This effort included voices of families/youth who received JDAI and the Family Navigator services. In a focus effort of nearly 30 youth and families impacted by justice involvement and/or community-based violence, an overarching theme was an ask for enhanced family support, guidance, and education. Several of the youth shared a need for positive role models and mentorship; this is often a key component of the Family Navigator's position, alongside the JDAI Director. Additionally, the Family Navigator can best support the linkage and referral process for mentorship, to include the following: YMCA, Project HEAL, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc.

Many court involved families are experiencing tremendous challenges. Families with basic needs for food, rental/mortgage arrears, housing, and utility assistance, medical/mental health treatment, etc. have continued to be at crisis levels, which directly correlates to increased levels of emotional distress. The lack of accessibility to affordable transportation greatly impacts the family's ability to secure basic needs, seek medical/mental health treatment, procure employment and attend non-medical appointments.

The Family Navigator has identified the following service gaps and areas of concern:

- Extreme lack of affordable housing-No availability of vouchers/subsidies for affordable housing.
- Lack of financial support-Awareness of resources.
- Families don't seem to engage again after receiving resources.
- Continued increase in the accessibility to weapons, specifically firearms.
- Gang activity in targeted areas/neighborhoods.
- Insecurity for both basic needs and emotional/mental health support.
- High rate of recidivism.
- Youth becoming immersed in the criminal justice system after turning eighteen.
- Violent/potentially violent youth being transported to crisis screening multiple times without admissions due to stated screening tools finding the youth acting out in a behavioral manner and not attributing the symptoms to mental illness.

- Total system failure (educational, legal and mental health) resulting in youth "falling through cracks" and in turn escalating youth's high-risk behaviors and committing new offenses.
 - Parents are becoming verbally combative and hostile due to their frustration with the length of time in the juvenile justice system, the frequency they must appear in court and the length of time sitting in the courthouse waiting for the youth's proceeding to be heard.
 - Parents/caregivers feel they have no recourse when their child's mental health and immaturity prevent the child from making educated decisions about treatment and goals. The child ultimately decides what type of treatment in which they are willing to participate, if they are willing to stay in a facility and if they will abide by the rules.
 - Juvenile's perception of the juvenile justice system being weak and inconsequential. Juveniles not taking accountability for behavior especially when the consequences don't pose a threat, therefore not proving to be a deterrent for future delinquent behavior.
 - Parent/caregiver's indifference and apathetic attitude when being notified of the juvenile's charge(s), consequently leading to inaction or lack of participation in the court process and/or treatment.
 - Parents/caregiver's anger, fear and emotional distress with the environment of "alternative" schools. Parents/caregivers feel the school's environment fosters youths to engage in violence, substance use and/or other delinquent behavior.
 - High frequency and occurrence of cyberbullying, harassment and intimidation.
- Parents/caregivers often don't acknowledge the youth's responsibility and accountability for the delinquent behavior often deflecting blame to the victim.
- Dire need of more programs to work with and rehabilitate youth charged with harassment, intimidation and bullying.
 - Continued cycle of poverty, abuse, dysfunction and substance use (multi-generational).
 - Family's vulnerability to a "learned helplessness" belief especially regarding any possibility of positive outcomes and change.
 - Lack of parental involvement-Extreme difficulty placing youth in out of home residences due to capacity of facility and staffing issues
 - Poor physical health of parents/guardians-
 - Lack of affordable transportation and/or services for transportation-
 - Families requesting transportation and then not "showing up" for the transportation. This leads to the FN program sustaining a cancellation fee.
 - Families being denied housing due to vetting process challenges (ie. bad credit, criminal background, evictions)
 - Families lack of interest and/or commitment to programs that promote family wellness (Strengthening Families, Nurtured Heart etc)
 - Educational system's response of placing alleged juvenile offenders into home instruction settings where the juvenile is often set up to fail due to lack of supervision and the pre-existing challenges the youths have in learning new material
 - Youth severely impacted by multiple traumas sustained throughout their childhood-Lack of communication/performance with clients by pool and private attorneys
 - Increase in the number of teen parents.
 - Frequent inaction by schools. DCP, private providers and CMO to provide services for the youth.
 - Pattern of defense attorneys presenting plea in juvenile case to the family and seeming to persuade youth to take the plea that day.
 - Lack of support for single mothers with a high number of children.

- Extreme need for mentorship programs.
- Continued long-term fallout from covid pandemic, which includes, but not limited to the significant increases in youths suffering with anxiety, low self-esteem, learning issues, anger management issues and serious mental health concerns.
- Increase in the number of teen parents who have sustained serious charges that have or have the possibility of that teen parent becoming incarcerated or in a YJC program.

The most frequent observations and gaps in service identified by the Division of Child and Youth Services- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Unit include the following:

- Extremely long waits for any OOH placement causing delays in youth cases to be finished and frequent adjournments
- Stable and affordable housing for youth and families in Monmouth County
- Gaps in services for evaluations and consistent services
- Families frustrated with youth being held accountable for their actions and long wait times while at court
- Transportation to activities and services (not including court)

The New Jersey JDAI 2025 Annual Data Report indicates the following for Monmouth County:

- In 2025, the average daily population (ADP) of Monmouth County youth in detention was 5.5 with a high of 9. Youth of color comprised 69.1% of the ADP, and female youth comprised 3.6%. The 2025 monthly admissions to detention for Monmouth County youth was indicated as 3.6 with 72.1% youth of color; and 20.1% female. The 2025 Average Length of Stay (ALOS) in detention for Monmouth County youth was 38.9 days. 30.6% of the Monmouth County youth were in detention for 1-5 days and 22.2% were in detention for 60+ days. The ALOS for male youth was 38.4 days, and for female youth it was 55 days. The ALOS in detention in 2025 for White youth was 38.4 days, for Black youth it was 45.9 days, and for Hispanic youth it was 3.3 days.
- In 2025, the average daily population (ADP) of Monmouth County youth on alternatives to detention was 3.9. Youth of color comprised 72.1%; and female youth comprised 4.6%. The 2025 monthly admissions to Alternatives to Detention for Monmouth County youth indicated 1.3 with 53.3% youth of color; and 13.3% female. The Average Length of Stay (ALOS) on Alternatives to Detention for Monmouth County youth in 2025 was 88.3 days. 65.30% of the youth were on an Alternative to Detention for 60+ days. The ALOS on alternatives to detention for Monmouth County youth in 2025 indicates 94.6 days for male youth, and 32 days for female youth. The ALOS for White youth on alternatives to detention indicates 103 days, for Black youth it was 64.8 days, and for Hispanic youth it was 134.7 days.

IV. Detention Utilization and Detention Alternative Programming Data

Using both quantitative and qualitative data is essential when identifying the needs of youth at the point of detention. Combining these data types allows counties to capture a holistic view of youth challenges and strengths, ensuring that detention alternative programs are responsive, targeted, and grounded in real-world experiences.

As the planning subcommittee looks more closely at its data, it should consider where the problem occurs most often, when it happens most frequently, and who is most affected. It is also important to identify any barriers that make the problem difficult to address.

Complete the chart below by documenting all data reviewed. Include details about the data type, source, and priority status as determined by the planning subcommittee. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

Data Set <i>(include year)</i>	Qualitative or Quantitative	Source
Average Daily Population (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Total Detention Admission (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Degree of Most Serious Current Offense (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Detention Admissions for Technical Violations (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Average Length of Stay in Detention (2017 - 2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Median Length of Stay in Detention (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Average Length of Stay in Detention for Youth Released Upon Disposition (2017 – 2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Average Length of Stay in Detention on Snapshot Date (Jan to Dec 2025)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Average Daily Population for Youth in Detention Alternative Programs (2017-2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Average Length of Stay on Detention Alternative Programs (2017-2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Detention Alternative Program Outcomes (2017-2023)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, 2017 – 2023 JDAI Annual Report
Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services- Juvenile Detention Alternatives- Home	Quantitative	Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services Juvenile

Detention / Electronic Monitoring Program; Electronic Monitoring Expansion – Wireless/GPS; House Arrest A; House Arrest B; Juvenile Shelter (2021-2025) admissions, departures, , gender, race/ethnicity, successful completions, unsuccessful completions, average daily population, and average length of stay.		Detention Alternatives-2021-2025 Youth Services Plan Data
Youth Detention Center-Admissions, Average Length of Stay, # of Child- Care Days, Minimum Average Daily Population, Total Average Daily Population, Maximum Average Daily Population, Racial / Ethnic Composition of Monmouth County Admissions to Juvenile Detention, Gender of Monmouth County Admissions to the Youth Detention Center and Admissions to the Youth Detention Center by Municipality (2021-2025)- Monmouth County Sheriff's Department	Quantitative	Monmouth County Sheriff's Department-2021-2025 Youth Services Plan Data
Family Navigator-List of Identified Needs and Gaps in Service	Qualitative	Family Navigator- Quarterly Narrative Reports in the Juvenile Automated Management System
New Jersey JDAI 2025 Annual Data Report	Quantitative	NJ Youth Justice Commission

1. What additional data does the CYSC wish were available to better identify, prioritize and assess the needs of youth? Where could the CYSC get this information (e.g., detention risk screening tool override rates and reasons, surveys, etc.)?

With secure detention being outsourced to another county through shared service agreements, it would be helpful to have additional data on the specific offenses which Monmouth County youth are being placed there. The New Jersey Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement has produced extensive reports, however there would be a benefit to review a sampling of Monmouth County cases more indepth. It is unclear if the detention risk screening tool and override rates are being provided on a consistent basis or if they need to be requested. It was reported at a recent YSC meeting that Court intake is going to be assigned on a rotation basis for coverage. Monmouth County youth are housed in out of county juvenile detention facilities. In the past a one day snapshot of the youth in the facility was conducted, as well as tours of the facilities Youth and Family interviews were conducted by the Family Navigator through our innovations grant and the work of the local Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement. Our JDAI unit exit interviews provided information from the youth and their guardian/parent on their experience. Some of these activities and practices need to be revitalized.

2. What are the top three questions you wish you had more information to answer about this population? For each question, what specific data sources or types of data would be required to provide accurate answers?

What are the underlying factors resulting in the youths delinquent behavior that resulted in placement in juvenile detention. What resources/services/supports would be helpful from both the youth and family perspective to prevent the youth's admission to juvenile detention and continued involvement with the youth justice system. What challenges did the youth encounter while in detention and how were they handled at the facility. Review of case level information, feedback from youth and family

members, and review of incident reports and feedback from youth regarding their experience at detention. In the past exit interviews were conducted.

3. Was any data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, or geographic region? If so, what insight does the data tell you when examined through these lenses?

In 2025, there were 25 participants on Home Detention /Electronic Monitoring, 1 admission on Electronic Monitoring Expansion-Wireless/GPS, 0 admissions on House Arrest A, 0 admission on House Arrest B, 2 admissions to the Juvenile Shelter and 1 admission on the STEADY transition program. The race/ethnicity of the 25 youth indicates 14 (56%) as African American, 5 (20%) as White, 3 (12%) as Hispanic and 3 (12%) as "Other".

There were 42 Monmouth County Admissions to secure Juvenile Detention in 2025 (40 in Middlesex County and 2 in Ocean County). The race/ethnicity of the Monmouth County youth admitted to Juvenile Detention in 2025 indicates 25 (59.5%) as Black; 13 (30.9%) as White; and 4 (9.5%) as Hispanic. The gender of the Monmouth County youth admitted to Juvenile Detention in 2025 indicates 41 (97.6%) as male and 1 (2.3%) as female. In 2025, Long Branch had the highest number of admissions to juvenile detention with 8, followed by Asbury Park with 7 and Neptune Township with 3. Of the 42 admissions to Juvenile Detention in 2025, 9 (21%) were from out of county.

There were 51 admissions of Monmouth County juveniles to secure detention in 2024. The Racial / Ethnic Composition of Monmouth County Admissions to Juvenile Detention (Number and Percentage) in 2024 indicates 35 (68.6%) as Black; 4 (7.8%) as White; and 12 (23.5%) as Hispanic. Asbury Park had the highest number of admissions to juvenile detention followed by Long Branch and Freehold Boro.

The number of unduplicated families served by the Family Navigator-Partners with Families Program during 2025 was 189. The gender of the youth/families served indicates 78% as male and 22% as female. The race/ethnicity of the youth/families served indicates 41% as White, 37% as Black, 22% as Hispanic, and 4 as Other.

V. Detention Utilization and Detention Alternative Programming Recommendations

The following sections ask the County Youth Services Commission to use its review and discussion of available data to guide decision-making for the county detention plan. This includes identifying priority problems, identifying core programming types, and recommending new program types. Recommendations should reflect county trends, address gaps or challenges, and incorporate considerations of race, ethnicity, and gender to promote equitable outcomes for all youth.

Below, you are asked to complete two charts. In the first chart, list any core programs that have provided essential support, address critical needs, and have shown an impact at this point of the continuum. In the second chart rank, in order of priority, the recommended problems and proposed strategies the county is seeking to address. When ranking, consider each strategy's effectiveness, scope and scale, and strength of evidence (proven results or promising opportunities). Recommendations should align with identified problems and county trends and reflect efforts to advance race equity and promote similar outcomes for similarly situated youth.

Identify Core Programs/Services

After reviewing your existing inventory and the available data, are there currently funded types of programs or services that the CYSC considers essential to this point of the continuum, even if current data does not show a clear need or there is no or sufficient data is not available to fully demonstrate the need? Core programming is defined as existing detention alternative programming that the planners believe are currently effective in supporting youth as they transition back into the community, addressing risk factors, strengthening protective factors, and reducing the likelihood of further rule-breaking or deeper system involvement. Core programs may be identified by reviewing utilization data and planners' opinions, and by considering whether reductions or defunding would likely result in increased unmet needs or lead to negative outcomes for youth. These programs are designed to help youth succeed before they fail by strengthening families, schools, and communities and by addressing challenges as early as possible.

Program/Service	What need(s) is the program addressing?	Justification for Continued Funding
Detention Alternative Programming-	There is a need for detention alternative programs that offer community based supervision options.	In 2025, there were 25 participants on Home Detention /Electronic Monitoring, 1 admission on Electronic Monitoring Expansion-Wireless/GPS, 0 admissions on House Arrest A, 0

Detention alternatives are short-term programs that increase supervision in the community to ensure that a young person remains arrest-free and returns to court during the pendency of their case.		admission on House Arrest B, 2 admissions to the Juvenile Shelter and 1 admission on the STEADY transition program. In 2025, a combined total of 25 youth admissions were under the Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services-Juvenile Detention Alternatives supervision. The gender of the youth indicates 24 (96 %) as male and 1 (4%) as female. The race/ethnicity of the 25 youth indicates 14 (56%) as African American, 5 (20%) as White, 3 (12%) as Hispanic and 3 (12%) as "Other". In 2025, there were a total of 22 (100%) successful completions. The departures include some youth carried over from the prior year. In 2025, there were 3 youths carried over into 2026. In the area of detention alternatives, the STEADY program did not have a lot of utilization and will be absorbed with the loss of JDAI IF funding.
Shared Service Agreements-Tracking of Juvenile Detention Admissions Shared service agreements exist with Middlesex County and Ocean County for secure juvenile detention beds for Monmouth County youth.	To track the utilization of the juvenile detention beds purchased by Monmouth. The shared service agreement that Monmouth County has with the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Facility for 10 detention and 3 shelter beds. Arrangements have been made with Ocean County and a formalized agreement was established for 2 beds purchased by Monmouth and one other bed to be available on a as needed basis.	There were 42 Monmouth County Admissions to secure Juvenile Detention in 2025 (40 in Middlesex County and 2 in Ocean County). Regarding juvenile detention beds, Monmouth County has not had the same problem that some other counties have related to youth waiting for a detention bed. Sebastian Trapani has provided us with detention admission data for 2025. We will seek any updates on our shared services agreements for detention beds from him.

Recommended Types of New or Adapted Programs

When identifying strategies to address a local issue or county trend, counties are encouraged to fund proven types of programming and also consider innovative or emerging approaches. This may include piloting new program types, adapting existing programs types to meet local needs more effectively, or leveraging cross-system partnerships and community-generated solutions. Note, a specific agency or programs should not be named, just list the type of programs the CYSC has identified (e.g., evening reporting center).

Rank	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?	Cite the data that indicated the problem or trend	State the type of program the county identified to address the problem or county trend.
1	To strengthen & improve detention-alternatives and increase the rate of success on the alternative. Youth should be placed in the least restrictive environment to ensure public safety. To link youth to positive role models, caring- adults serving as mentors. To identify youth's interests and hobbies and expand their opportunity for positive youth development.	In 2025, a combined total of 25 youth admissions were under the Monmouth County Division of Juvenile Detention Alternatives supervision. In 2025, there were a total of 22 (100%) successful completions. The departures include some youth carried over from the prior year. In 2025, there were 3 youths carried over into 2026. In 2024, a combined total of 33 youth admissions were under the Monmouth County Division of Juvenile Detention Alternatives supervision. In 2024, there were a total of 27 (84%) successful completions and 5 (16%) non successful. The departures include some youth carried over from the prior year. In 2024, there were unsuccessful terminations. .	The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Unit within the Division of Child and Youth Services has a positive track record supervising youth on detention alternatives safely in the community. Increased support, teamwork and collaboration provided to the Juvenile Detention Alternative Unit by the creation of the Youth Justice Family Support Program will further strengthen Monmouth County's work with youth and their families on juvenile detention alternatives status.
2	There continues to be a need to focus on length of stay and related case processing issues, with an emphasis on further diagnosing and addressing potential disparities in this area. The primary goal of JDAI is to make sure that secure detention is used for only serious and chronic youthful offenders, and that	Research has shown that detention has critical, long-lasting consequences for court-involved youth. Detention disrupts connections in school, services, and families.	There were 42 admissions of Monmouth County youth to secure detention in 2025. The race/ethnicity of the Monmouth County youth admitted to Juvenile Detention in 2025 indicates 25 (59.5%) as Black; 13 (30.9%) as White; and 4 (9.5%) as Hispanic.

	effective alternatives are available for other youth who can be safely supervised in the community while awaiting final court disposition.		There were 51 admissions of Monmouth County youth to secure detention in 2024. The race/ethnicity of the Monmouth County youth admitted to Juvenile Detention in 2024 indicates 35 (68.6%) as Black; 4 (7.8%) as White; and 12 (23.5%) as Hispanic. In 2025, there was a combined total of 25 youth admissions to the Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services-Juvenile Detention Alternatives Unit supervision. The race/ethnicity of the 25 youth indicates 14 (56%) as African American, 5 (20%) as White, 3 (12%) as Hispanic and 3 (12%) as "Other". In 2024, a combined total of 33 youth admissions to the Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services -Juvenile Detention Alternatives Unit supervision. The race/ethnicity of the 33 youth indicates 21 (64%) as African American, 0 (0%) as White, 11 (33%) as Hispanic and 1 (3%) as "Other".
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

DISPOSITION

- I. Definition and Rationale
- II. Planning Requirements
- III. Existing Program Inventory
- IV. Quantitative and Qualitative Data
- V. Programming Recommendations

II. Disposition Definition and Rationale

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-43(a), the disposition of a delinquency case is the final outcome or decision that describes how the case was resolved. After a young person is adjudicated delinquent, the court may order sanctions, supervision, and services that have a rehabilitative goal. This approach aims to promote positive youth outcomes and successful futures. In New Jersey, disposition options may include restitution, community service, probation, placement with the Department of Children and Families, and commitment to the Youth Justice Commission. Programs for youth on probation, such as intensive supervision or day reporting, are designed to employ a positive youth development framework that focuses on building competencies and connecting youth to pro-social opportunities. Disposition programs may be grounded in rehabilitation, restorative principles (accountability, repairing harm, and strengthening relationships), and positive youth development to support a meaningful, constructive experience for young people.

When determining the appropriate disposition, the court is tasked with balancing public safety, accountability, and providing opportunities for rehabilitation. By expanding community-based programs that are built on restorative and positive youth development principles, counties can provide courts with a wider array of options to meet the needs of young people. Research indicates that community-based programs integrating these approaches can significantly reduce recidivism and foster growth within youth, which ultimately improves public safety.

The disposition data should inform counties about the characteristics of young people who are adjudicated delinquent and their experiences in programs funded through the CYSC. This information is critical for planning and ensuring resources are allocated to programs that provide youth with the support and services they need to reduce recidivism, age out of delinquency, and to grow into successful adults.

IV. Disposition Programming Planning Requirements

Planning Process

Provide a comprehensive description of the County's Youth Services Commission (CYSC) overall planning process in the development of its 2027 – 2029 Youth Strategic Justice Plan, including how the CYSC organized its work, involved key stakeholders, reviewed data, and set priorities. Describe how the process was structured to ensure collaboration, thoughtful decision-making, and a clear plan for moving forward.

Monmouth County established a Core Planning Team for the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. Input gathered from the community, youth and families, and other identified stakeholders was shared and integrated into the planning process. Outreach to key informants or topic experts was conducted to include their perspectives and knowledge on specific areas of the continuum and to obtain updated data. Monmouth Vicinage -Family Division provided 2025 court processing data on Monmouth County youth adjudicated delinquent by gender, age, race/ethnicity, and offenses. Information was requested from Monmouth Vicinage-Probation Division that was reviewed and shared indicating the number of youth on probation supervision, deferred disposition and specialized caseloads, as well as the number of violations of probation filed and the type of VOPs. Point in time data on the juvenile probation caseload has been requested that includes the youth's town of residence, gender, age, and race/ethnicity. A review of other system partners such as MonmouthCARES, DCP&P, the Youth Justice Commission, and JISP will be included. Through youth and family interviews at the Youth Services Commission monitoring visits, feedback is gathered from youth and families as to the services provided.

Disposition Planning Subcommittee Members

The Planning subcommittee should include stakeholders who shape court outcomes and provide or oversee programming ordered at disposition. For example: Family Court judges and court staff, prosecutors and defense attorneys, juvenile probation supervisors and case managers, dispositional option program providers, behavioral and mental health service providers, educational and vocational training partners, community-based organizations involved in aftercare or mentoring, and youth and families who have experienced the disposition process.

Complete the chart below by entering the name and organization/communities of each planning subcommittee member. Also identify if a member is a youth or family member with lived experience or impacted by this point of the system.

Name	Organization / Community	Impacted Youth or Family (yes/no)
1. Dustin Knoblauch, Director	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
2. Ellen Cohen, Administrator	Youth Services Commission / Division of Child and Youth Services	No
3. Kathleen Peterson, Administrative Support	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
4. Desiree Whyte, Assistant Director of Operations	DHHS Administration Resident Voice/County Contracting	No
5. Trude Arnette, Social Worker	NJ Office of the Public Defender Detention/Court/YSC Review Team	No
6. Thomas Fichter, Director, Family Division & Domestic Violence Unit	Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Court / YSC Review Team	No
7. Christine Talbot, Family Navigator	MHAMC Family Navigator Court System / Mental Health	Yes
8. Samantha Muccini, Program Coordinator, 180 Turning Lives Around	PYD Chair, Monmouth ACTS / 180 Turning Lives Around	No
9. Myra Carter/Caitlin Mejia (Key Informants)-Chief of Probation and Assistant Chief	Monmouth Vicinage Probation Division	No
10. Tara Buckley (Key Informant)-Family Division Manager	Monmouth Vicinage Family Division	No
11. Jennifer Hoffer (Key Informant)-YJC Court Liaison	NJ Youth Justice Commission	No
12. Carlton Cummings (Key Informant)-MonmouthCARES Court Liaison	MonmouthCARES	No
13. Steven Billingsley, CIACC Chair	CSOC Partners/Elevate & Project HEAL	No

14. Jennifer Hoffer, YJC Court Liaison	NJ Youth Justice Commission	No
15. Douglas Hoffman, Director	Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS) Youth and Family Crisis	No

V. Existing Program Inventory – Disposition

Reviewing the Existing Program Inventory

Before identifying new priorities, counties assess the existing landscape of their existing programs and services within their local continuum. Conducting this inventory offers a comprehensive understanding of what is currently in place, how needs are being addressed, which target areas are being served, and the extent to which programs are being utilized.”

Complete the chart below by entering each program or service your county considers a part of its disposition point on the continuum, regardless of funding source. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	What need(s) does the program address? (e.g., truancy, teen pregnancy, expulsions, dropout, etc.)	What target area does the program serve? (e.g., specific school, age, gender, grade)	Is this program actively used? (Yes/No)	If not, please explain why. (e.g., lack of referrals, eligibility restrictions, staffing or capacity limitations)
IEP Youth Services Inc.	Probation Multi Treatment Program- Individualized Services for youth on probation	Educational and intervention services around targeted treatment -anger management, sexually inappropriate behaviors, cyber crimes, shoplifting, self harm, bullying, process addictions, substance use /abuse, decision making skills, grief and loss issues, life skills/transitions	Monmouth County youth referred by the Family Court or the Probation Division	Yes	
IEP Youth Services Inc.	Probation Offender Program	Specialized assessment, evaluation, and treatment services for youth with problematic sexual behavior.	Monmouth County youth referred by the Family Court or the Probation Division for specialized sex offense specific treatment.	Yes	

New Hope Integrated Behavioral Health Care	Adolescent Residential Substance Use Treatment Services- Outpatient & In-home sessions	Adolescent residential alcohol and drug treatment services	Monmouth County youth with alcohol and /or drug dependence, who have been adjudicated delinquent and or who have demonstrated history of juvenile delinquency and referred to treatment by the Judiciary	Yes	
Monmouth Vicinage Probation Division	Deferred Disposition Juvenile Probation Supervision JOBS program Gun Violence Reduction Initiative	Juvenile Supervision- to work with youth who have been placed on Probation or received a Deferred Disposition to change their behavior and help them successfully complete probation. The JOBS program is designed to connect probation clients to employment opportunities, job readiness programming and skill-building training opportunities. The New Jersey Judiciary's Gun Violence Reduction Initiative focuses on probation clients who are at moderate-to-high-risk of reoffending and who have a current, weapon-related offense.	Monmouth County youth on probation supervision	Yes	
MonmouthCares	Care Management	Services are free for families living in	MonmouthCares helps youth under	Yes	

	Organization- Part of New Jersey Children's System of Care	Monmouth County that qualify by calling PerformCare at 1-877-652-7624.	the age of 21 with conditions such as: Social, emotional, and behavior needs; Intellectual and development needs; Challenges with substance abuse; and youth who are experiencing problematic sexualized behavior		
HMH Jersey Shore University Medical Center	Community Based Violence Intervention Program- Project Heal and Elevate Program	Elevate is a violence prevention program-Empowers individuals impacted by violence through trauma-informed care, advocacy, and community collaboration; fostering healing, resilience, racial equity, and hope for a safer tomorrow	Monmouth County youth ages 12–20, who are at risk of engaging in violence	Yes	
New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts	Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP)	The Family Court Judge may refer youth to JISP, as a dispositional option	The JISP officer will submit a report to the Family Court Judge. If eligible based upon the investigation report, the judge may sentence the youth into the JISP program by court order.	Yes	

1. Based on the subcommittee's discussion of the guiding questions, provide a summary of the key insights, overarching themes, and notable observations that emerged during the review of the inventory. Highlight areas of concern, strengths, gaps, redundancies, identified through the conversation. Highlight any concerns, strengths, gaps, or patterns that were identified through the

conversation.

Monmouth County identifies a need for dispositional option programs that include family counseling and involve parent(s) / guardian(s) in program services. We seek to support dispositional option programs that focus on minority youth, their families, and communities. There is a desire for each youth to be assessed individually, and receive services tailored to meet that youth's needs. There is a need to partner with the behavioral / integrated health system to screen and assess youth involved in the youth justice system, with mental health, substance use and co-occurring disorders to coordinate treatment. For youth, who are multi-system involved, communication with the other system of care providers is needed to develop coordinated, collaborative treatment plans. Creative approaches and incentives to engage youth in program activities are needed. We seek to connect youth to caring adults, positive peers and prosocial activities in their schools and communities that foster positive youth development. Educational support, work readiness skills, career development and youth employment opportunities are components that dispositional option programs can integrate.

Monmouth Vicinage Court Processing Data for 2025 indicates that there were 186 youth adjudicated delinquent; 274 cases adjudicated delinquent; and 524 offenses adjudicated delinquent. Youth aged 15-16 comprised the largest number and percentage of youth docketed and adjudicated delinquent. Males continue to comprise the largest number and percentage of those adjudicated delinquent compared to females. The race/ethnicity of the 2025 adjudicated delinquent juveniles indicates: 68 (36.56%) identified as White; 58 (31.18%) identified as Black; 57 (30.65%) identified as Hispanic; 0 (0%) identified as Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian or Other; and 3 (1.61%) juveniles adjudicated delinquent did not indicate a race/ethnicity.

The Probation Monthly Statistics-Juvenile Supervision December 2025 report indicates the Monmouth County Juvenile Caseload included 80 juvenile clients or 78% in the non-specialized category, and 23 juvenile clients or 22% in the specialized category. For the entire state of New Jersey, the December 2025 report indicates there were 1,943 juvenile clients or 84% in the non-specialized category and 360 juvenile clients or 16% in the specialized service category. Monmouth County's case flow (court year-to-date information) indicates that there were 40 juvenile clients added; 92 cases added; and 85 clients discharged. New Jersey's case flow (court year to date information) indicates that there were 839 juvenile clients added; 1,458 cases added; and 1,003 clients discharged. The report includes measures to track juvenile client outcomes, juvenile disposition discharges, behavioral changes, and sobriety.

Monmouth Vicinage Probation Division -Juvenile Supervision reported the average officer caseload in 2025 as 45. There were 2 /3 Juvenile Probation Officers. In 2025, there were a total of 18 Violations of Probation filed. Three (3) were a Violation of the Standard Conditions of Probation, and fifteen (15) were a Violation due to a New Offense. There were no program violations in 2025 reported.

Monmouth Vicinage Probation Division was asked the following questions: What are the top challenges faced by probation working with youth and their families. What linkages are being made by probation for youth and their families to services, and what community resources are they partnering with. What has been probation's experience working with service providers/programs, and what types of programs /activities/ strategies do they find most effective. Their response submitted June 15, 2026 included the following:

- Challenges: engagement in school-virtual school/navigating alternative school placement for youth with more serious charges, engaging family members struggling with different issues (how to address behavior at home, their own challenges ie., recovery, other children having difficulties,

finding time to meet probation responsibilities with other home obligations), transportation, engaging families with services within their communities, transportation.

- Linkages: exposure to more pro-social activities and Monmouth County Services via Monmouth ACTS, collaboration with CMO while not duplicating services, working with treatment providers to meet client needs, building youth's circle of influence as a support system to utilize while on probation and beyond. Most programs are eager to work with probation to support our youth.
- Strategies most effective: tangible incentives to reward positive behavior, engaging activities that are hands on and non-traditional (moving away from a lecture format and incorporating youth's needs and interests).

The Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP) is a community-based alternative to detention. The program is more restrictive than traditional juvenile probation. It requires frequent home visits, curfews, family involvement and counseling. As with other juvenile clients, the families of JISP participants are required to participate and to fulfill their responsibilities to help youth succeed.

Monmouth County Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP) cases in 2024 indicates the following (as of 4/29/26):

There was a total of 16 Monmouth County JISP cases in 2024.

The ages of the Monmouth County JISP cases in 2024 indicates 1 (6.25%) as 20 years old; 7 (43.75%) as 19 years old; 3 (18.75%) as 18 years old; 2 (12.5%) as 17 years old and 3 (18.75%) as 16 years old.

The race/ethnicity of the 16 Monmouth County JISP cases in 2024 indicates 12 (75%) as Black; 1 (6.25%) as White; and 3 (18.75%) as Hispanic.

The gender of the 16 Monmouth County JISP cases in 2024 indicates 13 (81.25%) as male and 3 (18.75%) as female.

The town of residence of the 16 Monmouth County JISP cases in 2024 indicates: Asbury Park as 6 (37.5%); Freehold as 2 (12.5%); Long Branch as 2 (12.5%); Neptune as 2 (12.5%); Howell as 1 (6.25%); Keansburg as 1 (6.25%); Hopewell as 1 (6.25%); and Belle Mead as 1 (6.25%).

The outcome of the Monmouth County JISP cases discharged in 2024 indicates: IOP-Hope Tower as 1; Legacy Residential as 1; CMO/Legacy Residential as 2; Vineland Prep as 2; ; New Hope Inpatient/IOP as 1; DOVES as 1; East Mountain Youth Lodge as 1; Probation / CMO as 1; Early Term as 1; and 1 discharged from Long Branch. The 2024 JISP cases not discharged on the list provided includes: 1 at Costello Prep; 1 as 18 months YJC / CMO; 1 as 15 months with the YJC; and 1 as 6 months YJC and New Hope OP.

Monmouth County Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP) cases in 2025 indicates the following (as of 4/29/26):

There was a total of 4 Monmouth County JISP cases in 2025.

The ages of the Monmouth County JISP cases in 2025 indicates 2 (50%) as 18 years of age; 1 (25%) as 16 years old; and 1 (25%) as 15 years old.

The race/ethnicity of the 4 Monmouth County JISP cases in 2025 indicates 3 (75%) as Black and 1 (25%) as White.

The gender of the Monmouth County JISP cases in 2025 indicates 4 (100%) as male.

The town of residence of the 4 Monmouth County JISP cases in 2025 indicates: Asbury Park as 1 (25%); Long Branch as 1 (25%); Manalapan as 1 (25%) and Oakhurst as 1 (25%).

The outcome of the Monmouth County JISP case discharged in 2025 indicates: 1 as discharged New Hope Inpatient /Outpatient. Two youth were indicated as still on JISP in 2025 (1 at Bonnie Brae; and the other had no additional program listed). In addition, 1 youth's outcome indicated 9 months YJC / Costello Prep.

Statistics from the New Jersey Youth Justice Commission indicate that there were 2 Commitments of Monmouth County youth in 2025 and 6 in 2024 to

the New Jersey Youth Justice Commission. There were 3 Commitments of Waived Monmouth County youth to the New Jersey Youth Justice Commission in 2025 and none in 2024. There were 6 Probationer Intakes to Residential Programs for Monmouth County youth in 2025 and 3 in 2024. There were 8 referrals of Monmouth County youth for New Jersey Youth Justice Commission Probationer Placement in 2025 and 6 in 2024.

The Probation Offender Program is a dispositional option for the Judiciary that provides specialized sex offense specific treatment for juveniles on probation. In 2025, the program was contracted to provide specialized treatment services for up to 15 youth with problematic sexual behavior. The program exceeded their level of service and served 26 youth.

Probation Multi Treatment (PMT) - Individualized Services for Youth on Probation is a dispositional option for the Judiciary that was contracted to serve 50 youth on probation in 2025, however PMT's actual level of service in 2025 was below the contracted number and only 38 youth were served.

Adolescent residential alcohol and drug treatment services for Monmouth County juveniles with alcohol and drug dependence, who have been adjudicated delinquent and/or who have demonstrated history of juvenile delinquency and referred to treatment by the Judiciary is a dispositional option contracted for in 2025. There were 167 bed days of treatment provided and 4 youth served under the grant in 2025.

Youth and Family Feedback received from the 2025 monitoring of the funded programs in the Disposition Service Category indicated the following:

- Youth feedback indicates the program welcomes family involvement. Feels he can talk to staff about anything and has talked with them opening. Staff have helped him enroll in a GED program.

- Family feedback-Mom has attended every parent group. Mom really found the vaping presentation helpful. Her son is very open with the counselor and he enjoys his sessions. They have been very accommodating; they appreciate the flexibility and information she is receiving. She has seen a big change in her son and thinks he gets it.

- Services primarily requested were for anger management due to fights amongst peers/classmates. Program expressed challenges with Probation referrals.

- Program's family education program is crucial to ensure best outcomes for youth returning home and is offered on weekends, in addition to family visits, support groups, and family sessions. Pet therapy and music therapy are provided, in addition to wellness activities including beach trips, yoga, meditation, gardening, etc.

- Youth feedback indicated that he can always go to staff, and feels they have an open-door policy. Youth likes that staff show respect to him re: religious background.

Many court involved families are experiencing tremendous challenges. Families with basic needs for food, rental/mortgage arrears, housing, and utility assistance, medical/mental health treatment, etc. have continued to be at crisis levels, which directly correlates to increased levels of emotional distress. The lack of accessibility to affordable transportation greatly impacts the family's ability to secure basic needs, seek medical/mental health treatment, procure employment and attend non-medical appointments. The Family Navigator has identified the following service gaps and areas of concern:

- Extreme lack of affordable housing-No availability of vouchers/subsidies for affordable housing.

- Lack of financial support-Awareness of resources.

- Families don't seem to engage again after receiving resources.

- Continued increase in the accessibility to weapons, specifically firearms.

- Gang activity in targeted areas/neighborhoods.
- Insecurity for both basic needs and emotional/mental health support.
- High rate of recidivism.
- Youth becoming immersed in the criminal justice system after turning eighteen.
- Violent/potentially violent youth being transported to crisis screening multiple times without admissions due to stated screening tools finding the youth acting out in a behavioral manner and not attributing the symptoms to mental illness.
- Total system failure (educational, legal and mental health) resulting in youth "falling through cracks" and in turn escalating youth's high-risk behaviors and committing new offenses.
- Parents are becoming verbally combative and hostile due to their frustration with the length of time in the juvenile justice system, the frequency they must appear in court and the length of time sitting in the courthouse waiting for the youth's proceeding to be heard.
- Parents/caregivers feel they have no recourse when their child's mental health and immaturity prevent the child from making educated decisions about treatment and goals. The child ultimately decides what type of treatment in which they are willing to participate, if they are willing to stay in a facility and if they will abide by the rules.
- Juvenile's perception of the juvenile justice system being weak and inconsequential. Juveniles not taking accountability for behavior especially when the consequences don't pose a threat, therefore not proving to be a deterrent for future delinquent behavior.
- Parent/caregiver's indifference and apathetic attitude when being notified of the juvenile's charge(s), consequently leading to inaction or lack of participation in the court process and/or treatment.
- Parents/caregiver's anger, fear and emotional distress with the environment of "alternative" schools. Parents/caregivers feel the school's environment fosters youths to engage in violence, substance use and/or other delinquent behavior.
- High frequency and occurrence of cyberbullying, harassment and intimidation.
- Parents/caregivers often don't acknowledge the youth's responsibility and accountability for the delinquent behavior often deflecting blame to the victim.
- Dire need of more programs to work with and rehabilitate youth charged with harassment, intimidation and bullying.
- Continued cycle of poverty, abuse, dysfunction and substance use (multi-generational).
- Family's vulnerability to a "learned helplessness" belief especially regarding any possibility of positive outcomes and change.
- Lack of parental involvement.
- Extreme difficulty placing youth in out of home residences due to capacity of facility and staffing issues.
- Poor physical health of parents/guardians.
- Lack of affordable transportation and/or services for transportation.
- Families being denied housing due to vetting process challenges (ie. bad credit, criminal background, evictions).
- Families lack of interest and/or commitment to programs that promote family wellness (Strengthening Families, Nurtured Heart etc).
- Educational system's response of placing alleged juvenile offenders into home instruction settings where the juvenile is often set up to fail due to lack of supervision and the pre-existing challenges the youths have in learning new material.
- Youth severely impacted by multiple traumas sustained throughout their childhood.
- Lack of communication/performance with clients by pool and private attorneys.
- Frequent inaction by schools. DCP, private providers and CMO to provide services for the youth.
- Pattern of defense attorneys presenting plea in juvenile case to the family and seeming to persuade youth to take the plea that day.

- Lack of support for single mothers with a high number of children.
- Extreme need for mentorship programs.
- Continued long-term fallout from covid pandemic, which includes, but not limited to the significant increases in youths suffering with anxiety, low self-esteem, learning issues, anger management issues and serious mental health concerns.
- Increase in the number of teen parents who have sustained serious charges that have or have the possibility of that teen parent becoming incarcerated or in a YJC program.

"Ages 11-17 accounted for the highest number of calls to PerformCare. The top reason for a PerformCare call is to request in-home support services, including Intensive in Community (IIC), which provides one to one therapy for youth and families. This supports other anecdotal data regarding the challenge of discharging youth patients to the most appropriate level of care from the hospital setting; a lack of outpatient providers and those that offer transportation and accept Medicaid have been a barrier. In addition, outpatient providers shared an increase of anxiety and depression among their young patients, emphasizing the need for caregivers to address their mental health to best care for their children."- Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

"Over 50 youth shared feedback, representing various socioeconomic groups throughout the county. Youth expressed less of a formal need for mental health treatment but would like more opportunities for social connectedness where transportation, cost, and safety are not barriers. It's important to note that 3 % percent of teens are not working and are out of school. Data also shows a 22% increase of reported bullying cases and a 10% increase of youth violence, additional stressors for youth."- Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

"The youth also reported that is difficult to look to their families/parents/caregivers for guidance and support. Youth of Spanish speaking parents specifically highlighted family support as a challenge. The overall community voiced concerns for Spanish translation and Spanish speaking support and resources. It is important to take into consideration that 13.15% of children in Monmouth County are first generation citizens, and 4.45% have parents that are non-citizens. This, in turn, may affect their willingness to access services for their children." Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

"Regarding youth transitioning to adulthood, there is also some concerning data. Statistics show that 6.97% of young adults are uninsured; 9.6 % report poor health, and 13.4% report poor mental health. This further strengthens the need for less formal mental health opportunities, including career development, for this 18- to 26-year-old population. It is also important to take into consideration that the second leading call to PerformCare is for inquiries and resources related to the Intellectually/Developmentally Disabled population. The I/DD community must be acknowledged, especially during system care transition. -"Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

"Reports of heightened anxiety, educational disparities, insufficient free or affordable programs, lack of transportation, and parental conflict and stress directly impact the overall wellness of Monmouth County youth and families. This supports a strong need for further family and caregiver support. -"Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

Low- and moderate-risk youth are best served in the community in non-residential placements that offer better outcomes and lower costs. For higher-risk youth who require residential placements, facilities should be safe and operate according to best practices stemming from research-based guiding

principles.

VI. Disposition Data

Using both quantitative and qualitative data is essential when identifying the needs of youth at the point of disposition. Combining these data types allows counties to capture a holistic view of youth challenges and strengths, ensuring that dispositional programs are responsive, targeted, and grounded in real-world experiences.

As the planning subcommittee looks more closely at its data, it should consider where the problem occurs most often, when it happens most frequently, and who is most affected. It is also important to identify any barriers that make the problem difficult to address.

Complete the chart below by documenting all data reviewed. Include details about the data type, source, and priority status as determined by the planning subcommittee. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

Data Set <i>(include year)</i>	Qualitative or Quantitative	Source
Monmouth Vicinage-Probation Division- Juvenile Supervision, Average Officer Caseload, Total Number of Violations of Probation Filed and Type (2021-2025)	Quantitative	Monmouth Vicinage Probation Division
Probation Monthly Statistics-Juvenile Supervision (December 2025)	Quantitative	NJ Administrative Office of the Courts-Court Management Data
Point in Time Data of the Juvenile Probation Caseload (town of residence, gender, age, race/ethnicity)	Quantitative	Monmouth Vicinage Probation Division
Court Interpreting Statistics July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 by Court Official	Quantitative	NJ Administrative Office of the Courts
Monmouth Vicinage Court Processing Data for 2025 - youth adjudicated delinquent	Quantitative	Monmouth Vicinage-Family Division
Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025- Children, Youth and Families- Youth of Spanish Speaking parents	Qualitative	Monmouth ACTS-Behavioral Health Hub

1. What additional data does the CYSC wish were available to better identify, prioritize and assess the needs of youth? Where could the CYSC get this information (e.g., from probation, providers, surveys, etc.)?

Information from probation on their current caseload is limited. Point in time data indicating the gender, race/ethnicity, age and town of residence of the juvenile probation caseload was requested. The service needs of

identified through probation's risk and needs assessment is not shared or communicated to the Youth Services Commission , or readily available.

2. What are the top three questions you wish you had more information to answer about this population? For each question, what specific data sources or types of data would be required to provide accurate answers?

What are the top challenges faced by probation working with youth and their families. What linkages are being made by probation for youth and their families to services, and what community resources are they partnering with. What has been probation's experience working with service providers/programs, and what types of programs /activities/ strategies do they find most effective. Feedback and response from probation to these questions would provide their perspective. Personnel changes are anticipated at probation with one long time officer retiring, and another transferring.

3. Was any data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, or geographic region? If so, what insight does the data tell you when examined through these lenses?

The race/ethnicity of the 2025 adjudicated delinquent juveniles indicates: 68 (36.56%) identified as White; 58 (31.18%) identified as Black; 57 (30.65%) identified as Hispanic; 0 (0%) identified as Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian or Other; and 3 (1.61%) juveniles adjudicated delinquent did not indicate a race/ethnicity.

The number of unduplicated families served by the Family Navigator-Partners with Families Program during 2025 was 189. The gender of the youth served indicates 78% as male and 22% as female. The race/ethnicity of the youth served indicates 41% as White, 37% as Black, 22% as Hispanic, and 4 as Other.

"The youth also reported that is difficult to look to their families/parents/caregivers for guidance and support. Youth of Spanish speaking parents specifically highlighted family support as a challenge. The overall community voiced concerns for Spanish translation and Spanish speaking support and resources. It is important to take into consideration that 13.15% of children in Monmouth County are first generation citizens, and 4.45% have parents that are non-citizens. This, in turn, may affect their willingness to access services for their children." Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

Court Interpreting Statistics-Statewide Completed Activities by Court Official-Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025-indicated that Monmouth Vicinage had a total of 3,525. The top three most interpreted languages for Monmouth were Spanish 2,744 (77.84%); Portuguese 400 (11.34%); and 112 (3.17%) Haitian Creole. The completed activities by court official for Monmouth indicated 3,066 (86.97%) as Judge; 80 (2.26%) as Hearing Officer; 15 (.42%) as Mediator/Arbitrator; and 364 (10.32%) as Any Court Support Service*. *Completed activities involving Judiciary staff (probation officers, ombudman and other staff member) as well as attorneys, sheriffs and volunteers.

VII. Disposition Program Recommendations

The following sections ask the County Youth Services Commission to use its review and discussion of available data to guide decision-making for the county disposition plan. This includes identifying priority problems, identifying core programming types, and recommending new program types. Recommendations should reflect county trends, address gaps or challenges, and incorporate considerations of race, ethnicity, and gender to promote equitable outcomes for all youth.

Below, you are asked to complete two charts. In the first chart, list any core programs that have provided essential support, address critical needs, and have shown an impact at this point of the continuum. In the second chart rank, in order of priority, the recommended problems and proposed strategies the county is seeking to address. When ranking, consider each strategy's effectiveness, scope and scale, and strength of evidence (proven results or promising opportunities). Recommendations should align with identified problems and county trends and reflect efforts to advance race equity and promote similar outcomes for similarly situated youth.

Identify Core Programs/Services

After reviewing your existing inventory and the available data, are there currently funded types of programs or services that the CYSC considers essential to this point of the continuum, even if current data does not show a clear need or there is no or sufficient data is not available to fully demonstrate the need? Core programming is defined as existing disposition programming that the planners believe are currently effective in supporting youth as they transition back into the community, addressing risk factors, strengthening protective factors, and reducing the likelihood of further rule-breaking or deeper system involvement. Core programs may be identified by reviewing utilization data and planners' opinions, and by considering whether reductions or defunding would likely result in increased unmet needs or lead to negative outcomes for youth. These programs are designed to help youth succeed before they fail by strengthening families, schools, and communities and by addressing challenges as early as possible.

Program/Service	What need(s) is the program addressing?	Justification for Continued Funding
An array of offense specific intervention and treatment services, for youth involved with the Family Court or on	There is a need for specialized assessment, evaluation, and treatment services for youth with problematic sexual behavior; as	In 2025, the contract with IEP Youth Services was to provide specialized treatment services for up to 15 youth with problematic sexual behavior. The program exceeded their level of service and served 26 youth.

Probation Supervision. In the area of disposition, there is a continued need for specialized treatment for youth with problematic sexual behavior, and individualized services for youth on probation. In the past, we had two separate programs, it is recommended that they be combined.	well as, a need for an array of educational and intervention services, that address the individual needs of court involved youth and their families. Areas may include but, not be limited to: anger management, sexually inappropriate behaviors, cyber crimes, shoplifting, self harm, bullying, process addictions, substance use /abuse, decision making skills, grief and loss issues, life skills/transitions.	Individualized Services for Youth on Probation is a dispositional option for the Judiciary that was contracted to serve 50 youth on probation in 2025, however PMT's actual level of service in 2025 was below the contracted number and only 38 youth were served. By combining the two separate programs (POP and PMT) into one contract, this will allow for greater flexibility, to address the individualized and specialized treatment needs of the youth and their families in the program and reduce the need for frequent budget modification requests between the two programs.
Adolescent Residential Substance Use Treatment Services- There continues to be a need for adolescent residential substance abuse treatment services for court involved youth. There is a need to partner with the behavioral / integrated health system to screen and assess youth involved in the youth justice system, with mental health, substance use and co-occurring disorders to coordinate treatment. For youth, who are multi-system involved, communication with the other system of care	There is a need to provide adolescent residential alcohol and drug treatment services to Monmouth County youth with alcohol and drug dependence, who have been adjudicated delinquent and/or who have a demonstrated history of juvenile delinquency and referred to treatment by the Judiciary. There is a need to provide intervention and treatment services to youth with drug / alcohol offenses that is tailored to the unique needs of the adolescent. To effectively treat substances, use disorders in adolescents and identify and treat any other mental health condition they may have.	The goals of the program are to help Monmouth County juveniles with alcohol and drug problems become clean and sober and lead drug and alcohol-free lifestyles and to expand the dispositional options available to the Judiciary for juvenile's adjudicated delinquent with associated substance abuse problems. 167 bed days of adolescent residential alcohol and drug treatment services were delivered under the 2025 Family Court Services funds administered by the Youth Services Commission and the Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services. Four (4) unduplicated youth referred by the Judiciary of Monmouth Vicinage, Superior Court, Family Division were served in 2025. Individual counseling, family counseling, small group counseling and large group counseling was provided. In 2024, Monmouth County ranked 5th in New Jersey with the highest number of substances use- admissions (5,866) following Essex (8,027); Camden (7,145); Atlantic (7,071); and Ocean (6,708). Statewide information indicates that youth under 17 years of age comprised 1,042 admissions; and young adults, age 18-24 comprised 4,672 admissions. Marijuana/Hashish comprised the primary drug for 961 or 92.2% of the admissions for the under 17 years of age group, followed by alcohol 46 or

providers is needed to develop coordinated, collaborative treatment plans	To help adolescents sustain recovery through community support. To prepare adolescents for re-entry and transition back in their home, school, and community with the development of a relapse prevention plan and the establishment of support systems to help them remain alcohol and drug free and law-abiding citizens.	4.4% of admissions. For the 18-24 age group, alcohol was the primary drug for 1,767 or 37.8% of the statewide admissions; heroin comprised 522 or 11.2%; other opiates comprised 601 or 12.9%; marijuana/hashish comprised 1,037 or 22.2%; methamphetamines comprised 155 or 3.3% and other drugs & unknown comprised 590 or 12.6%. Source: NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Office of Planning, Research, Evaluation and Prevention - New Jersey Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment - Substance Abuse Overview- Monmouth County
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Recommended Types of New or Adapted Programs

When identifying strategies to address a local issue or county trend, counties are encouraged to fund proven types of programming and also consider innovative or emerging approaches. This may include piloting new program types, adapting existing programs types to meet local needs more effectively, or leveraging cross-system partnerships and community-generated solutions. Note, a specific agency or programs should not be named, just list the type of programs the CYSC has identified (e.g., evening reporting center).

Rank	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?	Cite the data that indicated the problem or trend	State the type of program the county identified to address the problem or county trend.
1	Career and Employment Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults There is a need to increase youths' connections and knowledge about the local labor market and increase the awareness of different careers and employment opportunities. To provide	Youth Partnership Group Feedback-Transition to Adulthood (T2A) Discussion-The young people shared valuable insight regarding the challenges they are experiencing as they	There are Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS) Program Career and Resource Fairs being held. The career and resource fair helps to connect job seekers

	educational support, work readiness skills, career development and youth employment opportunities for youth on probation. Educational support, work readiness skills, career development and youth employment opportunities are components that dispositional option programs can integrate. One listening session identified that many youth feel unprepared for adulthood and disconnected from support systems once they age out of children's services. Participants consistently emphasized the need for continued guidance, mentorship, life-skills education, and accessible mental health support throughout the transition into adulthood.	transition into adulthood. The participants who contributed to this discussion ranged in age from 14-21 years old, with much of the conversation centered around preparing for adulthood, graduating high school, college, employment, and navigating support after turning 18. Office of Research and Information-Labor Market Spotlight-New Jersey Young Adult Workforce-Issue No. 24, Volume 3 January 2025 -The most common industries employing young adult workers are retail, accommodation and food services, and health care and social assistance. Information on obtaining working papers and regulations applicable to our youngest workers can be found at:	with local employers and agencies. Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development submitted and received a NJ Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development Application for a fiscal year 2026 Summer Youth Employment Program Grant that provides in school and out of school youth and young adults ages 16-24 with valuable internships in the Monmouth County workforce area. Monmouth County Vocational School District offers a wealth of educational resources for career exploration and development. The NJ Department of Labor highlights the following youth programs: Bridges to Employing Youth that provides specialized workforce development services to youth with
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		https://www.nj.gov/labor/youngworkers/find-a-job/workingpapers/getstarted.shtml Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development created a program called BESA – Basic Employment Skills Academy, which will work for every-one who comes into the One Stop. Program will consist of workshops in topics such as resume writing, navigating job websites and descriptions, cover letters and preparation for cognitive or aptitude tests.	disabilities, justice-involved youth, youth who are or have aged out of foster care or are displaced, and pregnant or parenting youth. Summer Youth Work Experience Program designed to combat poverty, youth unemployment and youth crime rates by introducing youth to career pathway opportunities. 2026 Summer Youth Work Experience Program is being funded to provide in-school and out-of-school youth, ages 16-24, with valuable summer work experiences to help them successfully transition to the world of work. Youth Transitions to Work Program- To recruit, screen and facilitate effective transitions of high school juniors, seniors and out of school youth to high-skill, high wage employment in labor demand occupations, with long-term career potential, thereby
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			motivating youth to greater success in secondary and post-secondary education.
2	Creative Approaches and Incentives for Youth Engagement and Mentors There is a need for individualized services for youth on probation. There is a desire for each youth to be assessed individually, and receive services tailored to meet that youth's needs. There is a need to develop creative strategies to engage youth (i.e. arts, sports, technology, yoga, photography, meditation, music production, computer graphics, theater, woodworking, arts and crafts, or just about any other hobby or activity). Approaches that include mentoring / positive role models, and social/recreational activities are desired.	Creative approaches and incentives to engage youth in program activities are needed. We seek to connect youth to caring adults, positive peers and prosocial activities in their schools and communities that foster positive youth development.	The Consortium of Various Programs issued by the NJ Youth Justice Commission that can be brought into their facilities and the youth detention facilities was helpful and may spark some local Monmouth County ideas. Monmouth County Park's System offers an array of recreational activities and programs for youth that will be explored.
3	Family Engagement Strategies and Need for Support for Court Involved Families There is a need for approaches that motivate and engage, youth and families in services. To provide dispositional option programs that include family counseling and involves parent(s) / guardian(s) in program services. There is a need to connect families to needed resources and services; and help them navigate the court process and youth justice system.	Many court involved families are experiencing tremendous challenges. The number of unduplicated families served by the Family Navigator-Partners with Families Program during 2025 was 189. The gender of the youth served indicates 78% as male and 22% as female. The race/ethnicity of the youth served indicates	Monmouth County identifies a need for dispositional option programs that include family counseling and involve parent(s) / guardian(s) in program services. There is a need to connect families to resources and services; and help them navigate the court process and youth justice system.

		41% as White,37% as Black, 22% as Hispanic, and 4 as Other. There has been strong feedback from youth, families, and community stakeholders to strengthen Monmouth County family support services.	
4	The Gun Violence Reduction Initiative in New Jersey's Probation Division connects probationers with resources and services to help reduce gun violence. Information on the recent completion ceremony held for the Gun Reduction Taskforce participants was reported by probation at the June 2, 2026 Youth Services Commission meeting.	The statute category grouping* for the 882 new filing offenses in 2025 indicates the following: 1 (0.11%) Homicide; 4 (0.45 %) Sex Offenses; 12 (1.36 %) Robbery/Car Jacking; 119 (13.49%) Assaults; 2 (.23 %) Arson; 57 (6.46%) Weapons; 3 (.34%) Drugs and Alcohol; 38 (4.31%) Burglary; 63 (7.14%) Theft / Fraud /Forgery; 20 (2.27%) Other Person Offenses; 46 (5.22%) Admin. of Law and Order; 1 (.10%) Inchoate Offenses; 16 (1.81%) Other Property Offenses; 75 (8.50%) Public Order or Decency; 33 (3.74%) Violation of Probation;	Specialized focus and attention is needed in addressing youth with serious crimes.

		17 (1.93%) Other; 6 (.68%) Megan's Law; 0 (0%) Prostitution; and 370 (41.95%) Not Categorized offenses were filed.	
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REENTRY

- I. Definition and Rationale
- II. Planning Requirements
- III. Existing Program Inventory
- IV. Quantitative and Qualitative Data
- V. Programming Recommendations

I. Reentry Definition and Rationale

In the youth justice system, “reentry” refers to the period of community-based supervision and services that begins after a youth is released from a secure facility, residential program, or other structured placement.

For the purposes of this Plan, “reentry” applies to any youth who is released from a Youth Justice Commission (Commission) facility. This includes committed youth paroled and supervised by the [YJC’s Office of Youth Parole and Transitional Services](#) (YPTS), youth placed in a Commission program as a condition of probation and supervised by the AOC’s Juvenile Probation Division, waived youth, and youth released after serving their maximum sentence.

Reentry is a critical transitional phase during which young people require additional support to successfully reintegrate into their homes and communities. The Commission recognizes the importance of bridging this transition and ensuring that communities have the resources necessary for sustainable reintegration. To achieve this goal, YPTS initiates reentry planning for committed youth at the time of admission to support a coordinated and seamless transition back to their home communities.

Through the comprehensive planning process, CYSCs may consider developing reentry programming that builds on existing Commission initiatives while providing coordinated, comprehensive supports and services to youth and young adults of all ages, including those up to age 26. These programs can address the common challenges youth and young adults face during reintegration. As the reentry population and its needs evolve, essential services that support successful transitions may include employment and job training, housing assistance, transportation support, and specialized services for youth with sex offense–related needs.

By developing reentry support services that complement YJC’s internal work with youth, counties can significantly improve the likelihood of successful reintegration. Collaborative efforts in delivering reentry services and supervision enhance each young person’s chances of becoming productive, law-abiding citizens, which in turn strengthens community safety and quality of life.

Reentry data provides insight into the number of committed youth and probationers returning to the community from Commission facilities and programs, along with demographic and offense characteristics that highlight the causes and correlates of delinquent behavior. Understanding these factors enables planners to identify the appropriate scope and content of reentry services needed in their counties. This knowledge equips counties to make informed decisions about resource allocation for reentry programs.

VI. Reentry Planning Requirements

Planning Process

Provide a comprehensive description of the County's Youth Services Commission (CYSC) overall planning process in the development of its 2027 – 2029 Youth Strategic Justice Plan, including how the CYSC organized its work, involved key stakeholders, reviewed data, and set priorities. Describe how the process was structured to ensure collaboration, thoughtful decision-making, and a clear plan for moving forward.

Monmouth County established a Core Planning Team for the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. Input gathered from the community, youth and families, and other identified stakeholders was shared and integrated into the planning process. Outreach to key informants or topic experts was conducted to include their perspectives and knowledge on specific areas of the continuum and to obtain updated data. Outreach to the Office of Youth Parole and Transitional Services (YP&TS) regarding the service needs of Monmouth County youth returning home from the care and custody of the Youth Justice Commission will be conducted. Feedback from the NJ Office of the Public Defender will be gathered and shared relative to the reentry needs of Monmouth County youth. A review of the types of community based referrals and linkages made to support successful re-entry will be reviewed. Monmouth ACTS has established a Transitioning to Adulthood Hub that focuses on ages 16 to 26.

Reentry Planning Subcommittee Members

The Planning subcommittee should include those involved in preparing youth for a successful return from placement to the community. For example: Youth Justice Commission parole and transitional services staff, probation staff, aftercare case managers, residential or secure care facility case managers, community-based reentry and wraparound service providers, workforce development partners, schools and alternative education programs, mental and behavioral health providers, families and youth with reentry experience, and restorative justice practitioners.

Complete the chart below by entering the name and organization/communities of each planning subcommittee member. Also identify if a member is a youth or family member with lived experience or impacted by this point of the system.

Name	Organization / Community	Impacted Youth or Family (yes/no)
1. Dustin Knoblauch, Director	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
2. Ellen Cohen, Administrator	Youth Services Commission / Division of Child and Youth Services	No
3. Kathleen Peterson, Administrative Support	Division of Child and Youth Services	No
4. Desiree Whyte, Assistant Director of Operations	DHHS Administration Resident Voice/County Contracting	No
5. Trude Arnette, Social Worker	NJ Office of the Public Defender Detention/Court/YSC Review Team	No
6. Thomas Fichter, Director, Family Division & Domestic Violence Unit	Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Court / YSC Review Team	No
7. Christine Talbot, Family Navigator	MHAMC Family Navigator Court System/Mental Health	Yes
8. Samantha Muccini, Program Coordinator, 180 Turning Lives Around	PYD Chair, Monmouth ACTS /180 Turning Lives Around	No
9. Steven Billingsley, Clinical Therapist CIACC Chair	CSOC Partners/Elevate & Project HEAL	No
10. Jennifer Hoffer, YJC Court Liaison	NJ Youth Justice Commission	No
11. Douglas Hoffman, Director	Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS) Youth and Family Crisis	No
12.		
13.		
14.		

15.		
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VII. Existing Program Inventory – Reentry

Reviewing the Existing Program Inventory

Before identifying new priorities, counties assess the existing landscape of their existing programs and services within their local continuum. Conducting this inventory offers a comprehensive understanding of what is currently in place, how needs are being addressed, which target areas are being served, and the extent to which programs are being utilized.”

Complete the chart below by entering each program or service your county considers a part of its reentry point on the continuum, regardless of funding source. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	What need(s) does the program address? (e.g., truancy, teen pregnancy, expulsions, dropout, etc.)	What target area does the program serve? (e.g., specific school, age, gender, grade)	Is this program actively used? (Yes/No)	If not, please explain why. (e.g., lack of referrals, eligibility restrictions, staffing or capacity limitations)
Covenant House	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Living / Homelessness Community Street Outreach Serving youth experiencing homelessness and trafficking	The STAR program focuses on young adults ages 18–24, a population that faces heightened vulnerability to trafficking when experiencing poverty or homelessness.	No	Numbers Low
IEP Youth Services	Project Stepping Stone	Transitional Living Program for five young adults ages 18-21 who are homeless or are aging out of the system. Provides supportive services & life skills instruction. All residents are required to maintain employment, and are encouraged to further their education while developing appropriate life skills while	Located in Freehold Boro-Referrals are assessed on a case by case basis. All referrals must be registered with PerformCare and the Adolescent Housing Hub.	No	Limited capacity

		residing in a supervised program apartment.			
Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.	Re-entry Program		Unsure of current status		
Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development	Out of School Work Readiness / Work Experience Programs	Job Readiness and Employment The Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP) is a state-funded program that empowers teens and young adults (ages 16-24) with valuable work experience, enabling them to develop skills and earn money through a stipend	Eligible Youth are individuals between the ages of 16-24 who fall under the following areas: need help finding a job or a training program; have a criminal background or have been arrested; have not received a High School diploma or GED; homeless, a runaway, or a foster child; pregnant or a single parent; have a learning disability and/or disabled; need help with math and reading.	Yes	
Fresh Start @ Library Resources	Fresh Start Re-Entry Services - Long Branch Public Library	Offers 11 one-on-one private sessions with bilingual Social Worker, David Perez. Resume Assistance and Job Searching	Local Resource for Information	Yes	
NJ Reentry Corporation (Neptune City)	The Monmouth Ocean County SMART Book-a resource guide for going home	NJ Support Resources Directory	More used for adults	Yes	
The Fostering Youth to Independence	Housing related assistance	The vouchers are intended for those who've experienced an out of	The Fostering Youth to Independence	No	Limited vouchers

Initiative		home placement at some point in their lifetime and meant to be flexible.	Initiative (FYI) are youth-based vouchers for ages 18-24 years.		
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1. Based on the subcommittee's discussion of the guiding questions, provide a summary of the key insights, overarching themes, and notable observations that emerged during the review of the inventory. Highlight areas of concern, strengths, gaps, redundancies, identified through the conversation. Highlight any concerns, strengths, gaps, or patterns that were identified through the conversation.

The Office of Youth Parole and Transitional Services (YP&TS) collaborates closely with YJC facilities and community partners to plan for and support the successful reentry of youth returning home from the care and custody of the YJC.

There is a desire to increase youth's connections to individuals knowledgeable about the local labor market and increase their awareness of different careers and employment opportunities. Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development- Youth Services is designed to assist young adults and students as they explore careers and build a bright future. Tools and real-world insight to help youth discover career options, build skills, and break down myths about local industries are offered. The Youth Program can provide youth with the following services: Tutoring in Math and Reading; GED Preparation and/or Testing; Exploring Different Career Options; Internships; Resume Assistance; Job Placement Assistance; Financial Literacy; Leadership Activities; and Adult Mentoring. Eligible Youth are individuals between the ages of 16-24 who fall under the following areas: need help finding a job or a training program; have a criminal background or have been arrested; have not received my High School diploma or GED; homeless, a runaway, or a foster child; pregnant or a single parent; have a learning disability and/or disabled; need help with math and reading. The Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP) is a state-funded program that empowers teens and young adults (ages 16-24) with valuable work experience, enabling them to develop skills and earn money through a stipend. Youth participants will get 160-200 hours of work experience and earn \$3,400 over the course of the program.

NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development WIOA FY 2026 Summer Youth Work Experience Program is a federally funded state pass through award to Monmouth County in the amount of \$593,143. It will be used to provide in-school and out of school youth and young adults ages 16-24 with valuable work experience and help them to successfully transition to the world of work. The grant period is April 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026.

"Regarding youth transitioning to adulthood, there is also some concerning data. Statistics show that 6.97% of young adults are uninsured; 9.6 % report poor health, and 13.4% report poor mental health. This further strengthens the need for less formal mental health opportunities, including career development, for this 18- to 26-year-old population."- Source: Monmouth County Behavioral Health Plan 2025-Children, Youth and Families.

The Juvenile Defense Unit of the Office of the Public Defender is a resource for Monmouth County youth in Youth Justice Commission facilities, who will make visits to youth, and advocate on their behalf, and help make connections and linkages to services. The Office of the Public Defender's Youth

Defense Unit includes a Post Disposition team. The Post Disposition Team is tasked with following and advocating for children committed to the Youth Justice Commission during their commitment and while on parole. Since two of our YSC Members serve on the Office of the Public Defender- Youth Defense Unit- Post Disposition Team, they will be instrumental in helping us gather additional information on the needs of Monmouth County youth and young adults at the point of re-entry.

Due to the fact that many youth, eligible for re-entry, tend to be older and are aging out of the youth justice system, connections with other existing county resources may be an option to explore for the provision of transitional services. For example CPC's Justice Involved Services program focuses on meeting individuals where they are—both in the community and, when possible, even before release. By combining compassionate care management with modern technology, the program helps bridge the critical gap between incarceration and reentry, ensuring individuals are connected to housing, healthcare, employment supports, and the tools they need to move forward. Further information is needed to determine the eligibility criteria for CPC's Justice Involved Services.

NJ Office of the Attorney General-Youth Justice Commission statistics for Friday, March 27, 2026 indicated that Monmouth County had 4 youth committed, 3 youth waived, 2 youth probationers and no youth receiving parole services. A total of 9 Monmouth County individuals included in the youth demographics for this one day snapshot were male.

The specific ages of the Monmouth County youth were not indicated, however, for New Jersey the average age of those committed was 18 for males and 17 for females; for the youth waived the average age was 19.86 for males and 20 for females; for youth probationers the average age was 16.80 for males (no females were indicated as probationers); and the average age of youth receiving parole services indicated 20.82 for males and 18.67 for females. The total average age for New Jersey in all categories was 19.17.

Intakes to the Youth Justice Commission from Monmouth County, 2018 to 2025, indicates the highest number was 8 Probationer Residential Intakes in 2022; and the lowest number was 2 Probationer Residential Intakes in 2020. For 2025, there were 6 Probationer Residential Intakes of Monmouth County youth. For Commitments, there was a high of 6 intakes in both 2024 and 2018; and a low of 1 intake for the years of 2019 through 2022. There were 2 intakes to the Youth Justice Commission from Monmouth County related to Commitments in 2025. For Waivers indicates, there was a high of 3 intakes in 2025 and a low of 0 intakes for both 2024 and 2020.

The Total Youth Released from the YJC by Year and Status from Monmouth County indicates in 2024, there were 5 committed, 5 probationers, and 2 waived. The Total Youth Released from the YJC by Gender from Monmouth County indicates for 2024, 11 as Male and 1 as Female. The Total Youth Released by the YJC from Monmouth County indicates 9 as Black and 3 as Hispanic for 2024. The average age of youth released between 2017 and 2024 was 18.

For 2024, there were 3 youth released from the Youth Justice Commission, who maxed out from Monmouth County. These are youth who have left the Youth Justice Commission without parole supervision and may benefit from services and programs. There were 7 youth released without parole supervision from Monmouth County between 2017 and 2024.

Committed youth are youth sentenced by juvenile court to the Youth Justice Commission. Of the 5 committed youth released from the YJC from

Monmouth County in 2024, their race/ethnicity indicates 4 as Black, and 2 as Hispanic . The gender of the 5 committed youth released in 2024 indicates 4 as male and 1 as female. The average age of youth released between 2017 and 2024 was 18.4.

Probationer youth have a shorter stay with the Youth Justice Commission as a condition of their probation. Data on Probationer youth who were originally from Monmouth County and were released by the Youth Justice Commission indicates there were 5 in 2024. Between the years of 2017 through 2024, the highest number of probationer youth released by the Youth Justice Commission originally from Monmouth County was 7 in 2023 and the lowest number was 0 in 2021. The race of the probation youth released by the YJC from Monmouth County in 2024 indicates 3 as Black and 2 as Hispanic. The gender of the probationer youth released by the YJC from Monmouth County indicates 5 (100%) as male. A total of 26 youth were released as probationer between 2017 and 2024. The average age of probationers at release over this timeframe was 17.4.

Waived youth: youth tried as adults in Superior Criminal Court and initially sentenced to Youth Justice Commission -There were 2 Waived youth released from the Youth Justice Commission from Monmouth County in 2024. A total of 5 waived youth were released from the Youth Justice Commission from Monmouth County during the years of 2017 to 2024. The waived youth released from the YJC from Monmouth County during the years of 2017 to 2024 indicates their race as Black and their gender as Male. The average age of waived youth released over this timeframe was 19.6. The total number of waived youth released from the Youth Justice Commission in New Jersey in 2024 was 20.

Youth released from the Youth Justice Commission with sex offenses from Monmouth County for the years of 2017 to 2024, indicates that there were 5. During 2024, there was 1 youth. The average age of youth with sex offenses at release between the years of 2017 to 2024 was 21.2. The gender of the youth released with sex offenses from Monmouth County, 2017-2024 indicates 5 (100%) as male.

Monmouth County has a navigation system, through Monmouth ACT, that helps connect individuals to community resources, and programs that address their individual, and unique needs. The Monmouth Resource Net also provides information on the various programs and services throughout Monmouth County.

IV. Reentry Data

Using both quantitative and qualitative data is essential when identifying the needs of youth at the point of reentry. Combining these data types allows counties to capture a holistic view of youth challenges and strengths, ensuring that reentry programs are responsive, targeted, and grounded in real-world experiences.

As the planning subcommittee looks more closely at its data, it should consider where the problem occurs most often, when it happens most frequently, and who is most affected. It is also important to identify any barriers that make the problem difficult to address.

Complete the chart below by documenting all data reviewed. Include details about the data type, source, and priority status as determined by the planning subcommittee. Add additional rows or pages as needed.

Data Set (include year)	Qualitative or Quantitative	Source
Intake to the Youth Justice Commission (2018 – 2025)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Monthly Statistics</i>
Total Youth Released from YJC by Year and Status (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Total Youth Released by Gender (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Total Youth Released by Race (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Total Youth Released by Age (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Total Youth Released Who Maxed Out (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Committed Youth Released (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Committed Youth Released by Race (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Committed Youth Released by Gender (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Committed Youth Released by Age (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Probationers Youth Released (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Probationers Youth Released by Race (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Probationers Youth Released by Gender (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>

Probationers Youth Released by Age (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Waived Youth Released (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Waived Youth Released by Race (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Waived Youth Released by Gender (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Waived Youth Released by Age (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Total Waived Youth Released in New Jersey (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Youth Released with Sex Offenses (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>
Youth Released with Sex Offenses by Age (2017-2024)	Quantitative	Youth Justice Commission, <i>Recidivism and Outcomes Report: A Three-Year Follow-Up of Youth Released</i>

1. What additional data does the CYSC wish were available to better identify, prioritize and assess the needs of youth? Where could the CYSC get this information (e.g., from probation, providers, surveys, etc.)?

The nature and type of re-entry plans developed from within the Youth Justice Commission facilities for Monmouth County youth and Juvenile Parole would be of interest. Information on the challenges and experiences of Monmouth County youth in reentry; and the types of resources, programs and local connections made or needed would be of interest. The Office of the Public Defender's post disposition team may be helpful in gathering this information or Juvenile Parole.

2. What are the top three questions you wish you had more information to answer about this population? For each question, what specific data sources or types of data would be required to provide accurate answers?

What are the greatest obstacles/challenges experienced when transitioning from a Youth Justice Commission facility back to the community from the youth's perspective and the family's perspective. Juvenile Parole working with Monmouth County youth could provide feedback /information as to the connections/linkages to services made and supports in place for the youth they are supervising, and what they feel is needed but not available. The Office of the Public Defender's Youth Defense Unit -Post Disposition team is a potential resource to gather this information on Monmouth County youth.

3. Was any data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, or geographic region? If so, what insight does the data tell you when examined through these lenses?

The Total Youth Released from the YJC by Year and Status from Monmouth County indicates in 2024, there were 5 committed, 5 probationers, and 2 waived. The Total Youth Released from the YJC by Gender from Monmouth County indicates for 2024, 11 as Male and 1 as Female. The Total Youth Released by the YJC from Monmouth County indicates 9 as Black and 3 as Hispanic for 2024. The average age of youth released between 2017 and 2024 was 18.

V. Reentry Program Recommendations

The following sections ask the County Youth Services Commission to use its review and discussion of available data to guide decision-making for the county reentry plan. This includes identifying priority problems, identifying core programming types, and recommending new program types. Recommendations should reflect county trends, address gaps or challenges, and incorporate considerations of race, ethnicity, and gender to promote equitable outcomes for all youth.

Identify Core Programs/Services

After reviewing your existing inventory and the available data, are there currently funded types of programs or services that the CYSC considers essential to this point of the continuum, even if current data does not show a clear need or there is no or sufficient data is not available to fully demonstrate the need? Core programming is defined as existing reentry programming that the planners believe are currently effective in supporting youth as they transition back into the community, addressing risk factors, strengthening protective factors, and reducing the likelihood of further rule-breaking or deeper system involvement. Core programs may be identified by reviewing utilization data and planners' opinions, and by considering whether reductions or defunding would likely result in increased unmet needs or lead to negative outcomes for youth. These programs are designed to help youth succeed before they fail by strengthening families, schools, and communities and by addressing challenges as early as possible.

Program/Service	What need or needs is the program addressing?	Justification for Continued Funding
To work with the Office of the Public Defender's Youth Defense Unit that includes a Post Disposition team. The Post Disposition Team is tasked with following and advocating for children committed to the Youth Justice Commission during their commitment and while on parole. The Office of the Public Defender- Youth Defense Unit- Post Disposition Team, will be	There is a need to identify the types of services needed by Monmouth County youth and young adults at the point of re-entry. Monmouth County's Resource Connect service through Monmouth ACTS can be of assistance in linking youth and young adults at the point of re-entry to potential services and resources.	To encourage the sharing of information on the services needs of Monmouth County youth at the point of re-entry and work with existing resources within Monmouth County to address them. For Monmouth County the number of youth in need of re-entry services is relatively low. Therefore, we do not seek a set aside of funding for this point on the continuum.

instrumental in helping us gather additional information on the needs of Monmouth County youth and young adults at the point of re-entry. Re-entry Services only applies to committed youth paroled from a Youth Justice Commission (YJC) facility and supervised by the YJC's Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services and to juveniles disposed to a YJC program as a condition of probation and supervised by the Juvenile Probation Division.		

Recommended Types of Programs

When identifying strategies to address a local issue or county trend, counties are encouraged to fund proven types of programming and also consider innovative or emerging approaches. This may include piloting new program types, adapting existing programs types to meet local needs more effectively, or leveraging cross-system partnerships and community-generated solutions. Note, a specific agency or programs should not be named, just list the type of programs the county has identified (e.g., housing stability program/service).

Rank	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?	Cite the data that indicated the problem or trend	State the type of program the county identified to address the problem or county trend.
1	Transitional Services Due to the fact that many youth, eligible for re-entry, tend to be older and are aging out of the youth justice system, connections with other existing county resources may be an option to explore for the provision	The specific ages of the Monmouth County youth were not indicated, however, for New Jersey the average age of those committed was 18 for males and 17 for	Monmouth ACTS-Resource Connect-Navigation Line - Monmouth County has a navigation system, through Monmouth ACT, that helps connect individuals to community

	of transitional services. Transition to Adulthood Support -Youth expressed interest in more preparation and education around: • Budgeting and finances • Credit and banking • Employment readiness • Apartment and housing navigation • Transportation • Insurance and healthcare • Daily living skills	females; for the youth waived the average age was 19.86 for males and 20 for females; for youth probationers the average age was 16.80 for males (no females were indicated as probationers); and the average age of youth receiving parole services indicated 20.82 for males and 18.67 for females. The total average age for New Jersey in all categories was 19.17.	resources, and programs that address their individual, and unique needs. The Monmouth Resource Net also provides information on the various programs and services throughout Monmouth County. Referrals to some of the programs listed under the Reentry Inventory can be considered. Top Issues Youth Are Facing- Participants identified several major concerns impacting their age group, including: • Mental health challenges and emotional stress • Lack of guidance and support after high school graduation • Difficulty transitioning into adulthood • Limited awareness of available resources • Housing instability and fear of homelessness after turning 18 • Financial stress and lack of preparation for independence • Transportation barriers • Difficulty building healthy relationships and support systems • Feeling unprepared for adult responsibilities. A recurring concern expressed by youth was that many services decrease or end once they turn 18, despite continued need for support.
2	Job Readiness and Employment-To connect youth in re-entry with services offered through Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development	The Youth Program can provide youth with the following services: Tutoring in Math and Reading; GED Preparation and/or	Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development- Youth Services is designed to assist young adults and students as they explore careers and build a bright future. Tools and real-world insight to help youth

	The Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP) is a state-funded program that empowers teens and young adults (ages 16-24) with valuable work experience, enabling them to develop skills and earn money through a stipend .	Testing; Exploring Different Career Options; Internships; Resume Assistance; Job Placement Assistance; Financial Literacy; Leadership Activities; and Adult Mentoring. Eligible Youth are individuals between the ages of 16-24 who fall under the following areas: need help finding a job or a training program; have a criminal background or have been arrested; have not received my High School diploma or GED; homeless, a runaway, or a foster child; pregnant or a single parent; have a learning disability and/or disabled; need help with math and reading. The Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP) is a state-funded program that empowers teens and young adults (ages 16-24) with valuable work experience, enabling them to develop skills and earn money through a stipend.	discover career options, build skills, and break down myths about local industries are offered.
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Monmouth County

Youth Justice Strategic Plan

January 2027 – December 2029

Recommended Program Types by Point on the Youth Justice Continuum

This section consolidates all existing core programs, and types of programs recommended across the county's youth justice continuum into a single visual overview. It provides a snapshot of youth needs and synthesizes the recommendations identified by the county's planning subcommittees for each point of the youth justice continuum. This can assist counties identifying next steps, which key stakeholders to engage, and determining which require attention, adjustment, or implementation.

This can also guide the CYSC to seek additional funding as necessary from county, state, federal, or private/foundational sources. Overall, this consolidated overview helps ensure that the county's recommendations are coordinated, targeted, and responsive to the evolving needs of youth, while providing a clear framework for action, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

Instructions

For each point of the continuum (Prevention, Diversion, Detention Alternatives, Disposition, and Reentry), complete the charts below. Note that counties should not generate recommendations that have not been already identified in each Recommendation section. Instead, these charts reflect the types of core programs and types of new programs that have already identified.

Core Programs

Using the Core Programs chart in the Recommendation sections for each point of the continuum, re-enter the program or service type and the need(s) it is addressing and why this type of program should continue to be funded as a core program.

New or Adapted Program Type

Using the Recommended Types of Programs chart in the Recommendation sections for each point of the continuum, re-enter in rank order, the type of program and local issue or county trend it will address.

Monmouth County
Youth Justice Strategic Plan
Recommended Program Types by the Point on the Youth Justice Continuum
January 2027 – December 2029

DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

Delinquency Prevention Core Program Type		
Program/Service Type	What need(s) is the program addressing?	Describe the impact the program has had.
Community and School-Based Mentoring Programs for Youth	There is a need to connect youth to caring adults, positive peers and offer prosocial activities in their schools and communities that foster positive youth development.	Mentoring continues to be a priority area. The benefits of mentoring, positive role models and trusted adults working with at risk youth in programs has been very important. There may be a focus on specialist mentoring, focused on school to work and / or college bound youth; and continued mentoring where older youth mentor younger youth which have shown to have a positive impact. Successful mentoring relationships have shown to increase youth's self-esteem, improve academic achievement, and steer them away from delinquency, substance use, and other high-risk behaviors. Mentoring youth creates positive impacts for both the mentees and the adults who mentor them. Youth with mentors have increased likelihood of going to college, better attitudes towards school, increased social and emotional development and improved self-esteem.

Delinquency Prevention Recommended Program Type		
Rank	State the type of program the county identified to address the local issue or county trend.	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?
1	Evidenced Based Prevention Services - A focus on evidence-based programming and skill development was	Skill development for children in the area of conflict resolution, problem solving, and anger management, gang prevention, bullying prevention, self-

	discussed and thought to be important. We look to support and recommend evidence based prevention programs that provide skill development for children.	esteem building, empathy and communication is recommended. Incidents of Violence, Vandalism, Weapons, Substance Abuse in Monmouth County Schools for the 2023-2024 school year indicates violence as 613; weapons as 45; vandalism as 94; and substances as 436. Individual/Peer risk factors include: rebelliousness, friends who engage in problem behavior, favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior and early initiation of the problem behavior. Monmouth Medical Center's Child and Family Crisis Clinician data has been aggregated by age group for the July 2025 – June 2026 contract period. Base on the CFCC data a need is indicated for prevention services at the elementary age level, for 39% of their caseload was 5 years old to 10 years old.
2	Bullying Prevention & Social and Emotional Learning Anti-bullying programs and delinquency prevention services that integrates social emotional learning are needed.	Most HIB incidents were verbal in nature and occurred in grades 6 through 8. School risk factors include: early and persistent antisocial behavior, academic failure beginning in late elementary school, academic failure and lack of commitment to school. Social and emotional competencies include: self-awareness; self-management; social awareness; responsible decision making and relationship skills.
3	Safe Environments for Youth After School and during the Summer. To provide opportunities, skills and recognition to promote healthy youth development that fosters positive relationships. To recommend afterschool and summer prevention programs that expose youth to constructive recreational activities and pro-social hobbies and interests. To promote positive childhood experiences and resilience. Municipalities exhibiting multiple risk factors for adolescent problem behaviors should be prioritized for delinquency prevention services. Some county wide prevention services should also be made available. Adverse Community Environments include poverty,	To encourage the development of safe environments that include structured activities, quality programming and supervision for children and youth after-school and during the summer. Youth expressed less of a formal need for mental health treatment but would like more opportunities for social connectedness where transportation, cost, and safety are not barriers. Youth in one high need community expressed not having a safe place to go— not safe places after school, don't want to be home alone and need somewhere else to go besides home. All said school was not a safe space. One youth elaborated by citing certain issues: shootings, teacher favoritism, caring about hoodies-phones but not bullying, disrespectful. Others did not disagree. One youth said, "It's easier to talk to a stranger than someone you know." "Even adults like guidance counselors promise they won't tell your parents, then they do." Community risk factors for adolescent problem behavior include availability of drugs, availability of firearms, community laws and norms favorable toward drug use, firearms and crime, media portrayals of violence, transitions and

	discrimination, violence, community disruption, lack of opportunity, economic mobility & social capital and poor housing quality & availability. Regarding Prevention Services in identified high need municipalities, There is a lot of overlap with other planning entities targeting the same communities. There is a desire to provide some county-wide prevention services, as well as those to some targeted areas.	mobility, low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization. After-school and summer programs that offers structured activities, quality programming and supervision for pre-teens, ages 9-12, in communities identified as exhibiting multiple risk factors for adolescent problem behaviors are needed.
4	Family Engagement in Prevention Programs- Family outreach and engagement in prevention programming is needed. Prevention services that include strategies to engage families and start prevention services at the elementary age level will be included. Prevention programs that teach youth and families stress management, conflict resolution and communication skills are desired.	Family risk factors include: family history of the problem behavior, family management problems, family conflict and favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the problem behavior. Youth of Spanish speaking parents specifically highlighted family support as a challenge. The overall community voiced concerns for Spanish translation and Spanish speaking support and resources. It is important to take into consideration that 15% of children in Monmouth County are first generation citizens, and 45% have parents that are non-citizens. This, in turn, may affect their willingness to access services for their children.
5	Career Exploration and Workforce Development for Youth There is a need to increase youth's connections to the local labor market and increase their awareness of different careers and employment opportunities. Youth expressed interest in financial empowerment: would like to learn to manage, invest, and grow income. Youth are interested in exploring different career options, internships; resume assistance; financial literacy.	Monmouth County Workforce Development can provide youth with the following services: Tutoring in Math and Reading; GED Preparation and/or Testing; Exploring Different Career Options; Internships; Resume Assistance; Job Placement Assistance; Financial Literacy; Leadership Activities; and Adult Mentoring. Eligible Youth are individuals between the ages of 16-24 who fall under the following areas: need help finding a job or a training program; have a criminal background or have been arrested; have not received my High School diploma or GED; homeless, a runaway, or a foster child; pregnant or a single parent; have a learning disability and/or disabled; need help with math and reading. The Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP) is a state-funded program that empowers teens and young adults (ages 16-24) with valuable work experience, enabling them to develop skills and earn money through a stipend.
6	Creative Innovative Programs that Engage Youth There is a need to engage youth in prevention programs. Arts programming represents a uniquely engaging and nonthreatening approach to connecting with youth.	The integration of arts programming in prevention programs is a strategy to engage youth. There is a desire for innovation-especially related to providing safe and free places for youth. Programs that meaningfully incorporate arts learning help youth develop and strengthen cognitive, regulatory, and social-emotional skills that can positively influence their futures. These programs work because they honor

	The Transformative Power of Art- A Guide to Arts Learning for System Impacted Youth in New Jersey describes the arts as a powerful tool for youth development. Arts-based interventions can take many forms, including visual and performing arts, podcasting, filmmaking, creative writing, and countless other creative expressions.	young people's creativity and potential while building essential life skills.
7		

DIVERSION

Diversion Core Program Type		
Program/Service	What need or needs is the program addressing?	Describe the impact the program has had.
Juvenile Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) Services will provide a 24-hour on-call service to youth and their families. Services are designed to stabilize family crises, refer juveniles and their families to the appropriate community service and divert juveniles from entering the youth justice system. The FCIU is a mandated program. Reason for Referrals include: Truancy, Runaway	Juvenile Family Crisis Intervention Unit will follow the New Jersey Code of Juvenile Justice, the Rules of the Court, and the provisions of the New Jersey Judiciary, Juvenile/Family Crisis Operations Manual. There is a need to encourage school districts to utilize the services of the Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) to address truancy and develop an early warning system and intervention plan for students with school attendance issues. Truancy has been clearly identified as one of the early warning signs of students headed for potential delinquent activity, social isolation, or educational failure	Juvenile Family Crisis Intervention Units continue to play a role to stabilize family crisis as to avoid an out-of-home placement; and to prevent delinquent behavior of at-risk youth. The Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) provided services to 111 youth and families in 2025. The gender of the youth indicates 64 (58%) as male and 47 (42%) as female. Therace/ethnicty of the youth served indicates 56 (50%) as White, 28 (25%) as Black, 15 (13.5%) as Hispanic, and 12 (11%) as Other.

Behavior, Conflict with parent/caregiver, Involvement in Human Trafficking.	via suspension, expulsion, or dropping out. Source: National Center for School Engagement. Research shows that absences impact a student's ability to succeed in school. In addition, research shows that chronic absenteeism, or having missed 10 percent or more of the school year, is a primary cause of low academic achievement and a powerful predictor of a student's risk of dropping out of school. Source: NJ Department of Education-Reporting Student Attendance and Determining Chronic Absenteeism Rates -September 2025.	

Diversion Recommended Program Type		
Rank	State the type of program the county identified to address the local issue or county trend.	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?
1	Youth Justice Family Support Program There is a need to engage youth and families as partners in the decision process, including when creating service plans and ensure they receive adequate assistance or resources to participate fully (e.g. language interpreters, transportation support). With the changes in JDAI Innovations funding at the state level and what is available to Monmouth County being lost, We are proposing a Youth Justice Family Support Program. The Youth Justice Family Support	Family risk factors include: family history of the problem behavior, family management problems, family conflict and favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the problem behavior. There has been strong feedback from youth, families, and community stakeholders to strengthen Monmouth County family support services. (This effort included voices of families/youth who received JDAI and Family Navigator services). In a focus group/listening session of nearly 30 youth and families impacted by justice involvement and/or community-based violence, an overarching theme was an ask for enhanced family support, guidance and education.

	Program will be implemented by the county. It will provide us with an opportunity to increase the Division of Child and Youth Services staffing. Integration of the Youth and Family Support Services will provide enhanced coordination and communication between our JDAI Unit, the Court, the Family Crisis Intervention Unit, Child and Family Crisis Clinicians and the Elevate Program, etc.. Incentives and restorative practices will be included. It will be run by the division within the department, creating more direct lines of communication and connection to other supports and services that can address some of those other family needs that were highlighted in feedback from family navigator. Essentially leveraging the connection within the Department to help best connect and support whole family (social services, adult behavioral health, etc.). A parent/guardian component of diversion programs that provide information on the resources that exist in Monmouth County continues to be a need. Services that teach the youth and family skills that promote peaceful alternatives to conflict situations, improve family management, and reduce the stressors that can escalate into violence are needed.	"Children exposed to violence in the home also are victims of physical abuse. Children who witness domestic violence or are victims of abuse themselves are at serious risk for long-term physical and mental health problems. Children who witness violence between parents also could also be at greater risk of acting violent in their future relationships." Source: Administrative Office of the Courts -Report on the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2022. The Domestic Violence Annual Report for the period between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, indicates that Monmouth had 1,856 New Complaints Filed.
2	An Array of Court Diversion Options There continues to be a need for an array of diversion options as a referral resource for the Family Court to utilize to divert minor offenses related to conduct disorder, anger management problems, alcohol and drug abuse, sexting and inappropriate use of social media. Monmouth Vicinage Court Processing data for 2025 indicates that there were 128 juveniles diverted, 136 cases diverted, and 189 offenses diverted. Youth aged 13-14	The charges the Juvenile Conference Committee (JCC) currently hears are usually simple assaults (punches, mutual fights, etc.) and/ or bullying. The JCC gets some harassment cases, again usually bullying but focused on name calling, harassment, on online cyber harassment. Not too many but occasionally criminal mischief (spray painting walls, damaging someone's cell phone etc.). And lastly shoplifting cases. Substance abuse cases were reported to be fewer than in years past, perhaps due to the schools handling them. It was indicated that the JCC has some good programs, and frequently make referrals to programs such as Project Heal, IEP Youth Services -program for anger managementand the YES program for shoplifting. The Juvenile Conference Committee can make Perform Care referrals and in many instances

	comprised the largest number and percentage of juveniles diverted. Overall, males continue to comprise the largest number and percentage of those diverted compared to females. The race / ethnicity data for 2025 diverted juveniles indicates: 40 (31.50%) identified as White; 58 (45.31%) identified as Black; 26 (20.31%) identified as Hispanic; 3 (2.34%) identified as Asian/Pacific Islander; zero (0%) identified Alaskan Native, American Indian or Other as race; and 1 (.78%) of the juveniles diverted did not indicate a race/ethnicity. In 2025, for the third straight year, simple assault (purposely/knowingly cause bodily injury) comprised the largest number of charges for juveniles docketed and diverted.	juveniles may already be involved in the Children's System of Care with CMO involvement. For these cases, the JCC monitors for compliance. The grand total of youth arrests in 2024 for Monmouth County was 397 (207 index and 190 non-index offenses). In 2024, the subtotal of index offenses for Monmouth County was 207. Of the 207 index offense for Monmouth County juvenile arrests in 2024, larceny-theft comprised 124 or 59.90 %; aggravated assault comprised 35 or 16.9%; robbery comprised 16 or 7.7 % ; motor vehicle theft comprised 16 or 7.7%; burglary comprised 11 or 5.3%; and rape comprised 5 or 2.4%. In 2024, there were 190 youth arrests for non-index offenses for Monmouth County. The top non index offenses listed for Monmouth County juvenile arrests in 2024 included the following: other assaults as 39 or 20.5%; weapons; carrying, possessing, etc. as 38 or 20%; disorderly conduct as 35 or 18.4%; and all other offenses (except traffic) as 32 or 16.8%; and vandalism as 17 or 8.9%; and stolen property: buying, rec., poss., etc. as 11 or 5.7%.
3	Possible Pathway through Monmouth County Youth Behavioral Health Hospital Diversion Programs- Youth in acute crisis connects with the Child Family Crisis Clinician Program as an alternative to an emergency department visit for a psychiatric screening. The screeners connect the youth to the Child and Adolescent Crisis Diversion Program for short-term services including an evaluation for psychiatric medication. After stabilization through the diversion program, the youth may be connected to PerformCare for ongoing services, including local CMO care management or home-based therapy.	Monmouth County's Child Family Crisis Clinician (CFCC) and Child Adolescent Crisis Diversion (CACDP) programs with RWJ, as well as our Children's System Review Committee were highlighted and included in the Children's Mental Health Services Mapping Report for consideration for replication. There is a recommendation to create similar models across the state, expanding crisis services outside of the emergency department.
4	Station House Adjustment, Court and School Resources focused on Early Intervention and Diversion- Discussion on Station House Adjustments is a topic for the Juvenile Officers Association meeting. It is unclear whether Station House Adjustments are being provided on a	Monmouth County's diversion section of the Youth Services Plan in prior years, included a focus to increase law enforcement's use of. the stationhouse adjustment process, and to reduce the number of youth that delinquency complaints are filed in court, specifically the number of complaints filed for youth of color. There continues to be a desire to promote uniformity and consistency in the application of diversion criteria to ensure that similarly

	consistent basis for similarly situated youth. There is some police discretion in the handling of individual cases. There may be challenges encountered by local police departments in applying diversions uniformly. More dialogue with the local police departments on staffing, reporting requirements, resources and their encounters and contact with youth is recommended.	situated youth receive similar outcomes across racial/ethnic groups. Unfortunately, current data on the use of Station House Adjustments is not readily available. Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office cyberbullying diversion program for juveniles is an educational training designed to intervene with youth who engaged in any type of cyberbullying to combat the rise in such crimes. The program is primarily geared towards juvenile offenders who have been afforded the opportunity of a station house adjustment or benefitted from a diversion of juvenile charges. Juveniles referred to the program must attend this presentation with at least one parent or guardian. The referral sources for the Keys to Innervisions was broadened to include referrals from school Student Assistance Counselors.
5	Restorative Justice Practices-Conflict Resolution Youth need strategies to resolve conflict situations in a peaceful manner with their peers in both school and community settings. There is a need to integrate restorative justice practices in diversion programs where the person harmed has an opportunity to share how they were affected and what they need to heal. The young person assumes responsibility for causing harm and articulates what they need to reduce the likelihood of it happening again.	Restorative practices can be used to address minor school-based incidents by responding to the offending student's underlying issues while restoring the harm caused to the victim. Restorative Practices like Responsive Circles and Community Conferences help parties (the offending student and victim) come to agreement on the appropriate consequence / response. Restorative practices address the underlying issues triggering delinquent behavior by empowering students to resolve their own conflicts while providing a voice for the victim to be heard. In 2025, for the third straight year, simple assault (purposely / knowingly cause bodily injury) comprised the largest number of charges for juveniles docketed and diverted.
6	Training and support for Threat Assessment Teams Training and support is needed for school districts in Monmouth County relative to their implementation of threat assessment teams. Policies and procedures relative to the handling of threats need to be clearly communicated. NJ Department of Education provided guidance for school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects (local education agencies) for establishing and training threat assessment teams, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4. Training is being provided to Monmouth County school districts and their threat	The Memorandum of Understanding between School Districts and Law Enforcement outlines the seven mandatory reports to law enforcement. Mandatory report offenses include the following: Controlled and Dangerous Substances, Firearms and Dangerous Weapons; Planned or Threatened Violence; Sexual Offenses; Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees; Bias-Related Incidents; and Potentially Missing, Abused, or Neglected Children. A mandatory report to law enforcement does not preclude the law enforcement agency's ability to investigate the act and decide that no further action is needed or recommend a station house adjustment.

	assessment teams.	
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DETENTION UTILIZATION AND DETENTION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING

Detention Utilization and Detention Alternative Core Program Type		
Program/Service	What need or needs is the program addressing?	Describe the impact the program has had.
Detention Alternative Programming- Detention alternatives are short-term programs that increase supervision in the community to ensure that a young person remains arrest-free and returns to court during the pendency of their case.	Increased supervision in the community- In 2025, there were 25 participants on Home Detention /Electronic Monitoring, 1 admission on Electronic Monitoring Expansion-Wireless/GPS, 0 admissions on House Arrest A, 0 admission on House Arrest B, 2 admissions to the Juvenile Shelter and 1 admission on the STEADY transition program. In 2025, a combined total of 25 youth admissions were under the Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services- Juvenile Detention Alternatives supervision. The gender of the youth indicates 24 (96 %) as male and 1 (4%) as female. The race/ethnicity of the 25 youth indicates 14 (56%) as African American, 5 (20%) as White, 3 (12%) as Hispanic and 3 (12%) as "Other". In 2025, there were a total of 22 (100%) successful completions. The departures include some youth carried over from the prior year. In 2025, there were 3 youths carried over into 2026.	The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Unit within the Division of Child and Youth Services has a positive track record supervising youth on detention alternatives safely in the community. Increased support, teamwork and collaboration provided to the Juvenile Detention Alternative Unit by the creation of the Youth Justice Family Support Program will further strengthen Monmouth County's work with youth and their families on juvenile detention alternatives status.

	In the area of detention alternatives, the STEADY program did not have a lot of utilization and will be absorbed with the loss of JDAI IF funding.	
Shared Service Agreements-Tracking of Juvenile Detention Admissions Shared service agreements exist with Middlesex County and Ocean County for secure juvenile detention beds for Monmouth County youth.	To track the utilization of the juvenile detention beds purchased by Monmouth. The shared service agreement that Monmouth County has with the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Facility for 10 detention and 3 shelter beds. Arrangements have been made with Ocean County and a formalized agreement was established for 2 beds purchased by Monmouth and one other bed to be available on a as needed basis.	There were 42 Monmouth County Admissions to secure Juvenile Detention in 2025 (40 in Middlesex County and 2 in Ocean County). Regarding juvenile detention beds, Monmouth County has not had the same problem that some other counties have related to youth waiting for a detention bed. Sebastian Trapani has provided us with detention admission data for 2025. We will seek any updates on our shared services agreements for detention beds from him.

Detention Utilization and Detention Alternative Recommended Program Type		
Rank	State the type of program the county identified to address the local issue or county trend.	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?
1	To strengthen & improve detention-alternatives and maintain the high rate of success on the alternative. Youth should be placed in the least restrictive environment to ensure public safety. To link youth to positive role models, caring- adults serving as mentors. To identify youth's interests and hobbies and expand their opportunity for positive youth development.	The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Unit within the Division of Child and Youth Services has a positive track record supervising youth on detention alternatives safely in the community. Increased support, teamwork and collaboration provided to the Juvenile Detention Alternative Unit by the creation of the Youth Justice Family Support Program will further strengthen Monmouth County's work with youth and their families on juvenile detention alternatives status. In 2025, a combined total of 25 youth admissions were under the Monmouth County Division of Juvenile Detention Alternatives supervision. In 2025, there were a total of 22 (100%) successful completions. The departures include some youth carried over from the prior year. In 2025, there were 3 youths carried over into 2026.

		In 2024, a combined total of 33 youth admissions were under the Monmouth County Division of Juvenile Detention Alternatives supervision. In 2024, there were a total of 27 (84%) successful completions and 5 (16%) non successful. The departures include some youth carried over from the prior year.
2	There continues to be a need to focus on length of stay and related case processing issues, with an emphasis on further diagnosing and addressing potential disparities in this area. The primary goal of JDAI is to make sure that secure detention is used for only serious and chronic youthful offenders, and that effective alternatives are available for other youth who can be safely supervised in the community while awaiting final court disposition.	Research has shown that detention has critical, long-lasting consequences for court-involved youth. Detention disrupts connections in school, services, and families. There were 42 admissions of Monmouth County youth to secure detention in 2025. The race/ethnicity of the Monmouth County youth admitted to Juvenile Detention in 2025 indicates 25 (59.5%) as Black; 13 (30.9%) as White; and 4 (9.5%) as Hispanic. There were 51 admissions of Monmouth County youth to secure detention in 2024. The race/ethnicity of the Monmouth County youth admitted to Juvenile Detention in 2024 indicates 35 (68.6%) as Black; 4 (7.8%) as White; and 12 (23.5%) as Hispanic. In 2025, there was a combined total of 25 youth admissions to the Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services-Juvenile Detention Alternatives Unit supervision. The race/ethnicity of the 25 youth indicates 14 (56%) as African American, 5 (20%) as White, 3 (12%) as Hispanic and 3 (12%) as "Other". In 2024, a combined total of 33 youth admissions to the Monmouth County Division of Child and Youth Services -Juvenile Detention Alternatives Unit supervision. The race/ethnicity of the 33 youth indicates 21 (64%) as African American, 0 (0%) as White, 11 (33%) as Hispanic and 1 (3%) as "Other".
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DISPOSITION

Disposition Core Program Type		
Program/Service	What need or needs is the program addressing?	Describe the impact the program has had.
Individualized services; and specialized assessment, evaluation, and treatment services for youth, who are court involved or on juvenile probation supervision.	Educational and intervention services around targeted treatment -anger management, sexually inappropriate behaviors, cyber crimes, shoplifting, self harm, bullying, process addictions, substance use /abuse, decision making skills, grief and loss issues, life skills/transitions Specialized assessment, evaluation, and treatment services for youth with problematic sexual behavior.	In 2025, the contract with IEP Youth Services was to provide specialized treatment services for up to 15 youth with problematic sexual behavior. The program exceeded their level of service and served 26 youth. Individualized Services for Youth on Probation is a dispositional option for the Judiciary that was contracted to serve 50 youth on probation in 2025, however PMT's actual level of service in 2025 was below the contracted number and only 38 youth were served. By combining the two separate programs (POP and PMT) into one contract, this will allow for greater flexibility, to address the individualized and specialized treatment needs of the youth and their families in the program and reduce the need for frequent budget modification requests between the two programs.
Adolescent Residential Substance Use Treatment Services	Adolescent residential alcohol and drug treatment service for Monmouth County youth with alcohol and /or drug dependence, who have been adjudicated delinquent and or who have demonstrated history of juvenile delinquency and referred to treatment by the Judiciary	In 2024, New Hope IBHC served a total of 21* unduplicated Monmouth County youth in their adolescent residential treatment program. *This includes the funding sources of DCF, Monmouth County, and the YSC. The race/ethnicity data indicates 7 (29.6%) as Caucasian; 9 (44.4%) as Hispanic; and 5 (25.9%) as African American. The ages of the youth ranged from 13 years of age to 18 years of age. The age categories with the highest numbers and percentage during 2024 (highest to lowest) were age 14 with 9 admissions or 33%; age 16 with 6 admissions or 22%, age 17 with 5 admissions or 18.5% and age 15 with 4 admissions or 14.8%; age 18 with 2 admissions or 7% and age 13 with 1 admission or 3.7%. Youth admitted in 2024 resided in 12 different Monmouth County municipalities.
Disposition Recommended Program Types		
Rank	State the type of program the county identified to address the local issue or county trend.	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?

Career and Employment Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults - There is a need to increase youths' connections and knowledge about the local labor market and increase the awareness of different careers and employment opportunities. To provide educational support, work readiness skills, career development and youth employment opportunities for youth on probation. Educational support, work readiness skills, career development and youth employment opportunities are components that dispositional option programs can integrate. Youth Partnership Group Feedback-Transition to Adulthood (T2A) Discussion-The young people shared valuable insight regarding the challenges they are experiencing as they transition into adulthood. The participants who contributed to this discussion ranged in age from 14-21 years old, with much of the conversation centered around preparing for adulthood, graduating high school, college, employment, and navigating support after turning 18. Office of Research and Information-Labor Market Spotlight-New Jersey Young Adult Workforce-Issue No. 24, Volume 3 January 2025 -The most common industries employing young adult workers are retail, accommodation and food services, and health care and social assistance. Information on obtaining working papers and regulations applicable to our youngest workers can be found at: https://www.nj.gov/labor/youngworkers/find-a-	There are Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS) Program Career and Resource Fairs being held. The career and resource fair helps to connect job seekers with local employers and agencies. Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development submitted and received a NJ Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development Application for a fiscal year 2026 Summer Youth Employment Program Grant that provides in school and out of school youth and young adults ages 16-24 with valuable internships in the Monmouth County workforce area. Monmouth County Vocational School District offers a wealth of educational resources for career exploration and development. The NJ Department of Labor highlights the following youth programs: Bridges to Employing Youth that provides specialized workforce development services to youth with disabilities, justice-involved youth, youth who are or have aged out of foster care or are displaced, and pregnant or parenting youth. Summer Youth Work Experience Program designed to combat poverty, youth unemployment and youth crime rates by introducing youth to career pathway opportunities. 2026 Summer Youth Work Experience Program is being funded to provide in-school and out-of-school youth, ages 16-24, with valuable summer work experiences to help them successfully transition to the world of work. Youth Transitions to Work Program-To recruit, screen and facilitate effective transitions of high school juniors, seniors and out of school youth to high-skill, high wage employment in labor demand occupations, with long-term career potential, thereby motivating youth to greater success in secondary and post-secondary education. One listening session identified that many youth feel unprepared for adulthood and disconnected from support systems once they age out of children's services. Participants consistently emphasized the need for continued guidance, mentorship, life-skills education, and accessible mental health support throughout the transition into adulthood.
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	job/workingpapers/getstarted.shtml Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development created a program called BESA – Basic Employment Skills Academy, which will\ work for every-one who comes into the One Stop. Program will consist of workshops in topics such as resume writing, navigating job websites and descriptions, cover letters and preparation for cognitive or aptitude tests.	
2	Creative Approaches and Incentives for Youth Engagement and Need for Mentors / Positive Role Models There is a need for individualized services for youth on probation. There is a desire for each youth to be assessed individually, and receive services tailored to meet that youth's needs. There is a need to develop creative strategies to engage youth (i.e. arts, sports, technology, yoga, photography, meditation, music production, computer graphics,theater, woodworking, arts and crafts, or just about any other hobby or activity). Approaches that include mentoring / positive role models, and social/recreational activities are desired.	Creative approaches and incentives to engage youth in program activities are needed. We seek to connect youth to caring adults, positive peers and prosocial activities in their schools and communities that foster positive youth development. The Consortium of Various Programs issued by the NJ Youth Justice Commission that can be brought into their facilities and the youth detention facilities was helpful and may spark some local Monmouth County ideas. Monmouth County Park's System offers an array of recreational activities and programs for youth that will be explored.
3	Family Engagement Strategies and Need for Support for Court Involved Families There is a need for approaches that motivate and engage, youth and families in services. To provide dispositional option programs that include family counseling and involves parent(s)/ guardian(s) in program services. There is a need to connect families to needed resources and services; and help them navigate the court process and youth justice system.	Many court involved families are experiencing tremendous challenges. The number of unduplicated families served by the FamilyNavigator-Partners with Families Program during 2025 was 189. The gender of the youth served indicates 78% as male and 22% as female. The race/ethnicity of the youth served indicates 1% as White, 37% as Black, 22% as Hispanic, and 4 as Other. There has been strong feedback from youth,families, and community stakeholders to strengthen Monmouth County family support services. Monmouth County identifies a need for dispositional option programs that

		include family counseling and involve parent(s) /guardian(s) in program services. There is a need to connect families to resources and services; and help them navigate the court process and youth justice system
4	The Gun Violence Reduction Initiative in New Jersey's Probation Division connects probationers with resources and services to help reduce gun violence. Specialized focus and attention is needed in addressing youth with serious crimes. Information on the recent completion ceremony held for the Gun Reduction Taskforce participants was reported by probation at the June 2, 2026 Youth Services Commission meeting.	The statute category grouping* for the 882 new filing offenses in 2025 indicates the following: 1 (0.11%) Homicide; 4 (0.45 %)Sex Offenses; 12 (1.36%) Robbery/Car Jacking; 119 (13.49%) Assaults; 2 (.23 %) Arson; 57 (6.46%) Weapons; 3 (.34%) Drugs and Alcohol; 38 (4.31%) Burglary; 63 (7.14%) Theft / Fraud/Forgery; 20 (2.27%) Other Person Offenses; 46 (5.22%) Admin. of Law and Order; 1 (.10%) Inchoate Offenses; 16 (1.81%) Other Property Offenses; 75 (8.50%) Public Order or Decency; 33 (3.74%) Violation of Probation; 17 (1.93%) Other; 6 (.68%) Megan's Law; 0 (0%) Prostitution; and 370 (41.95%) Not Categorized offenses were filed.
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REENTRY

Reentry Core Programs		
Program/Service	What need(s) or needs is the program addressing?	Describe the impact the program has had.
To work with the Office of the Public Defender's Youth Defense Unit that includes a Post Disposition team. The Post Disposition Team is tasked with following and advocating for children committed to the Youth Justice Commission during their commitment and while on parole.	Re-entry Services only applies to committed youth paroled from a Youth Justice Commission (YJC) facility and supervised by the YJC's Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services and to juveniles disposed to a YJC program as a condition of probation and supervised by the Juvenile Probation Division.	The Office of the Public Defender-Youth Defense Unit- Post Disposition Team, will be instrumental in helping us gather additional information on the needs of Monmouth County youth and young adults at the point of re-entry.

Reentry Recommended Programs Type		
Rank	State the type of program the county identified to address the local issue or county trend.	What is the local issue or county trend to be addressed?
1	Transitional Services- Due to the fact that many youth, eligible for re-entry, tend to be older and are aging out of the youth justice system, connections with other existing county resources may be an option to explore for the provision of transitional services. Transition to Adulthood Support -Youth expressed interest in more preparation and education around: • Budgeting and finances • Credit and banking • Employment readiness • Apartment and housing navigation • Transportation • Insurance and healthcare; and • Daily living skills	Monmouth ACTS-Resource Connect-Navigation Line - Monmouth County has a navigation system, through Monmouth ACT, that helps connect individuals to community resources, and programs that address their individual, and unique needs. The Monmouth Resource Net also provides information on the various programs and services throughout Monmouth County. Referrals to some of the programs listed under the Reentry Inventory can be considered. Top Issues Youth Are Facing- Participants identified several major concerns impacting their age group, including: • Mental health challenges and emotional stress • Lack of guidance and support after high school graduation • Difficulty transitioning into adulthood • Limited awareness of available resources • Housing instability and fear of homelessness after turning 18 • Financial stress and lack of preparation for independence • Transportation barriers • Difficulty building healthy relationships and support systems • Feeling unprepared for adult responsibilities A recurring concern expressed by youth was that many services decrease or end once they turn 18, despite continued need for support.
2	Job Readiness and Employment Opportunities-To connect youth in re-entry with services offered through Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development The Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP) is a state-funded program that empowers teens and young adults (ages 16-24) with valuable work experience, enabling them to develop skills and earn money through a stipend .	Monmouth County Workforce Development can provide youth with the following services: Tutoring in Math and Reading; GED Preparation and/or Testing; Exploring Different Career Options; Internships; Resume Assistance; Job Placement Assistance; Financial Literacy; Leadership Activities; and Adult Mentoring. Eligible Youth are individuals between the ages of 16-24 who fall under the following areas: need help finding a job or a training program; have a criminal background or have been arrested; have not received my High School diploma or GED; homeless, a runaway, or a foster child; pregnant or a single parent; have a learning disability and/or disabled; need help with math and reading.

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