



2020 Priorities

1. All youth under 18 should be removed from prison-like environments. Those who need out-of-home treatment should be in small, therapeutic, juvenile facilities. This means:
 - a. The state develops a timeline to phase out the use of REGIONS secure units inside the juvenile detention centers
 - b. The state stops housing of youth under 18 in adult prisons run by DOC
 - c. CSSD and DOC develop their capacity to provide intensive, individualized, wrap-around supports in the community to youth and their families as alternatives to incarceration or out-of-home placement.
2. Connecticut raises its minimum age of arrest from 7 to 12
3. Connecticut must create an implementation plan and timeline to respond to data showing racial disparities in outcomes for youth in contact with the justice system

We are developing specific recommendations around how to respond to youth who have serious charges based on a series of vision sessions in communities this fall. They will be available shortly.

As a result of the delay in creating small, therapeutic placements, CSSD has money available this fiscal year that it could spend to rapidly develop its ability to provide individualized treatment and intervention programs to youth and families in their communities. We are asking them to prioritize that investment.

Many other states provide similar programs and interventions for youth charged and convicted as adults. We are calling on DOC to create similar programs; especially as upwards of 2/3rd of the youth under 18 who are incarcerated are there pre-trial.

There is no way to avoid or deny that all of the above are racial justice issues. JJPOC presentations in December 2019 highlighted this reality. We must respond with action steps.