

List of Awardees

**Some projects are not listed for privacy reasons*

AK	Canine Connections	To provide opportunities for incarcerated youth to interact, train, and care for dogs through animal assisted therapy and engagement. We desire to build healthy life skills to reduce recidivism.
AL	Character in Action Awards	To decrease truancy and delinquency rates of school aged children and promote positive behavior.
AZ	Goodwill's Youth Justice Action Month Resource Fair & Film Screening	To connect justice-involved youth ages 12-24 with re-entry and re-engagement programs and services in the Tucson community, and to showcase the pathways of 5 justice-involved youth through a screening of "Juvenile" to foster understanding in our community.
AZ	Jovenes Por El Futuro (Youth for the Future)	The goal of this project is to create awareness of the impact the Arizona HCR 2060 will have on the community served by Neighborhood Ministries and energize eligible youth to vote.
CA	Youth-Led Community Justice Projects	Through the Community Justice Projects, at-risk youths awaken to their great potential, capability, and calling as changemakers in their communities. By researching felt needs, designing the service to be delivered, recruiting their own external collaborators, and delivering the concrete service to their community members, MFC's mentees develop a greater sense of ownership and compassion for their communities and cultivate an ethic/lifestyle of caring social responsibility and continuous community engagement even after they graduate from high school, matriculate in higher education, and become employed. The CJP experience has equipped and developed new youth leaders in every MFC cohort, enduringly impacting our mentees' positive self-identity, educational attainment, employment, and socioeconomic mobility. The mentorship program graduates from our earliest cohorts (2014, 2015, and 2016) have now reached their mid-twenties; among them, we have graduates from Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs who are now healthcare professionals, social workers, educators, and skilled technicians. These earliest graduates have demonstrated a long-term commitment to advocacy for and service to low-income, BIPOC, and historically disadvantaged communities through their community activism for educational equity, tenants' rights, restorative justice, care for people experiencing homelessness, veteran's rights, and more.
CA	Fashion for Justice: Runway to Reform	A fashion show that combines high fashion with social advocacy, showcasing designs inspired by themes of freedom,

		<p>transformation, and hope. The event will feature collections from local designers and youth in the community, highlighting stories of youth impacted by the justice system and promoting positive change. Event Objectives: Raise Awareness: Use fashion as a medium to highlight issues within the juvenile justice system and advocate for reform. Engage Community: Involve local designers, artists, and youth in creating and presenting the fashion show, fostering a collaborative community effort. Fundraising Opportunity: Raise funds through ticket sales, sponsorships, and donations to support local youth justice programs and initiatives. community, advocate for improvements and changes that better support youth (particularly female youth) in academics, social emotional learning and creating or promoting healthier relationships with community.</p>
CA	YJAM Community Resource and Job Fair	<p>To introduce programs to youth and families that prevent and assist youth and TAY who are/may become system impacted, and provide assistance in securing employment, including an expungement clinic, clothing, stylists for hair and makeup, resume building, etc.</p>
CA	Leaders Like Us: 2024 YJAM Campaign led by California Justice Leaders	<p>For the Leaders Like Us campaign, Impact Justice's California Justice Leaders members and program alumni will gather in Los Angeles California and lead a subsequent YJAM digital campaign. California Justice Leaders (CJL) is an original AmeriCorps program intentionally designed for formerly incarcerated and system-impacted young adults. CJL members embark on one-year, paid service terms. They're matched with local non-profits working in the reentry space and provide education and mentorship to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth as "credible messengers." The goal for our Leaders Like Us campaign is to give current CJL members and alumni the rare opportunity to gather in person, connect and share their experiences, and create content for an Impact Justice digital campaign focused on YJAM's 2024 theme of "Justice is," with special attention to the critical role of credible messengers for incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and justice involved youth. We hope our digital campaign, featuring photos, video interviews, and messages from the in-person event, will help reshape narratives about youth justice and bring awareness to the innovative leadership that young people are providing to fellow youth in need of support. Impact Justice has the capacity to contribute to this type of narrative change effort focused on youth justice. Our combined social media reach is more than 16,500 people, and our most recent video highlighting our California Justice Leaders alumni was played over 6,000 times.</p>

<p>CA</p>	<p>"Unifying the Gap: RTP's Unity and Freedom Academy 2024"</p>	<p>Roadmap to Peace in launching the Unity & Freedom Leadership Academy's Youth Action Group (UFLA-YAG), a 4-month leadership program aimed at cultivating a new generation of local grassroots leaders committed to cross-racial solidarity, equity, and community advocacy within our most vulnerable communities. The program's objectives are twofold: to nurture a pipeline of community leaders and to provide numerous youth with safe spaces that offer enriching opportunities while fostering a sense of belonging and cultural appreciation for participants and their communities. Each cohort of UFLA-YAG will engage in leadership development, grassroots organizing, and cross-racial coalition-building training through a decolonial lens, empowering them to advocate for dignity, respect, and service essential for achieving equity across San Francisco. The curriculum will focus on the social conditions that shape global and local realities, alongside a review of pertinent federal, state, and local policies, encouraging youth to advocate for the changes they wish to see in their communities. Recruitment for the 4-month leadership program will be done in collaboration with Pasifika Urban Roots, Coalition for Community Safety & Justice, and Black to the Future, organizations serving youth from vulnerable Pacific Islander, Asian, and African American communities. These are our three sister peace initiatives in San Francisco. We meet quarterly to discuss common issues and to discuss and plan policy actions in common. By involving two participants from each of these communities, the program reaffirms its commitment to increasing cross-racial solidarity and fostering unity in advocacy and impact-seeking efforts. UFLA-YAG leaders will receive training in civic engagement and actively engage with local elected officials, statewide youth councils, and various stakeholders to discuss policy reform and positive action on issues relevant to them and their peers. As part of an ongoing capstone project, participants will design and execute activities, campaigns, presentations, and initiatives as a team that are aimed at promoting unity, decolonial thought, equity, and justice. These projects will be shared with fellow students, youth at community organizations, and at community events to inspire others to join in positive advocacy. Upon completing the fellowship, graduates will help select the next group of Warriors from the Sister Peace Initiatives. Our sister peace initiatives will be encouraged to invest in the graduates' personal and professional growth, building a continuous pipeline of community leaders.</p>
<p>CA</p>	<p>Youth Empower Education Forum</p>	<p>The Goal of the Forum is to bring together organizations in Los Angeles to talk about the harmful effects of policing and probation to help youth acknowledge system harm and</p>

		cultivate a safe for peer to peer support. To mainly educate the youth and let them know that they are not alone in being system impacted. The goal is to hear from youth about how adults and community members could do better in supporting them. The forum will also be used as a tool to guide us in our vision and help us take future action.
CA	Fostering Resilience in Justice Involved Youth	The goal of this activity is to equip 100 justice-involved youth and stakeholders with the skills, resources, and support needed to foster resilience, improve educational and career outcomes, and reduce recidivism rates through community engagement and collaboration.
CO	Raising Awareness and Launching Colorado's New Justice Engaged Student Hotline	"The goal of this grant request is to raise awareness of the newly signed Justice Engaged Student Bill of Rights (HB 24-1216) in Colorado and its associated statewide hotline. This hotline will be a crucial resource for youth and families impacted by the juvenile justice system who requested the hotline be developed as a resource during community listening sessions. The hotline will provide guidance on educational rights, support for navigating the process of returning to school and help identifying needed wrap-around support. The requested funding will provide for hosting a community and media event on November 14, 2024 to raise awareness of JESBOR and the hotline. The event will feature stakeholders including justice-engaged youth and their family members, along with media representatives. We will also use the event to recruit and train volunteers for the hotline and educate personnel in state and county agencies."
CT	Creative Justice: A Youth Art Initiative	The goal and intended impact of this activity would be to empower and uplift young artists, especially those from marginalized communities, by providing them with a platform to express themselves creatively. Additionally, the activity aims to raise awareness about youth justice issues and promote positive social change through art. By engaging in artistic expression and community involvement, participants will develop confidence, build connections, and contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.
DC	On the Same Page Events	A \$5,000 grant will be used to host three On the Same Page events in September, October and November connecting community members at home with our incarcerated neighbors through poetry. During the events, formerly incarcerated Free Minds members will join community members to share personal stories before each participant reads and responds to poetry by our incarcerated writers, offering feedback and

		<p>words of encouragement that will then be sent back to the writers to help them build skills and manage the isolation of incarceration. On the Same Page builds community and breaks down barriers between those directly affected by the criminal legal system and the rest of the DC community through its Write Night and Write Week events. Because DC does not have its own prisons and sends incarcerated residents to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, our members spend the majority of their sentences in other states, isolated from their families, friends and the DC community that they call home. On the Same Page events address this problem by providing vital connection to the outside community and motivating Free Minds members to continue writing and pursuing a positive path. Several Free Minds members have shared that they would not have made it through the most difficult times in prison were it not for our correspondence and resources, particularly the feeling of community acceptance through written exchanges and encouragement that our community back home provides on their writing. Goals for the September, October and November On the Same Page events include the following: Instill a sense of community and shared humanity among all participants. Raise awareness about the causes and consequences of youth incarceration. Motivate incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Free Minds members to continue writing, pursue education and/or employment, and become positive voices for change in the DC community. We anticipate the following outcomes: Attendees will read and respond to approximately 300 poems by incarcerated youth and adults. Free Minds members home from prison will practice public speaking and networking by sharing their stories with the attendees. We will mail feedback on poems to the writers in federal prisons across the country. Free Minds members will respond positively to the words of encouragement from the community. Participants will complete surveys evaluating the event.</p>
<p>DC</p>	<p>#30 Days of Education</p>	<p>Every year, the Unlock the Box campaign leans into the shared cultural experience of the „Back to School,“ season (August/September) with our #30DaysofEducation social media campaign. The goal of this campaign is to tap into the shared interests of education as people are inundated with „Back to school,“ content, so that we reach new audiences that may not otherwise understand the long lasting harmful effects of being a justice-impacted youth- -especially as it relates to solitary confinement. During this event, we post a new bite-sized, easily shareable video, statistic, or fact every day for 30 days while engaging with high-visibility partners to advance the narrative. Last year we partnered with Teen Vogue for a „Back to School,“ syllabus around solitary</p>

		<p>confinement in youth facilities and for an op-ed written by a person who had experienced solitary confinement as a child. We also partnered on a social media collaboration with so.informed who has over 3 million followers on Instagram to reach a wide audience. The campaign is designed so that at the end of the 30 days, if you look at all the content, you've been given an easily accessible mini-masterclass in solitary confinement. This year, we're hoping to take a slightly different approach to our event which would center YJAM, young people, and solitary confinement . We'd like to use this grant to expand our #30DaysofEducation campaign to focus the entire campaign on youth by adding: a virtual event, more content created by directly-impacted youth (sometimes anonymously), and (perhaps most importantly) creating a toolkit that allows outside organizations to connect with our #30DaysofEducation in their own events/meetings- -taking the campaign off the screen and directly into the community. These toolkits will be designed to foster connection and encourage conversation around commemorating what Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) did and collectively exploring how far we have to go, especially in terms of implementation and compliance in the states. Success will be measured by the reach and engagement of social media posts, the number of collaborations with influential partners, and the participation in virtual and in-person events.</p>
DC	Art & Advocacy	<p>The primary goal of this program is two-fold--first we want to teach self-advocacy and help our scholars find and positively utilize their voices. Secondly, we want to teach our scholars how to express themselves and their feelings through art by connecting their self-advocacy to self-expression through art. We will take our scholars on a journey through a series of workshops about advocacy, exploring critical issues impacting the juvenile justice system. We will also engage our scholars in a series of art therapy, and artistic expression classes which will result in the creation of their own work of art. The ultimate goal is to feature their art 1) at a schoolwide showcase, 2) at an art exhibition and 3) online.</p>
DE	Visions of Justice Conference 2024	<p>The 2024 Visions of Justice Conference will bring together impacted people, service providers, advocates, legislators, and more to educate the community on issues affected justice-impacted Delawareans and best practices in service provision to them.</p>
GA	Breaking the Chains: Addressing Mental Health and Racial Disparities in the Juvenile Justice	<p>Goal: The goal of the town hall meeting is to foster an open and inclusive dialogue about the intersection of mental health, race, and the juvenile justice system, with the aim of raising awareness, sharing knowledge, and developing actionable</p>

	System	strategies to mitigate the disproportionate impact on Black communities. Intended Impact: The intended impact is to empower attendees with a deeper understanding of the systemic issues at play, to build a network of professionals, peers, and families committed to advocacy and reform, and to generate concrete recommendations for policy changes and community initiatives that support mental health and reduce racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.
GA	Thriving for Impact	The ultimate goal of this activity is to awaken those community stakeholders and partners to the rising delinquency, violence, and educational deficiencies among the youth in this community and give them the opportunity and platform to initiate discussions, implement solutions and impact the local community by being change agents.
GA	Juvenile Justice Awareness Fair	The goal of the Juvenile Justice Awareness Fair is to raise awareness and inspire action on behalf of young people impacted by the justice system. By providing educational resources, advocacy opportunities, and a platform for voices with lived experience, the fair aims to foster community involvement and promote juvenile justice reform.
GA	Restored to Restore	The project will highlight the stories of justice-engaged students, assigned to Favor Academy of Excellence through the Douglas County Juvenile Courts. Assigned students are recommended or actively receiving academic and/or behavioral intervention from the FAE Tutoring and Intervention Center to recover courses, receive academic support in reading, writing and math or work on social/emotional and behavioral skills. Through the project, students will describe their involvement with the justice system (highlighting events and scenarios that landed them in the court system). They will discuss the impact of those decisions and the efforts they are taking to rebuild their lives. They will also discuss barriers they experience in education, the workforce, the community, and overall perceptual concerns they encounter daily. They will use grade level ELA standards to draft their stories, practice storytelling and eventually record videos to be used by court staff working with at-risk youth, in hopes of deterring behaviors that could lead to negative outcomes. Participating students will present their videos to members of the Douglas County Juvenile Court Staff, Police Department, school and FAE Tutoring and Intervention staff, community members, and invited family and friends in a formal screening.
HI	E Holomua kākou (Forward together) – KAWAIILOA YOUTH JAM 2024	This will kick off the First Annual Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center’s celebration of youth resiliency inviting young people from across the islands to come together around social justice and equity for our young people, to

		celebrate wins, to build networks, to create actions for improvement. The event will take place in September or October, TBD based on the best timing for our youth coordinators and leads.
IA	Project Shine: YOUth Matter	The primary goal of this activity is to foster an understanding of the challenges faced by youth and families impacted by the youth justice system while also facilitating connections between them and the wider community. The community events will consist of a keynote address, art contest, talent show, community talking wall, food, and a resource fair. Through the ‚ÄÛYOUth Matter,‚ÄÛ art contest, we intend to shed light on the harsh realities experienced by these individuals. Additionally, the talent show or contest will be a platform for the community to come together in celebration, sharing in moments of joy, amusement, and laughter as they witness the remarkable talents and rich cultural heritage present within our community, specifically young people. By organizing events like these, we actively work towards disrupting the barriers that separate us, fostering unity and collective support.
KS	From There to Here Festival	The primary goal is to raise awareness of all the organizations working with system-involved Youth in the county, how they work together, and demonstrate the success of adults who were once involved in that system.
KS	Youth Policy Symposium: Reimagining Justice for Tomorrow’s Leaders	The Youth Policy Symposium is an event dedicated to educating and informing decision-makers within the youth justice system on reimagining approaches to youth justice. With speakers, panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities, the symposium will focus on creating transformative change within the Kansas youth justice system. The event will include a youth panel, an expert panel and community panel. Youth Leaders will be facilitating sessions around Progeny’s three primary campaigns, Invest - Don’t Arrest (closing the last Kansas youth prison), Debt-Free Kansas (eliminating fines and fees for youth adjudicated in Kansas) and implementing restorative practices in our community.
KY	Southwick Shakas	Cultivates an environment that encourages female youth to achieve their personal & collective goals cultivates/ Promotes developmental assets such as the following; Positive family communication Positive community values Positive peer influences Cultivates/Promotes the following behaviors; Honesty Personal Integrity Personal Responsibility Healthy Lifestyle Choices Peaceful Conflict Resolution Personal Power Self Esteem

LA	2024 Youth Justice Action Month in Louisiana	The goal of LCCR's 2024 YJAM event series is to elevate the voices of young people and promote the core values of the Platform for Youth Justice.
LA	THS Arts and Advocacy Night	Through this event, community members in attendance will view writing and artwork created by incarcerated young people. The creative works will give them a lens into the lives of young people impacted by the carceral system, and allow them to see students beyond what they often see on the news- stereotypes of young people reiterating the "super-predator " myth and portrayals of young people and evil. The work will humanize the young people who are portrayed as young people and evil. detained at the facilities where Travis Hill is located and allow them to tell their story. Attendees will be given an opportunity to engage with the artwork by writing responses that will be delivered to students. Attendees will also be given a call to action, based on current legislation or elections occurring around the time of the event. In the past, these call to actions have included contacting city council-members to request increased supports for young people in the community, signing petitions to support the JJDP, and signing up to mentor young people returning to the community from incarceration.
MA	Prevention Roundtable: Incarceration of Pregnant and Parenting Birthers in the Youth Legal System	Our goal is to convene and capture the perspective of young birthers who have been pregnant or parenting while in the youth legal system by convening a virtual roundtable with youth legal system leaders and advocates. Literature shows that these voices are rarely heard within systems and policy discussions, and we aim to fill this gap through our roundtable. We will gather 8-10 young people from across the U.S. who will share their recommendations for change by directly informing policymakers and youth justice advocates at the roundtable of their lived experiences and how to improve the quality of care for young birthers who face similar experiences. This is the beginning of a pilot initiative at I Am Why to develop advocacy tools for model policies and practices for this population of young people. Post-roundtable, with the information collected, we will create an arts- and research-based fact sheet that will be shared with policymakers and advocacy organizations working to change these policies, and with young birthers impacted by such policies. We will conduct a one-month social media campaign in March 2025 (Women's History Month) consisting of eight posts to uplift our recommendations. We aim to create awareness on our Instagram platform to validate the experiences and capture the attention of younger audiences with similar lived experiences; raise awareness of this unseen issue among advocates; and share tools for policy change.

<p>MA</p>	<p>Listening Sessions and Policy Conversations with LGBTQIA2S+ Youth Across Massachusetts</p>	<p>In Massachusetts schools, juvenile justice and child welfare systems, youth who identify as LGBTQIA2S+ often face threats to their physical and emotional safety. Elected officials on the state and municipal levels have the decision-making power to effect change in these systems to transform them to be more welcoming and supportive. With a YJAM mini-grant, CfJJ seeks to facilitate connections between queer youth and decision makers throughout the youth justice continuum. Partnering with four LGBTQ+-youth organizations (to be determined) from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, CfJJ would conduct a listening session for each organization around what young people want and need to make their schools and communities more safe, supportive and welcoming and how policy changes can bring about those needed changes. CfJJ staff will work with youth to summarize and synthesize these ideas, identifying themes, developing talking points and identifying potential systemic and policy changes. Following the listening sessions, CfJJ will help set up a connection between CfJJ, the youth and the appropriate decision-maker based upon the youth's direction and input. Additionally, CfJJ will prepare the youth by equipping them with relevant research and providing guidance and tips on meeting with elected officials and other stakeholders in the youth justice arena. We hope to have multiple layers of impact. Creating spaces for youth to express their viewpoints in a safe and supportive environment and ultimately advocate for themselves will give elected officials and leaders in the youth justice field the essential perspective of queer youth, forge channels of communication and connection for future advocacy, and empower young people to continue to uplift their voices in pursuit of justice and change.</p>
<p>MA</p>	<p>Second Chance Series</p>	<p>We are seeking financial support to host a community event, including a panel discussion, and interactive conversation titled „ÁúThe Second Chances Series.„Áù The goal of the event is threefold: to amplify voices of justice-involved young people and their families as they navigate the juvenile justice system; to increase awareness of the barriers that young people face when reentering the community; and to ignite a conversation about ways we as a greater community support more positive outcomes for justice-involved young people in preparation for reentry and beyond.</p>
<p>MD</p>	<p>CDCC Symposium 2024 Art & Poetry Showcase</p>	<p>The CFCC Symposium 2024 Art and Poetry Showcase will be the pre-event to the symposium. During the showcase, artwork and poetry created by youth with lived experience will be presented. The artwork and poetry will be created in response to prompt about accountability and community programs that will be created by youth in Baltimore who have</p>

		experience with the legal system. The Showcase will be a success if community providers, youth, family members of impacted youth, and state leaders leave with it with a deeper understanding of what justice and accountability mean to youth in Baltimore.
MI	Healing through Art	and healing space for young people, their families and community members impacted by the justice system
MN	Youth Justice Action Month- There is Hope, Keep Moving Forward!	Justice Impacted Youth in facilities and out of facilities to know that there is hope and to keep moving forward.
MO	Parent Organizers for Youth Legal System Involvement	The action will kick off our outreach efforts to parents with youth in St. Louis City and County juvenile detention centers by recruiting community partners to offer support during their children's case in juvenile court. Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) participatory defense work is part of our Transformative Justice campaign that provides know your rights workshops, participatory defense team present with families at court and detention hearings. This work involves supporting during visits to their children in juvenile detention centers and when needed holding judges accountable for conditions of confinement of children. Our goal of this activity is to recruit impacted parents and develop their leadership skills. While a variety of MCU leaders support the Transformative Justice campaign, it is the impacted parents that are the best community members to know what support looks like and how to provide it for these impacted families.
MS	Family and Youth Justice Talk	The goal of this activity is to educate families and youth on the Juvenile Justice and Prevention Act and how they can become involved to change laws and legislation that negatively affect juveniles in the justice system. The intended impact of this activity is to develop community self-advocate groups that will speak out about improving the youth legal system.
NC	Gogh to Camp	To model the availability of positive childhood experiences in a community
NJ	Empowering Newark Youth to Become Co-producers of Community Safety	The NPSC has partnered with My Brother's Keeper-Newark and Newark Opportunity Youth Network in various sessions that connect data-informed community engagement discussions for system involved youth. This partnership has allowed students to be part of ongoing discussions to develop sustainable solutions to the most pressing crime problems in Newark, NJ.
NM	Movement for Mercy	Movement for Mercy (MfM) is a contemporary dance performance examining & re-imagining US juvenile justice systems. MfM is co-created by collaborating artists inside and

		outside of prison walls. The goal is two-fold: 1) providing a meaningful artistic experience for the incarcerated and previously incarcerated artists who will use MfM as a platform to have their voices and experiences heard; 2) using the powerful narrative tool of dance to educate and impact community members, legislators, and other stakeholders leading towards sustainable systems change.
NY	Youth Justice- Progress & Opportunities: A Look Back and Forward at JJDP	Our community conversation will honor the evolution of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act by celebrating the frontline innovators of youth programming, justice system reformers and the youth who have been positively impacted over the last 50 years. Community-made art will commemorate progress and aspirations for the future as envisioned by participants in the conversation.
NY	Artistic Expressions	This project is designed to inspire incarcerated youth to collaborate and express themselves artistically. To that end, art becomes a platform to express their collective voices, increases their self-awareness of how they can contribute positively to their community, wherever they are; and motivates them to make choices that impact their lives for the better.
OH	Chapbook Release Parties	The project of focus is the Chapbook Release Party. Writers in Residence intends to have 2 of these events between 08/01/24 and 11/30/24. The foundational program of Writers in Residence is the Creative Writing Workshop (CWWs) series that teaches creative writing to youth who are incarcerated. The culminating event of the CWWs is the Chapbook Release Party. The CWWs are led weekly by a Teaching Artist (TA). A TA is an experienced, published writer and teacher of literature who spends 90 minutes per session with youth residing at one of the partnering juvenile detention centers. These facilities include the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center, Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home, Portage-Geauga Juvenile Detention Center, and Seneca County Youth Center. The Teaching Artists are supported by student volunteers who are attending one of the partnering universities. The partnering universities consist of the following: John Carroll University, Case Western Reserve University, Oberlin College, Cuyahoga Community College, and Heidelberg University. The intended impact of the CWWs is to empower youth who are incarcerated to use their voice through poetry and reading. The CWWs teach a writing piece to youth and then guide them through a writing exercise of their own. These workshops are designed to be engaging and educational. During these sessions, residents explore how to write about identity, community, incarceration, gender/sexuality, rap/hip-hop, nature, rituals, joy, grief, and

		<p>race/ethnicity. They are then prompted to write their own pieces, following the writing style or theme of the content presented. Youth are always presented with the opportunity to have their poetry or prose published in the organization's seasonal chapbooks. To close each season, Writers in Residence hosts a Chapbook Release Party. This is a self-promoted, ticketed event that is open to the public, with priority for community partners. The space that is utilized is donated by one of our community partners-often a local bookstore, coffee shop, or the juvenile detention center itself. The intended goal of the Chapbook Release Parties is to showcase the work of participating youth in an effort to raise awareness about their experiences inside and outside of the juvenile justice system. These events elevate the voices of youth with lived expertise, allowing them to rewrite their narrative for the general public. The work is shared through spoken word performances and conversations with stakeholders and partners before the audience of guests. Between 08/01/2024 and 12/31/2024 Writers in Residence plans on hosting 2 Chapbook Release Parts. The Spring 2024 Chapbook Release Party will be held in August. The Fall 2024 Chapbook Release Party will be held in December.</p>
OH	Community Forum, Alternatives to Incarceration	To teach youth about advocating for themselves and to advocate to change the system
OH	Social Media Blast-Improving the legal system for minors	To increase community education, awareness, about treatment of youth in the legal system, their rights, and current legislation.
OR	"Rise Up, Stand Up" K'wee-shvt-naa-gha (Peacemakers)	The goal of „Rise Up, Stand Up Peacemakers,“ is to create excitement, plan awareness activities, and train peacemakers in a K-12 school near a Native American reservation.
PA	An Undercurrent of Strength	To have justice-involved youth engage in a mural project that portrays how their strengths have helped them navigate their unique life challenges.
PA	MileUp Showcase: Running Towards Youth Justice	The goal of this activity is to amplify the efforts of MileUp youth participating in the Philadelphia Distance Run 5K. Objectives: SRPS will produce a short film that captures the experiences of MileUp youth and families participating in the program in 2024. This film will be: Incorporated into the MileUp orientation/onboarding process, where parents and students enrolling in the program will have a chance to see a more tangible example of MileUp as told through the experiences of youth and Peer Mentors in the program. A valuable tool in sharing more about the program to potential partners and communities outside of Philadelphia who are interested in

		implementing the MileUp model. Showcased in a screening and/or photo exhibit in Philadelphia, PA in November 2024, adjacent to Philadelphia Marathon Weekend, and shared with participants from the Philadelphia Distance Run and Philadelphia Marathon events.
PA	Incorporating Youth Voices in the Voices for Juvenile Justice (V\$JJ) Conference in Pittsburgh	Involve youth in conference planning and program, engage them as participants in activities and sessions, and continue to work with them in implementing initiatives and prevention programs in the community.
PR	Safe Spaces 4 LGBT+ Youth	empower LGBT+ youth to present campaigns and information on how to promote safe spaces for the community.
RI	Supporting Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System Overall Wellbeing through Music	The goal of this activity is to provide youth who have been a part of the juvenile justice system or other lived experiences the opportunity to process and share those experiences in a positive way through music mentoring, writing and recording music.
SC	Empower "ME" For Change	The EMPOWER "ME" FOR CHANGE Initiative is designed to support young people who are disproportionately impacted by the youth justice system. This project aims to provide comprehensive support, education, and advocacy to address systemic inequities and promote positive outcomes for at-risk youth.
SC	Trapped In The Summer Short Film Screenings & Community Discussions	The goal is to create a responsive, real, and relevant PSA/Short Film that is inspired and created by system involved, engaged, and impacted youth - young adults. Other young allies from various backgrounds will assist on the creation of this film project. This creative project will also delve into the differing views oftentimes presented in society from the views of youth, parents, family, and justice system representatives. The focus on this film project will take a unique informative dive into the JJDPA and reforms needed to improve the justice legal system for youth through their lens. The film will feature multiple film release screenings with Q&A dialogue and young panelists. A local tour in various community spaces will take place as well to engage and bring awareness to policy makers, community leaders, family members, and youth. The overall goal also is to educate the public on the youth legal system and elevate youth voices.
TN	Centering Youth and Families to Advance Primary Prevention	The community outreach event seeks to capture the role delinquency prevention plays in interrupting and preventing trafficking among children and youth and ultimately inform policies and practices aimed at reducing vulnerability and risk factors. This will be achieved by: Providing prevention education to establish awareness and the identification of human trafficking among youth interacting with or involved in the juvenile justice system; Promoting opportunities for

		<p>system-involved youth to share lived experiences and offer insight into challenges and barriers they have encountered within the system; Gathering data to develop prevention-oriented priorities and a roadmap for shifting funding and responses to impacted youth out of systems and into communities through the formation of collaboration and partnership development.</p>
TN	<p>Know Your Rights: Educating Youth & Families About the Youth Legal System Workshop and Community</p>	<p>The goal is to educate youth and families on how to navigate the local juvenile criminal legal system, as well as know their rights as students. Youth, as well as adults, will learn what to do if they feel their rights have been violated. We will gather feedback from youth and families who have experienced rights violations and gather their ideas for solutions. Local law enforcement and leadership will be in attendance to learn about lived experiences of justice impacted young people and what it might take to start to make meaningful change to improve the youth legal system and experiences with the system. Community organizations will also be invited to table the event and promote their services to better equip families for success in our community.</p>
TX	<p>Redemption and Restoration</p>	<p>Our project for Youth Justice Action Month (YJAM) seeks to elevate the voices of youth and families with lived expertise by implementing a 10-week program within Texas state facility, À Giddings State School. This program will provide a platform for incarcerated youth to share their experiences and perspectives on the juvenile justice system. To achieve this, we will collaborate with our consultants all under the age of 35 who were all formerly incarcerated at the same youth prison where the participants are currently detained. These messengers will serve as mentors and facilitators, guiding discussions and providing support based on their own lived experiences. Through this initiative, our goal is to empower incarcerated youth to express themselves, share their stories, and advocate for change within the juvenile justice system. By amplifying their voices and providing a space for dialogue, we aim to foster greater awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by youth involved in the legal system. Furthermore, by engaging with our consultants who have successfully transitioned from incarceration to advocacy, we hope to inspire participants to envision a positive future for themselves beyond the confines of the justice system. This program will not only provide valuable support and mentorship but also cultivate a sense of hope and empowerment among incarcerated youth, encouraging them to become agents of change in their own lives and communities.</p>
TX	<p>Finish the 5: Youth Leadership Training</p>	<p>The goal of the Finish The 5: Youth Leadership Training is to empower young people, particularly those impacted by the</p>

		criminal justice system, to become involved in juvenile justice advocacy, specifically through the Finish The 5 campaign. We aim to develop participants' leadership and political organizing skills. This Youth Leadership Training will prepare young people to take action in the 2025 Texas legislative session through comprehensive training in legislative advocacy, direct action organizing, digital advocacy, political education, and juvenile justice issues, including education on the JJDPa and state-wide and nation-wide efforts towards juvenile justice reform.
TX	Voices Unchained: Artistry Behind Bars	To let people know that we won't let our past, dictate our future. (from our youth leaders) Our goal is to provide a platform from which our youth can have opportunities to share their stories, talents, and abilities and to hear from men who have been impacted by the system but are experiencing success after incarceration. We want to provide a training component as well, to allow them to run all aspects of the event.
VA	Opportunities for Justice Involved Youth are Created	The goal of our activity is to elevate the art of youth with lived experience, and to educate and create awareness in the JMU and Harrisonburg City Community about youth justice issues.
VA	Cultural Diversity Training: Bridging the Gap	The main objective of this project is to provide educational resources to young people and families about the rich history of their community, as well as how various systems and structures within the community can significantly influence the lives of the youth and families. Additionally, the project aims to implement initiatives for preventing delinquency and diverting at-risk individuals from engaging in criminal activities. By promoting awareness and understanding of the community's history and social dynamics, the project seeks to empower youth and families to make informed decisions and positively contribute to the well-being of their community.
VI	Imani Mentoring Immersion Week Launch	The Imani mentoring program empowers young women, especially mothers or those involved in justice, to overcome systemic barriers, achieve economic independence, and actively participate in community leadership and advocacy. Our one-year program meets the needs of young people who grow up in communities with compounded, negative social determinants of health and those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences. Our intervention is designed to change the trajectory of these youth. Imani Mentoring Program:
VT	Vermont Youth Justice Conference	Partner with Vermont's young people to self-advocate, self-actualize, and envision a new juvenile justice system in Vermont that supports youth, especially those with marginalized identities.

WA	Culture is Prevention Pow Wow	The goal is to raise traditional, cultural and beliefs awareness to prevent delinquency
WA	Empowering Youth Justice Outreach	The Empowering Youth Justice Outreach (EYJO) project has three aims: 1. Recruit and empower a diverse group of three to four youth (ages 15-18) who are passionate about issues surrounding youth exposure to the justice system to develop a media campaign to raise awareness about the lived experiences of youth exposed to the legal system. 2. Provide mentorship, leadership training, resources, and support from the University of Washington's Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center (HIPRC) and the Health Equity Action Lab (HEAL) for the youth to design an effective media campaign raising awareness about the critical issues and needs of youth exposed to the legal system. 3. Facilitate the creation of a youth-led media campaign, which may include a Tik Tok series, YouTube videos/shorts, Photovoice, or a Podcast, to educate the public and promote advocacy efforts surrounding the lived experiences of youth exposed to the legal system.
WA	Pursuit for Change Event	Each year, Green Hill School (GHS), a juvenile rehabilitation facility for young men from ages 18-24 in WA state, hosts an event called Pursuit for Change where community members and lawmakers are invited to hear youth share powerful stories of troubled pasts overcome by their will to transform their lives. This event has previously been inaccessible by girls* and young women who reside at a facility many hours away from GHS. We are changing that! This year, the female unit at Echo Glen Children's Center (EG) will host their very own Pursuit for Change event in an effort to amplify the forgotten voices and experiences of girls* in the juvenile justice system and spread awareness about institutional reforms. With full support from the youth at GHS, the young women who reside at EG are excited to address community members, legislators, government officials, and staff members in their own community. Using a panel format, youth will highlight the difficulty of navigating a system that perpetually induces harm, and showcase their ability to overcome barriers and find success in their academics, social life, and recovery from substance dependencies. In addition to the panel, they will share the advocacy work they have been engaging in to reform the juvenile justice system. This year, the girls* chose to advocate for a bill that would provide an opportunity for youthful offenders to seek review before they are transferred to adult prisons at the age of 25. This bill is backed with evidence-based research that emphasizes a young person's brain is not fully developed until around that age and that youth should have an opportunity to show their rehabilitation

		before being transferred to the adult system for 'dehabilitation'. Ultimately, this event will be incredibly empowering for the young women who have previously been left out of this important opportunity to address decision-makers.
WI	Youth Justice Community Fair and Panel Discussion	By combining elements of education, community engagement, personal storytelling, and advocacy, this event can serve as a platform for raising awareness, fostering dialogue, and inspiring action to improve youth justice outcomes.
WI	Wisconsin with Youth Lived Experience Panels	The goal of our project is to provide community members who work with and serve youth in the justice program a chance to hear from youth with lived experience who can help shape the justice program moving forward.
WV	Rise and Thrive: A Celebration of Resilience for Justice-Impacted Youth	Our goal is to foster dialogue, inspire action, and advocate for a more equitable and just society for all youth through a community art show.