Locked Up Too Long

Justice-Impacted Young People Who Can’t Go Home

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Central Intake: The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services uses a statewide Centralized Intake (CI) system to receive complaints of abuse and neglect through a well-publicized hotline. Intake staff receive complaints 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and evaluate and act upon them as required.

Children’s Protective Services (CPS)
Established “to ensure that children are protected from further physical or emotional harm caused by a parent or other adult responsible for the child’s health and welfare and that families are helped, when possible, to function responsibly and independently in providing care for the children for whom they are responsible.” All children up to eighteen years old are eligible for CPS services.

Child Welfare System: Engages and partners with families to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children by providing a continuum of services to preserve families whenever possible, or a permanent home for children when remaining with their family is not possible, including adoption services, foster care, and independent living.

Detention: Detention is a secure, temporary placement. Young people may be placed in detention if they have been determined to be a risk to the public or at risk of not showing for their trial. Young people may also be placed in detention due to violation of the terms of their probation, even if their original offense was a low-level or status offense. Finally, they may be in detention awaiting placement in a residential facility for treatment. This court-ordered removal from the custody of a parent/caregiver requires that a young person be placed in the least restrictive environment that meets the needs of the young person and the public.

Fictive Kin: Fictive kin includes any individual who is not related by birth, adoption, or marriage to a child, but who has an emotionally significant relationship with the child.
Foster Care: Provides placement and supervision of children who have been abused and/or neglected and cannot remain in their family home because they would be at risk of further harm. The foster care worker will try to locate a willing relative, or unrelated adult caregiver who has a bond with the child, or a foster parent, for placement in that person’s home. Emergency foster homes and shelters, although limited, exist to take children when the need is urgent.

While a child is in out-of-home placement, both the family and child participate in services to facilitate family reunification. If reunification is not possible, an adoptive family is sought to provide a stable and caring permanent home, often a relative or the family who provided a foster home for the child.

Recidivism: Another adjudication or conviction for a felony offense within the two-year measurement period. Recidivism is measured for adjudicated juveniles that received treatment in a residential facility. Young people are tracked for two consecutive years after official case termination by the court.

Residential Treatment Facilities: Specialized facilities contract with the state and counties to provide longer-term secure or nonsecure rehabilitative treatment for youth in the juvenile justice system. A young person is placed into a facility either because the court determines they present a safety risk, or have mental or behavioral health needs that can benefit from residential treatment. Services include individualized treatment, family outreach and involvement in treatment planning, recreational, educational and health services.

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE): SOGIE is an acronym that stands for sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. The term ‘LGBTQ’ is specific to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people, but SOGIE refers to characteristics common to all human beings because everyone has a sexual orientation and a gender identity. Due to its inclusivity, “diverse SOGIE” is often used to describe the LGBTQ community. Throughout this report, young persons that identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, gender nonconforming, two-spirit and/or intersex will be referred to as “young people with diverse SOGIE.”
**Status Offense:** A noncriminal act that is considered a law violation only because of a young person’s status as a minor. Typical status offenses include truancy, running away from home, violating curfew, underage use of alcohol, and general ungovernability (called “incorrigibility” in Michigan).

**Young People Who Cannot Return Home:** For this report: those who are unable to reside with their family of origin or previous caregiver after leaving a juvenile facility (detention or residential placement).
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wayne County young people in detention or residential placements who are unable to return home remain locked up for too long. Care Management Organizations (CMOs) report serious challenges to finding stable living situations for young persons who cannot return home, and this limitation of service availability increases if they identify as LGBTQ+.

The Michigan Center for Youth Justice (MCYJ) embarked upon a project in 2017, in partnership with the Ruth Ellis Center and supported by the McGregor Fund, to “Advance Justice for Youth with Diverse SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression) in Wayne County”. This project led to the discovery that there are no foster care placements for justice-involved young people with diverse SOGIE and very few available foster care placements or semi-independent living options for any justice-involved young people in Wayne County. Realizing this was a systemic problem about which little was known, MCYJ initiated a series of interviews and data collection to discover and report on its scope.

This report was developed as a result, to raise awareness about young people remaining in juvenile facilities simply because they are unable to return home, and to provide recommendations that will a) increase prevention strategies, b) expand access to services, c) improve reentry planning, and d) improve data collection and sharing, so that confined youth and emerging adults can be released as scheduled.
Findings:

MCYJ found that a lack of service coordination and accessibility among the child welfare, mental health and juvenile justice systems has created duplication of services and additional expenses. Despite this, significant gaps and barriers remain which can result in delayed releases from facilities.

1. The CMOs and Assured Family Services estimated that approximately 3–5% of the young people they served in fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021) were impacted by a delayed release, while court professionals estimated between 10–20% of their cases. These estimates, and 84 identified cases, point to a systemic challenge that harms young people, unnecessarily keeps detention and residential facility beds filled, and wastes taxpayer dollars.

2. Many young people involved with the juvenile court have a history of serious trauma, including physical abuse, exposure to domestic violence, drug activity, multiple separations from caregivers, and numerous deaths, including the death of a parent and witnessing a murder. In fact, 60% of young women and 50% of young men in the Michigan juvenile justice system were previously involved with Children’s Protective Services (CPS). Delays in releasing a young person from a facility can contribute to or compound existing trauma, result in acting-out behaviors, and distrust of the judicial system.

3. There are a variety of reasons why parents/caregivers cannot or will not take their child home, including safety concerns for the child or others in the household, their own personal distress or housing instability, or their disapproval if their child identifies as having a diverse SOGIE. However, no matter the reason, when this occurs, the CMO case manager and the court have to figure out a safe placement from a limited number of available options.

4. There are significant disparities between the services and resources available to youth in the child welfare system and youth in the juvenile justice system, even though a majority of youth in the juvenile justice system have also experienced neglect or abuse. As a result, Wayne County and the CMOs have had to create and pay for many parallel services in an attempt to meet the needs of the young people in their care.

5. Despite duplication of both services and administrative costs, critical gaps and barriers remain. These include:

   a. Case managers reported spending many hours scouring case files for names and locations of relatives who may be willing to accept a child into their home with no compensation.
b. There are no transitional living homes available for justice-involved young people in Wayne County (the last remaining placement closed in September 2021).

c. It is very difficult to recruit foster parents willing to take young people who have been justice-system involved, particularly those who have diverse SOGIE or have been adjudicated for more serious charges.

d. All placements in independent and semi-independent living have been significantly scaled back, some have closed, and others have reduced their willingness to accept those who are justice-involved.

e. A young person who is 18 or older can lose eligibility for services that are available to younger people and their families. As “adults”, they may have to figure out a living situation on their own. A lack of affordable housing resources and independent living supports for all emerging adults leads to additional hardship for those who are also justice-involved.

6. There is not a unified and effective response among the courts, CMOs and facilities to ensure that young people are released when scheduled.

a. The juvenile justice and child welfare systems do not routinely share data and use different information systems. As a result, providers either do not, or cannot, quickly coordinate critical services for young persons.

b. The courts reported that sometimes there was a last minute refusal by a parent/caregiver because they weren’t ready for their child to return, or a formerly willing parent/caregiver changed their mind, often causing delays in release while the case manager searched for a suitable living arrangement.

c. Sometimes case managers and residential placement staff didn’t detect and report on red flags throughout the child’s stay in residential placement when alternative placements could have been secured before release.
Recommendations:

Preventing delays in release from confinement must center around collaborative efforts and innovative solutions from all systems involved with young people, including family service providers, mental health providers, homelessness/shelter providers as well as the courts and CMOs. Addressing family instability and parenting needs, poverty, substance abuse, criminalization of survival behaviors, and a lack of available affordable housing are big ticket items often at the root of why a young person cannot return home. But smaller changes can also help prevent prolonged confinement for justice-involved young people.

MCYJ asked professionals and directly impacted people to recommend common-sense solutions to the challenges they identified. The following recommendations incorporate those ideas with best practices:

1 | Improve Family Resiliency

Efforts to improve the relationship between a parent/caregiver and their justice-involved child can prevent or treat many of the underlying issues that lead to an unwillingness to take a child back home.

1.1 **Expand the Family Acceptance Project (FAP)**, an evidence-informed family support model that helps families learn to support their LGBTQ children.

1.2 **Provide respite care** for families that are willing to house their child but are not yet ready to have them back home. Respite care can also reduce the chances a young person will get kicked out or run away from home.

1.3 **Implement Family Functional Therapy**, an intensive, short-term therapeutic model that improves family relationships and has been found to reduce arrest rates, recidivism, and sibling involvement in delinquency.

1.4 **Implement Multisystemic Therapy (MST)**, an intensive family and community-based treatment for young people with serious offenses and possible substance abuse issues. Three-year outcome measures showed improvements in family cohesion and reductions in youth arrest, incarceration, and institutionalization.
2 | Utilize Existing Child Welfare Services

Because of the disparities in available resources between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, young people with open cases in both systems should be able to continue to benefit from child welfare services.

2.1 Keep an existing child welfare case open when appropriate while opening a juvenile justice case and make the young person a dual ward of the court.

2.2 Serve young people with status offenses and open child welfare cases in the child welfare system and close the juvenile justice case, allowing the court to maintain jurisdiction over the entire family.

3 | Expand Access to Resources and Benefits

The juvenile courts do not have access to the same resources available to young people in the child welfare system, many of whom have similar family situations and need for support in their transition to adulthood.

3.1 Ensure the same access to resources so young people supervised by the juvenile court have access to the same critical resources as those supervised in the child welfare system.

3.2 Engage in “Family Finding,” a structured process for locating and connecting extended family members.

3.3 Incentivize extended family members and fictive kin by compensating them for accepting a young person into their home when that child is unable to live with their parents/caregivers.

3.4 Incentivize more adults to become foster care parents by increasing the daily rate to $100 for foster care parents—which is still a significant cost savings from the current daily rate of $300 for youth in residential placements.

3.5 Expand Enhanced Treatment Foster Care programs that assign teams of clinicians, behavioral specialists, and clinical supervisors to provide wraparound, trauma-informed care and work closely with foster families caring for high-need youth, for up to six months.

3.6 Investigate the Professional Parent Model which pays caregivers a living wage to provide full-time care for a justice-impacted young person with multiple and intensive intervention needs.

3.7 Develop and license more placement options for foster homes, semi-independent living placements for older youth, and independent living placements for emerging adults (18 years and older).
4 | Improve Comprehensive Reentry Planning and Parental Support

Discharge planning for young persons coming out of detention or residential treatment should begin 60 to 90 days ahead of their release date. However, even when this occurs, some young people will still face barriers upon release.

4.1 Engage parents or guardians in reentry planning commencing at the start of confinement to ensure a young person will be picked up and taken home on their assigned discharge date.

4.2 Create a dedicated reentry process so every young person exiting detention or residential placements has an individual reentry plan with access to the services necessary to support a successful release.

4.3 Eliminate the suspension of Medicaid when a young person is in a residential facility to ensure continuity of care upon release.

4.4 Ensure that established guidelines and timelines are followed for discharge and reentry planning. All relevant parties should have a clear understanding and be supported in fulfilling their responsibilities.

4.5 Establish emergency temporary housing options for youth with nowhere to go upon their release date, allowing them to be released on schedule.

5 | Improve Data Collection and Sharing

5.1 Modify the information system currently in use by Wayne County (JAIS) to identify, collect and report: a) young people with unstable housing, b) whether this issue impacted their return from detention or a residential placement, c) how many additional days they may have remained in placement while housing was sorted out, and d) whether that impacted their completion of probation.

5.2 Create reports that identify all court-involved young people experiencing housing instability and homelessness to provide a “picture” of these young people and help the CMOs create targeted interventions to respond to the problem.

5.3 Develop data sharing agreements between Wayne County’s juvenile court and child welfare data systems to access current or prior information on child welfare system involvement outside of Wayne County. In the long term, develop systems and policies that allow data sharing among juvenile justice and child welfare databases to determine system involvement on a state-wide basis.
INTRODUCTION

This report was developed to raise awareness about young people remaining in juvenile facilities simply because they are unable to return home and to provide recommendations that will a) increase prevention strategies, b) expand access to services, c) improve reentry planning, and d) improve data collection and sharing, so that confined youth and emerging adults can be released as scheduled.

The Michigan Center for Youth Justice (MCYJ), in partnership with the Ruth Ellis Center and supported by the McGregor Fund, embarked on a project in 2017 to create an affirming juvenile justice system in Wayne County. The project goals were to advance justice for young people with diverse SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression) in Wayne County by appropriately addressing their unique needs, expanding specialized foster care and supportive housing, reducing residential facility placements, and preventing harm while in residential settings.
Wayne County's Unique Juvenile Justice System

Wayne County, and the City of Detroit in particular, has the largest population of justice-involved young people in the state. Wayne County’s juvenile justice system was realigned over twenty years ago to provide responsive services in the least restrictive environment possible, while holding young people accountable and preventing further wrongdoing. Supervision of justice-involved young people was moved from the juvenile court to community-based non-profit organizations, called Care Management Organizations (CMOs), one for each of the five geographic regions of the county. The Assured Family Services (AFS) Juvenile Assessment Center was created as a single point of entry for screenings and assessments that facilitate the development of individualized treatment plans.

In 2020, the Third Judicial Circuit Court in Wayne County conducted 2,438 proceedings under the juvenile code and issued dispositions on 1,492 young people. The Juvenile Services Division of the Wayne County Department of Health, Human and Veterans Services, through the Care Management Organizations, served about 1,677 young people, the largest case load in the state.

Wayne County’s nationally recognized juvenile justice model provides flexible, cost-effective, innovative, culturally competent, developmentally-appropriate services, designed to provide young people with prosocial development and effective interventions. It is grounded in robust community-based treatment, resulting in the vast majority of young people under the court’s jurisdiction completing their term of probation in the community. It also saved millions of dollars for Wayne County taxpayers. Two examples are the declining number of Wayne County young people in state-run secure juvenile facilities—from 731 in 1998 to 43 in 2021, and the reductions in youth recidivism from an average of 38–56% in 2000 to 6%–12% by 2021. However, despite the success in reducing incarceration in secure state-run facilities, there are still hundreds of young people placed in the Wayne County detention center and/or in private residential facilities each year.

During the pandemic, most of Michigan’s juvenile detention centers released as many young people back to their homes and community as possible, pursuant to the Governor’s recommendation to limit placement in detention or residential facilities to only those who present a substantial and immediate safety risk to others. As a result, the population of the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) in Wayne County was significantly reduced during the first year of the pandemic, exposing a long-standing problem of how to discharge young persons who could not return home.
**Young People with Diverse SOGIE**

Young people with diverse SOGIE are more likely to be arrested for status offenses than their straight peers and are subjected to biased treatment and unsafe conditions at all stages of the juvenile justice process. Many young people choose to hide or mask their identities for fear of bullying, discrimination and harsh treatment, making collecting data on this population challenging. These same young people may be unable to return home from placement due to parental rejection of their identity.

Young people with diverse SOGIE who are justice-involved and cannot live at home are better served in specialized foster care placements/supportive housing specifically geared toward meeting their unique needs, rather than in detention or a residential treatment facility. Therefore, a critical component of the MCYJ project was to create a comprehensive list of specialized foster care placements that would accept justice-involved young persons with diverse SOGIE, especially those who identify as trans or gender non-conforming.

Through introductory conversations with juvenile justice and child welfare system partners, MCYJ quickly discovered that there were no specific foster care placements for justice-involved young people with diverse SOGIE and very few available foster care placements or semi-independent living options for any justice-involved young person. As a result, young people who are unable to go home remain in detention or residential placements longer than their court order and treatment plan requires solely because they have nowhere to live upon release.

MCYJ realized this was a systemic problem about which little was known, and initiated a series of interviews and data collection to discover and report on its scope. MCYJ spoke with those who are closest to the problem—impacted young people, juvenile court personnel, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) staff, Care Management Organization (CMO) staff and more—to better understand their experiences and perspectives, and to request their assistance in developing viable solutions.
The Michigan Center for Youth Justice gathered data from four of the five Wayne County Care Management Organizations (CMOs). This information included age, race, sex, entry offense, living arrangement at intake, total length of stay in out-of-home care, and a brief narrative about their particular barriers to returning home.

MCYJ also conducted eleven focus groups or individual interviews with various stakeholders, including staff from CMOs, child placing agencies, the juvenile court, and related government agencies. Additionally, three young persons directly impacted by housing instability were interviewed to share their experiences and recommendations. The focus groups and interviews gathered information to determine:

1. What factors contributed to a young person’s inability to return home with their family/caregiver;
2. What barriers did courts experience when trying to find foster care placements or other housing options for confined young people who could not return home;
3. What impacts did this have for the courts;
4. What impacts did this have for impacted young people;
5. What can courts do to expedite a scheduled release when a young person cannot return home;
6. What are potential solutions for increasing foster care placements and other housing options for justice-involved young people overall; and,
7. What are potential benefits and solutions for increased data sharing and collaboration between child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

All of the information gathered is included without attribution in order to protect confidentiality.
Data Problems/Limitations

Comprehensive data for young people experiencing extended stays in detention or residential placements proved difficult to obtain. The information was not readily available from Wayne County’s juvenile justice database. However, four of the five Care Management Organizations were able to compile a list of 84 recent cases in which young people experienced delayed release from a facility due to an inability to return home for a variety of reasons. We don’t know the exact number of additional days the young people remained in a facility, because a delayed return isn’t captured and counted separately.

It was equally difficult to ascertain the number of young people with diverse SOGIE in the Wayne County juvenile justice system. Nationally, LGBTQ+ young people are estimated at about 5–7% of the total youth population, but they are overrepresented in the justice system, making up between 13–15% of all justice-involved young people.13 Of the 84 justice-involved young people who could not be returned home from a facility in Wayne County between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2021, thirteen young people (approximately 15%) self-reported having diverse SOGIE. The actual number may be higher.

A final challenge was determining how many young people experienced both maltreatment at home and engaged in delinquent behaviors. Assured Family Services can check court records for child welfare cases to determine if a young person and family have a current or past child welfare case, but it must be done manually and only covers cases in Wayne County. The available data also do not include a) children and families who had an open child welfare case in another county, b) those who received services as a result of a Children’s Protective Services (CPS) investigation, but did not become formally involved with the court, and c) those who did not get referred to services after a CPS complaint.
1 | Young People Are Being Locked Up Too Long

Wayne County young people in secure detention and residential facilities are remaining past their scheduled release date when their families or caregivers cannot, or will not, take them back home—even those who entered the juvenile justice system with a status offense. Care Management Organizations report serious challenges to finding stable living situations for young persons who cannot return home, and this limitation of service availability increases if they identify as LGBTQ.

CMOs reported that 19% of the 84 young people housed in detention and residential facilities who could not be released as scheduled had an entry status offense of truancy or incorrigibility.14

The CMOs and Assured Family Services estimated that approximately 3–5% of the young people they served in fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021) were impacted by delayed release, while court professionals estimated
between 10–20% of their cases. These estimates, and the 84 identified cases, point to a systemic challenge that is harmful to young people, unnecessarily keeps facility beds filled, and wastes taxpayer dollars. More data is needed to identify the full scope of the problem.

2 | Confinement Exacerbates Existing Trauma

Once a young person enters the justice system, the system focus becomes “what did you do?” rather than “what happened to you?” 16— but “what happened to you” is fundamentally relevant to the juvenile justice case, and to the young person.

Most young people in the Wayne County justice system have experienced multiple traumas; this is especially true for young people with diverse SOGIE. 17 Sixty percent of females and 50% of males in the Michigan juvenile justice system were previously involved with Children’s Protective Services (CPS). 18 Most CPS investigations statewide involve child neglect, and the majority of children investigated are under four years old. 19 This indicates that justice-involved young people may have been exposed to violence, abuse, or neglect at a very early age.

The 2017 Wayne County Juvenile Justice Annual Report, “Adjudicated Juveniles with Previous Trauma Experience”, found that 20% of the young people enrolled in the Probation Level II program (an intensive probation program with more frequent monitoring) reported being physically abused, 28% had been exposed to domestic violence, 65% to drug activity, 33% to multiple separations from caregivers and 57% to numerous deaths, including the death of a parent and witnessing a murder. These young people have been subjected to numerous adverse events and many experience profound grief and loss, which they are struggling to cope with effectively.

Continuous exposure to trauma has an impact on the development of children’s brains and can result in an increased use of health and mental health services and involvement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. 21 Any delay in releasing a young person from a facility can contribute to or compound their existing trauma, result in acting-out behaviors, and/or engender a distrust of the judicial system. 22

Alexandra 15 is 15 years old and entered the juvenile justice system on a domestic violence charge. Her mother would not accept her back into the home because of her serious mental health issues. There are no other family members or fictive kin willing to provide care for her at this time. As of 10/1/21, she had been in detention for 198 days. The average length of stay in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility as of June 2022 was 38 days for girls.
“Youth who face housing insecurity are particularly vulnerable to a number of adverse outcomes, including sexual exploitation, escalation of untreated mental health and physical health disorders and physical victimization, food insecurity, and harmful disruption in educational participation. These youth are more likely to interact with police and less likely to obtain a high school diploma.” 23

3 | Same Kids, Different Doors

Previous involvement in the child welfare system often serves as an entry point into the juvenile justice system. A young person arrested while already in the child welfare system can legally remain in this system as a dual ward; however, the court is also allowed to dismiss the child welfare case when opening a juvenile justice case, which can happen if judges deem it is more efficient to serve the young person through the juvenile justice system.24 This can be problematic because child welfare services center on family stability and family reunification and the court retains jurisdiction over the entire family in the child welfare system, rather than primarily over the young person, as in the juvenile justice system.

In 2021, only six young people in Wayne County were formally adjudicated as “dual-wards”, with formal court involvement in both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system simultaneously.25 This number seems surprisingly low, given that over half of the young people in Michigan’s juvenile courts had previously documented involvement with CPS. In reality, there are likely many more dual wards and crossover youth (young persons who leave the child welfare system only to enter the juvenile justice system, or vice versa) than are recorded. These young people often have long-term involvement with the child welfare system with multiple placements during their time in care.

Kenay20 entered the juvenile justice system in Wayne County at age 15 due to a domestic violence charge for fighting with her aunt. She was living with her aunt and uncle, who served as her legal guardians, because she was unable to live with her parents. Her mother struggled with substance abuse and could not provide a stable or safe place for her to live. Her father was in prison. While she was in placement, Kenay’s aunt and uncle rescinded their guardianship of her. Kenay spent additional time in a residential placement until a new home was found for her. After searching and talking with relatives, her case manager located another of Kenay’s aunts, who agreed to take her in.
Young people can be in child welfare and juvenile justice systems, or cross-over from one to the other

Young person experienced abuse/neglect and has an open child welfare case → Young person is arrested → Young person enters the juvenile justice system and may become dual ward if both systems continue legal supervision; a rare occurrence in Wayne County

Young person experienced abuse/neglect and has an open child welfare case → Child welfare case is closed → Young person is subsequently arrested → Young person enters and is supervised in the juvenile justice system

Young person experienced abuse/neglect, undetected by the child welfare system → Juvenile justice system uncovers maltreatment → Young person is referred to the child welfare system, which may or may not open a case. If a child welfare case is opened and the juvenile justice case remains open, the young person becomes a dual ward

Young person is arrested and placed in a detention or residential facility → Young person is released from the facility but family abandons them (i.e. refuses to pick them up, picks them up but tells them they cannot come home, sends someone else to pick them up) → Young person is referred to the child welfare system which may or may not investigate and open a case

4 | Disparities in Services

Young people in the child welfare system can access a plethora of resources to help them grow up in a more stable environment and provide support for the transition from a teenager in the foster care system to an adult in the community. A review of service offerings available in the child welfare system found that approximately half of these services were not available to justice-involved youth. This includes critical services such as family preservation and
reunification services, young adult voluntary foster care, and education and training voucher programs. As a result, Wayne County and CMOs have had to create, and pay for, a parallel continuum of care in an attempt to meet the needs of the young people in their care, creating duplication of both services and administrative costs. For a comprehensive list and eligibility of services please see the appendix on pages 37-39.

This lack of services is especially problematic for young people who are ready to be released from confinement but are unable to return home. There are no specific foster care placements for justice-involved young people with diverse SOGIE and very few available foster care placements or semi-independent living options for any justice-involved young person.

Lack of service coordination and accessibility among the child welfare, mental health and juvenile justice systems creates service gaps, duplication of services and additional expense for taxpayers.

5 | Why Some Children Cannot Return Home

There are numerous reasons why a young person may be unable to return home, as reported to MCYJ by the many professionals interviewed for this report. Those reasons typically fell into five broad categories.

a) Safety Concerns for the Child

Some parents/caregivers were concerned for the safety of their child, for example, where there has been a history or threat of human trafficking or gang involvement. Without other housing resources and limited financial means, some parents/caregivers believed that refusing to allow their child to return home was the best option available.

In some cases, children felt unsafe returning home due to domestic violence in their home, a threatening intimate partner of their parent/caregiver who didn’t want the child around, a chaotic environment, substance abuse or drug trafficking in the house, or feeling neglected, rejected or unprotected by their parent/caregiver. When a child doesn’t want to go home, this can raise red flags for the jurist and CMO and trigger looking more deeply into the conditions there.

“When we look through the lens of abandonment, we can be too judgmental about parents not providing for youth, when that’s not (always) the case.” - Youth Justice Professional
b) Safety Concerns for Others

Some parents/caregivers felt unsafe or threatened by their child’s behavior or were concerned for their younger children. The parent/caregiver or other family member may have been the victim of domestic violence or assault by the child. If the child was adjudicated on a sex offense, the parent/caregiver cannot legally allow them to return home if the victim also lives there.

c) Parental Distress

Many of the households with justice-involved children were single-parent families under enormous stress. Some parents/caregivers had multiple children under their care, and struggled with poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, lack of transportation, low wage employment, food insecurity and/or other stressors associated with being impoverished. Some did not have adequate parenting skills and resources to manage their child’s behavior. A child’s scheduled release may not have coincided with the parent/caregiver’s readiness to take them back home.

Some parents/caregivers expressed that while their child was in out-of-home placement, they had a reprieve. Others asked to charge their child with domestic violence in an attempt to prevent or delay their returning home. Those parents/caregivers felt overwhelmed and had nowhere to turn for support or assistance in parenting their child/children. Instead, they asked the court to “fix” their justice-involved child or take supervision over the child. The professionals MCYJ interviewed reported that this has increased over the past few years.

d) Parental Housing Instability

Some families struggling with income insufficiency didn’t have a suitable living situation to which their child could return. These families were living in a car, temporary shelter, abandoned building, or with various relatives for short periods of time, moving from one place to the next, or in other unsuitable and unstable living environments. Many homeless shelters will not allow a child with a juvenile justice history to reside in their shelter, thus denying access for the entire family.

**Cory** is a developmentally-disabled young man with a serious emotional disability. When he was ready for release, having accomplished his treatment goals and complied with his court order, there was nowhere for 18-year-old Cory to go. His mother refused to allow him back in the home due to his past domestic violence and aggressive behavior. Cory was transported to a homeless shelter upon his release.

**Anthony** is now 20 years old and originally entered the juvenile justice system on a truancy charge. As of 10/1/21, he had been in out-of-home placement for 905 days. Because his mother had mental health and substance abuse issues, he was going to live with his sister upon release from treatment but went absent without official leave (AWOL) while on a home pass.
e) Disapproval of the Child’s Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Expression (SOGIE)

Some parents who disapproved of their child’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity refused to allow them to return home due to fear or ignorance. For young people who expressed diverse SOGIE before entering or while in the justice system, residential placements in the system were difficult to find, and release back home was sometimes particularly challenging. Evidence-based resources, such as family treatment with SOGIE children, are not readily available to justice-involved young people.

6 | What Happens When a Child Cannot Return Home

The responses to a young person’s inability to return home following confinement vary depending upon the type of facility.

a) Release from Detention

Detention is intended to be used for a brief duration. When a parent/caregiver refuses to pick up their child from detention, a case manager, judge, or detention center staff member can file a Children’s Protective Service (CPS) “Report of Suspected Abuse and Neglect”. If Central Intake determines the complaint meets criteria for investigation, CPS gathers the information available and conducts an investigation to determine whether or not to substantiate abuse or neglect.
Complaints of youth remaining in a detention or a residential facility because the parent refuses to allow them to return home may be rejected by CPS for many reasons, including the age of the young person, their juvenile justice involvement, the nature of the parent’s refusal to accept the young person back home (which may not indicate neglect or maltreatment), or the belief that the justice system should resolve this issue.

If the juvenile court establishes personal jurisdiction over a juvenile, in certain circumstances they can hold the parent/caregiver in contempt of court for refusing to pick up their child from detention. This seems to be rarely used.

b) Release from Residential Facilities

Release from residential placement is, in theory, more straightforward than release from detention. Everyone involved—the child, their family, facility staff, and case manager—should be working together to plan for a successful transition back home, ideally beginning 60 to 90 days prior to the release date.

Throughout a child’s stay, it is expected that the family will be involved in regular meetings and/or therapy with their child. Parental/caregiver involvement is a critical factor in a child’s ability to successfully return home and reintegrate into their community. As a child approaches their discharge date, home passes and overnight or weekend visits are often allowed to facilitate the transition home. The CMO case manager should be actively involved in discharge planning as well, and paying attention to how involved the family is with their child.

The courts reported that sometimes there was a last minute refusal by a parent/caregiver because they weren’t ready for their child to return, or a formerly willing parent/caregiver changed their mind. The inability to return a child to their home typically caused delays in release while the case manager searched for a suitable living arrangement.

However, sometimes case managers and residential placement staff didn’t detect and report on red flags throughout the child’s stay in residential placement—such as the parent/caregiver’s lack of involvement in the young person’s treatment plan, absence from family meetings, or a stated disinterest in accepting their child upon release—when alternative placements could have been secured before release.
CMOs working with children and emerging adults who were unable to return home for whatever reason found a critical lack of other options.

a) **No Compensation for Relatives**

Sometimes relatives are available to take a child; however, they receive no compensation to provide for the child’s care, unlike licensed foster care families. Case managers reported spending many hours scouring case files for names and locations of relatives who may be willing to accept a child into their home with no compensation.

b) **No Transitional Living Homes**

There are no transitional living homes available for justice-involved young people in Wayne County; the remaining placement closed in September 2021. In addition, shelter care is extremely difficult to locate and open beds are rarely available for emerging adults once they have entered the justice system.

c) **Lack of Willing Foster Parents**

It has been very difficult to recruit foster parents willing to take young people who have been justice-system involved, particularly those who have diverse SOGIE or have been adjudicated for more serious charges. In addition, the foster care stipend of $17.24/day is not adequate to provide for the care of a young person, particularly those who need additional services and time commitment.

The agency with which the County contracted to provide foster home placements ceased taking justice-involved young people in 2017. Wayne County is licensed to recruit and open foster home placements for justice-involved young people. This same license allows the county to develop independent living placements and foster care group homes. The challenge of finding foster parents interested in taking justice-involved young people caused the County to idle this project.

d) **Lack of Independent/Semi-Independent Living Programs**

*Jordan*[^33] is 16 years old and entered the juvenile justice system on a truancy charge. As of 10/1/21, she was in a non-secure residential facility and had been in out-of-home placement for 1,282 days. She was planning to de-escalate to her grandmother’s home, but due to recent behavioral changes, her grandmother is no longer willing to take her in. A permanency plan for Jordan’s living situation is “to be determined.”

*Daniel*[^34] is 16 years old and entered the juvenile justice system for “incorrigibility”. As of 10/1/21, he was in a non-secure residential facility and had been in out-of-home placement for 454 days. His adoptive parents were unwilling for him to return home. His sister wanted to care for him, but she did not have the finances to provide stable housing.

[^33]: Jordan
[^34]: Daniel
MDHHS’ focus is on returning children home or finding them a permanent family. As a result, all placements in independent and semi-independent living have been significantly scaled back, impacting both child welfare and justice-involved young people who need alternative living arrangements. Some semi-independent living and independent living programs for young people have closed. Others have reduced their willingness to accept those who are justice-involved and new programs have not yet been developed.

e) Special Challenges for Emerging Adults

While parental/caregiver reluctance to accept the return of a child impacts young persons of any age, it is particularly acute for 18 to 24 years old who are considered “emerging adults”, but without the skills or financial resources to become fully independent. Although legally an adult at age 18, these young people are much more similar to adolescents in their brain development. Emerging adults may remain in the juvenile justice system up to age 21 if the crime for which they

John was involved in the juvenile justice system for seven years, which started at age 12 after he got into a fight with his brother. In John’s experience, it “took forever” to obtain housing. In three separate incidents, he spent an additional 8 months, 3 months, and 12 months in placements because his mother would not accept him home and case managers could not find a semi-independent living option.
were adjudicated is a serious felony.36

Once someone turns 18, it is even more difficult to intervene with parents/legal guardians to provide assistance aimed at improving the same family dynamics that created the circumstances leading to justice involvement in the first place. Many parents/caregivers believe that an 18-year-old is now grown and responsible for themselves, whether or not that is a realistic assessment.

If a young person is 18 or older, they can lose eligibility for services that are available to younger people and their families. As “adults”, they may have to figure out a living situation on their own. A lack of affordable housing resources, adequate community-based out-of-home placements, and importantly, independent living supports for all emerging adults, has created a gap in the service array that leads to additional hardship for those who are also justice-involved.

### 8 | Need for Good Data

AFS’ Juvenile Assessment Center researches the existence of dependency cases (child welfare cases) for each justice-involved young person and family in the court database, but if the child welfare case was outside of Wayne County, if the case has been closed for some time, or if the case was never formally opened (the family may have received prevention services), the court record may not be present in the Third Circuit Court data system. A family may be asked at intake if the young person has ever been in the child welfare system, or if the family has ever been the subject of a CPS complaint. Some families do not provide this information at intake and often the young person may not remember or may not want to disclose this history.

The juvenile justice and child welfare systems do not routinely share data and use different information systems. As a result, providers either do not, or cannot, quickly coordinate critical services for young persons.

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*Brianna* is 18 years old and entered the juvenile justice system on an assault charge. As of 10/1/21, she had been in either juvenile detention or residential treatment programs for 518 days. The CMO cited her long stay as due to difficulties with her age; at 18 years old, many juvenile justice programs would not admit her. Ironically, she also did not meet criteria for adult programs. The average length of stay in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility is 38 days for girls, and between six and twelve months for secure residential facilities for all genders.
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people supervised by the juvenile court in Wayne County who are unable to go home following a period of detention or residential placement remain locked up for too long. There are a variety of reasons why their parents/caregivers cannot or will not take them home. Some, but not all, of those reasons are not the fault of the parents/caregivers. However, no matter who is at fault, when this occurs the CMO case manager and the court have to figure out a safe placement from the limited number of available options. In theory, if the CMO is aware well in advance of the scheduled release date that this young person cannot return home, the case manager can spend the time it may take to find a suitable alternative caregiver. Sometimes this search begins too late in the release planning process—either because a parent/caregiver changed their minds at the last minute or because the CMO and court were unaware that returning home was not a viable option. The resulting scramble may or may not produce a suitable and timely placement for the young person.
Preventing delays in release from confinement must center around collaborative efforts and innovative solutions from all systems involved with young people, including family service providers, mental health providers, homelessness/shelter providers as well as the courts and CMOs. Addressing family instability and parenting needs, poverty, substance abuse, criminalization of survival behaviors, and a lack of available affordable housing are big ticket items often at the root of why a young person cannot return home. But smaller changes can also help prevent prolonged confinement for justice-involved young people.

MCYJ asked the professionals and directly impacted people who were interviewed to recommend common-sense solutions to the challenges they identified. The following recommendations incorporate those ideas with best practices:

1 | Improve Family Resiliency

Efforts to improve the relationship between a parent/caregiver and their justice-involved child can prevent or treat many of the underlying issues that lead to an unwillingness to take a child back home.

a) Expand the Family Acceptance Project (FAP)

The first evidence-informed family support model to help diverse families learn to support their LGBTQ children, this family-oriented model of wellness, prevention, and care “helps ethnically, racially, and religiously diverse families to decrease rejection and increase support to prevent risk and promote their LGBTQ children’s well-being.” The Ruth Ellis Center is currently the only agency that utilizes the FAP model in Wayne County, which could be utilized by the CMOs and other partner agencies.

b) Provide Respite Care

For families/caregivers willing to house their child but not yet ready to have them back home, temporary respite care coupled with wraparound family reintegration services can prepare a family/caregiver to accept their child back into the household. In addition, using respite care to prevent family conflicts from escalating when a child is home and receiving community-based services can reduce the chances a young person will get kicked out or run away from home, both of which have been linked to new charges and potentially confinement.

c) Implement Functional Family Therapy

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is an intensive, short-term therapeutic model that offers in-home family coun-
saling designed specifically to address the referring behaviors (i.e., curfew violations, running away, and truancy) from a relational, family-based perspective, and improve family relationships. A study of FFT interventions found significant reductions in a) arrest rates for at-risk young people at the 6–18 month follow up, b) recidivism rates with referred justice-involved young people, and c) surprisingly, sibling involvement in delinquency. FFT is currently used in Washtenaw County.42

**d) Implement Multisystemic Therapy**

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) is an intensive family and community-based treatment for young people with serious offenses and possible substance abuse issues. The primary goals of MST are to decrease criminal behavior and out-of-home placements.43 MST has produced a series of outcome studies with consistently positive results. These studies involved multicultural populations, a wide range of interventionists, compelling follow-up periods extending up to 3 years, and clinically compelling outcome measures such as improvements in family cohesion and reductions in youth arrest, incarceration, and institutionalization.44

**2 | Utilize Existing Child Welfare Services**

Because of the disparities in available resources between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, young people with open cases in both systems should be able to continue to benefit from child welfare services.

**a) Keep an existing child welfare case open when appropriate**

If a young person with an open child welfare case becomes justice-involved, the courts should keep the child welfare case open when opening a juvenile justice case and make the young person a dual ward of the court. This may be preferable, particularly if family conflict, instability or inability to supervise their child is at the heart of the juvenile justice case. It will also allow a young person and their family to access both child welfare and juvenile justice benefits.
b) Serve young people with status offenses and open child welfare cases in the child welfare system

Courts should close the juvenile justice case and solely serve the young person through the child welfare system, allowing the court to maintain jurisdiction over the entire family.\textsuperscript{46} The majority of young people in Wayne County enter the justice system with low level offenses: 82% of females and 75% of males are initially adjudicated on status offenses or misdemeanors.\textsuperscript{47} Often, these cases reflect problems in the family system and/or mental health needs of the young person. If closing the juvenile justice case is not possible, courts must ensure that young persons with a status offense are never confined, even for violation of probation.

3 | Expand Access to Resources and Benefits

The juvenile courts do not have access to the same resources available to young people in the child welfare system, many of whom have similar family situations and need for support in their transition to adulthood.

a) Ensure the same access to resources

Young people supervised by the juvenile court should have access to the same critical resources as those supervised in the child welfare system.

b) Engage in “Family Finding”

Locating extended family can be a challenge when seeking placement for a young person unable to return home. Family finding, originally created for children in the child welfare system, is a structured process for locating and connecting extended family members.

c) Incentivize extended family members and fictive kin

Give juvenile courts the tools they need to compensate another family member or fictive kin to incentivize their accepting a young person into their home when that child is unable to live with their parents/caregivers.

Darnell\textsuperscript{45} was placed in a residential treatment facility at age 15 after adjudication for the status offense of “incorrigibility” and a recommendation for mental health treatment. He was a likable kid, but due to constant conflict with his mother, he often missed school, didn’t come home at night and hung out “on the streets”. He reported that his mother was abusive to him, didn’t provide for his needs, and was unstable due to poverty and drug addiction. When Darnell was ready to be released, there was nowhere for him to go. His release was delayed while his case manager sought an alternative placement, but in the end, he was returned to his mother. Often these circumstances end badly for a young person, but in his case, Darnell had a child welfare case open as well. When the problems with Darnell’s mother continued upon his return, the court terminated her parental rights and the school principal adopted him.
d) **Incentivize more adults to become foster care parents**

The daily rate for foster care parents should be significantly increased from $17.24 to $100. For reference, foster care parents at Community Reintegration Homes, or step-down residential placements, are paid $100 to $150 per day\(^4\), while the current daily rate for a young person in residential placements is approximately $300.\(^5\)

The Midland County Probate Court recruits and licenses foster parents specifically for juvenile justice placements. The court’s Foster Care Coordinator provides specialized training for the foster families, and is available for support as needed. Families are provided a stipend from $41 to $150 per day depending on the circumstances and difficulty of care.

\(^4\)Caregivers at Community Reintegration Homes receive increased rates for attending specialized training.

\(^5\)The current daily rate for a young person in residential placements is approximately $300,

\(\text{E) Expand Enhanced Treatment Foster Care programs}\)

This program for high-need justice-impacted young people and families utilizes trained foster parents who receive $100 per day. The foster parents are assigned to a team of clinicians, behavioral specialists, and clinical supervisors who provide wraparound, trauma-informed care and work closely with the foster family for up to six months. Enhanced Treatment placements generally allow for only one young person in the home and are Child Care Fund reimbursed, similar to child welfare foster care placements.

Both Kent and Midland County Probate Courts manage successful enhanced foster care programs, and MDHHS is conducting a similar pilot program in southwest Michigan.

\(\text{f) Investigate the Professional Parent Model}\)

The Professional Parent Model pays caregivers a living wage to provide full-time care for a justice-impacted young person with multiple and intensive intervention needs. While not yet evidence-based, this model has been successful in states such as Utah, California, and Washington.\(^5\)\(^\text{a}\)\(^\text{b}\)\(^\text{c}\)

\(\text{g) Develop and license more placement options}\)

Provide additional funding and staffing capacity so Wayne County can use its Child Placing Agency (CPA) license to develop and license more foster homes, more semi-independent living placements for older youth, and more
independent living placements for emerging adults (18 years and older), which include supervision and assistance from a caseworker and stipends to assist with basic living expenses.

4 | Improve Comprehensive Reentry Planning and Parental Support

Discharge planning for young persons coming out of detention or residential treatment should begin 60 to 90 days ahead of their release date. However, even when this occurs, some young people will still face barriers upon release.

a) Engage parents/caregivers in reentry planning

This should commence at the start of confinement to ensure a young person will be picked up and taken home on their assigned discharge date.

b) Create a dedicated reentry process

Every young person exiting detention or residential placements should have an individual reentry plan so that parents/caregivers, foster care parents, or fictive kin have access to the services necessary to support their child upon release (i.e., medical and mental health services, housing, education, etc.).

c) Eliminate the suspension of Medicaid

When a minor is in a facility, they do not have access to Medicaid services until discharge, unless they are hospitalized during their stay. Then, it can take up to 90 days for MDHHS to establish psychiatric care through Medicaid. Many young people relapse during this gap in care.

d) Ensure that established guidelines and timelines are followed

All relevant parties (i.e., care management organizations, court officials, detention facilities, etc.) should have a clear understanding and be supported in fulfilling their responsibilities for discharge and reentry planning. This means successfully returning a child to their home if possible, or locating an appropriate alternative place to reside, if needed, before the young person’s scheduled release date.

David, an adopted 16-year-old with a history of psychiatric hospitalizations, entered the juvenile justice system for “incorrigibility”. His adoptive parents did not want him to come home because they couldn’t provide the necessary support for his mental health issues, due to their age and the number of other people residing in the home. As a result, he was in and out of facilities for a total of 459 days.
e) Establish emergency temporary housing options

When a young person has absolutely nowhere to go upon release, the availability of emergency, temporary housing would allow them to be released on schedule.

5 | Improve Data Collection and Sharing

a) Modify the current information system

Information needs to be collected and reported to a) identify young people with unstable housing, b) identify whether this issue impacted their return from detention or a residential placement, c) identify how many additional days they may have remained in placement while housing was sorted out, and d) whether that impacted their completion of probation.

b) Create reports that identify all court-involved young people experiencing housing instability and homelessness

Creating and reviewing periodic reports provides a “picture” of the youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability and helps the CMOs create targeted interventions to respond to the problem. For example, is it primarily older males experiencing homelessness? Is it pregnant and parenting teens? By understanding who is impacted, services can be developed to best address their needs.

c) Develop data sharing agreements between Wayne County’s juvenile court and child welfare data systems

Expand the agreements and capacity necessary to access current or prior information on child welfare system involvement outside of Wayne County. In the long term, develop systems and policies that allow data sharing among juvenile justice and child welfare databases to determine system involvement on a state-wide basis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevention Services for Families</td>
<td>Services designed to support and assist families before a crisis point, including community-based family support services and Families Together Building Solutions</td>
<td>Yes - Limited availability</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family First Prevention Services, Brief Strategic Family Therapy, Family Spirit, Healthy Families America, HomeBuilders, Multisystemic Therapy, Nurse-Family Partnership, SafeCare, Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy</td>
<td>Provides support to at-risk families to keep children safely in their homes through a variety of prevention and supportive services; supports positive bonds and strong parents</td>
<td>Yes - Limited availability</td>
<td>Yes - Limited availability Some require youth to be under supervision of MDHHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Preservation and Reunification Services, Families First, Families Together Building Solutions, HomeBuilders</td>
<td>Provides support to families to prevent removal of a child or to prevent future maltreatment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Foster Care                                                            | Temporary placement with a relative, licensed foster parent or other caring adult  
The goal is returning the child to their family home or to a permanent living arrangement                                                                                                             | Yes - Up to Age 21 | No - Unless the young person is dual ward with an open child welfare and open juvenile justice case |
| Foster Shelter Home                                                     | A shelter home is a temporary, family-like placement as an alternative to placement in a shelter facility                                                                                               | Yes          | Yes - Delinquent youth (not in detention) temporarily without lodging |

APPENDIX
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Eligibility Child Welfare Youth</th>
<th>Eligibility Justice-involved Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care</td>
<td>Provides emerging adults, age 18 to 21, with extended foster care benefits that include financial stipends and case management</td>
<td>Yes - Must meet specific (linked) criteria</td>
<td>No - Unless young person is a dual ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youths in Transition (YIT)</td>
<td>Helps young adults make the transition from foster care to independence; includes financial support</td>
<td>Yes - If in foster care after 14th birthday and under age 23</td>
<td>Yes - If in foster care after 14th birthday and under age 23 May include young person committed to MDHHS and supervised by a Wayne County CMO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)</td>
<td>Provides vouchers—up to $5,000 per fiscal year—to young person transitioning out of foster care and attending post-secondary education or vocational programs</td>
<td>Yes - Must have been in an eligible foster care placement, on or after their 14th birthday; also includes young person adopted from foster care or placed in a relative guardianship from foster care after attaining age 16</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
<td>Placement in an apartment or other suitable housing, with supervision and assistance from a caseworker and a stipend to assist with expenses in independent living</td>
<td>Yes - Young person 16 years or older</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Foster Care Home</td>
<td>Assistance for youth with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or physical handicap in a home-like setting providing complete physical assistance with mobility and/or the activities of daily life</td>
<td>Yes - For young people under the age of 18 if it is the most appropriate, least restrictive setting</td>
<td>Yes - The placement must protect community safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) Wards</td>
<td>Allows youth to remain in foster care and continue to receive payments until age 20, either in family foster care or independent living</td>
<td>Yes - Permanent court wards who have not been adopted</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Eligibility</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Michigan Works! Agency</strong></td>
<td>Provides employment skills training in a variety of professions and trades</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> - Young person 16 years and older who needs employment skills training</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> - Referral to a local Michigan Works! Agency (MW!A) for participation in any available youth employment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homeless Youth and Runaway Transitional Living Services</strong></td>
<td>Transitional living program providing temporary housing and help locating permanent housing or living situations</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> - Must be a former foster youth; provider may meet with the young person, caseworker, and service providers, for up to two months prior to case closure</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> - Not eligible while juvenile justice case is open; provider may meet with the young person, caseworker, and service providers, for up to two months prior to case closure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative</strong></td>
<td>Training in life skills, and preparation for adulthood including housing, employment, education, health and community engagement; includes stipend for participation</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> - Youth in the foster care system because of abuse and neglect, from ages 14 to age 23</td>
<td><strong>No</strong> - Unless a young person was in a non-secure setting and supervised by MDHHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michigan Youth Challenge Academy</strong></td>
<td>Program that encourages physical, mental and moral development over 17 months</td>
<td><strong>No</strong> - Unless a young person is also involved in the juvenile justice system</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> - Youth 16 to 18 years old and on probation for a juvenile status offense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job Corps</strong></td>
<td>Educational assistance, independent living skills, career technical training and job placement</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> - Young people 16 and older who meet the linked eligibility criteria Job Corp eligibility may be found at: <a href="https://www.jobcorps.gov/">https://www.jobcorps.gov/</a></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> - Cannot be on probation or under the supervision of an agency due to court action; no court fines or court-ordered restitution in excess of $500.00 dollars unless suspended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Endnotes


7. Ibid.


14. Michigan Center for Youth Justice, Data from Four Care Management Organizations, 2022.

15. Real names of youth are not used throughout this report to protect their privacy.


19. Ibid.

20. Real names of youth are not used throughout this report to protect their privacy.


24. Interview with a juvenile justice professional, 3/10/22.

25. Wayne County Department of Health, Human, and Veterans Services, Juvenile and Youth Services, FY 2021 Annual Report, Juvenile Justice Services.

26. For a detailed comparison of services offered in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, please refer to the Appendix (pgs. 37–39).


28. Interview with a juvenile justice professional, February 23, 2022.

29. Real names of youth are not used throughout this report to protect their privacy.

30. Ibid.


33. Real names of youth are not used throughout this report to protect their privacy.

34. Ibid.

35. Ibid.


37. Real names of youth are not used throughout this report to protect their privacy.

38. Email correspondence with a juvenile justice professional.


40. Ibid.


45. Real names of youth are not used throughout this report to protect their privacy.

46. Interview with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services staff, May 2, 2022.

47. Wayne County Juvenile and Youth Services, Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report.

48. Interview with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services staff, May 2, 2022.


53. Real names of youth are not used throughout this report to protect their privacy.


57. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Foster Care Manual, FOM 722.16.


60. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Foster Care Manual, FOM 722-03C.

61. Ibid.

