FINELESS FUTURES

Fineless Futures

Assessing the Impact of Juvenile Court Debt

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Michigan Reforms

Michigan is undergoing a historic transformation of its juvenile justice system. On October 1, 2024, a legislative package took effect that eliminates most juvenile court fines and fees, marking a significant shift toward a more equitable and rehabilitative approach for youth and their families. While this report is grounded in Michigan's experience, the findings and recommendations are intended to support advocates and policymakers nationwide who seek to eliminate juvenile court fines and fees.

Before reform, the assessment and collection of juvenile court costs in Michigan varied widely by county. The imposition of fees — including costs for probation supervision, detention, evaluations, and attorney services— depended largely on a young person's zip code. While some courts adopted a more progressive approach by waiving fees or offering alternatives, others continued to assess and collect thousands of dollars from youth and their families. This "justice by geography" created significant disparities across the state, disproportionately burdening low-income and Black and Brown families.[1]

Research shows that these financial penalties increased the risk of youth reoffending, reduced successful outcomes, and drove families deeper into poverty— often with little fiscal return for counties.[2, 3, 4]

In 2021, momentum for change accelerated when Governor Whitmer signed Executive Order 2021-6, creating the Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform. The Task Force found that 41% of juvenile cases in counties that reported data included fines or fees, with median costs for placement, treatment, and evaluations totaling $850.[5] Combined with national research and direct input from impacted families, these findings led the Task Force to recommend eliminating most non-restitution court costs for youth.

In response, the Michigan State Legislature introduced a package of reforms aligned with these recommendations. The legislation sought to eliminate most juvenile court costs, except for restitution and contributions to the Crime Victims' Rights Fund. By December 2023, nineteen bills from the package had passed and were signed into law.

Michigan Reforms

Most of these reforms took effect on October 1, 2024, marking a significant shift in Michigan's juvenile justice system. This effort reflects a broader national trend: by 2023, thirty-one states or local jurisdictions had implemented full or partial reforms to eliminate court fines and fees.[6]

At the time of publication, Michigan is focused on implementing this legislative package to eliminate most juvenile court fines and fees. For the Michigan Center for Youth Justice (MCYJ), ensuring that youth and families across the state understand the scope and impact of these changes is a top priority. MCYJ works closely with local court jurisdictions, state agencies, and community partners to support consistent implementation and foster a more equitable juvenile justice system.

To complement these efforts, MCYJ launched Fineless Futures: Assessing the Impact of Juvenile Court Debt—a project designed to document the lived experiences of youth and families in Michigan and to inform national conversations around juvenile court fines and fees.

By centering the voices of impacted individuals, Fineless Futures provides valuable insights and lessons to support advocates, policymakers, and system leaders nationwide as they work to end the harmful and inequitable practice of charging youth for their involvement in the justice system.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II, surrounded by lawmakers, signs the Justice for Kids and Communities bill package into law. Credit: State of Michigan

Survey Overview

The Fineless Futures project aimed to better understand how juvenile court debt affects youth and their families financially, as well as in areas such as family relationships and mental health. Few opportunities have existed for those who have directly experienced the juvenile justice system to share their perspectives on its long-term and short-term effects. The initiative sought to center these voices, providing a platform for youth and families to share their experiences openly, both positive and negative, and their perspectives on the system. There were four main goals of the project:

Contribute to the current understanding of juvenile court debt in Michigan.
Due to Michigan's decentralized juvenile justice system, comprehensive information on the full impact of juvenile court debt remains limited. While this project is not exhaustive, it aims to add nuance and context to the conversation by examining the direct and indirect effects of imposing financial charges on youth and their families upon contact with the juvenile justice system.

Address common misconceptions about the effects of juvenile court costs.
While some argue that juvenile court fines and fees deter youth from reoffending and promote public safety, extensive research shows these costs often lead to a cycle of involvement in the justice system,[7] especially for low-income, Black, and Brown youth. This project aimed to address these misconceptions by sharing firsthand accounts that reveal the consequences of juvenile court debt on individuals and families. Through these stories and data, we provide a more accurate picture of how these financial burdens impact youth.

Amplify the voices of those impacted by juvenile court fines and fees.
Juvenile justice data often reduces those affected to mere numbers and statistics, overlooking the real-life experiences behind the figures. This project aimed to go beyond quantitative data by highlighting the specific personal and family challenges that cannot be fully captured through numbers alone.

Survey Overview

Inform policy and advocacy efforts aimed at addressing the harms of justice-involvement costs.

While Michigan has made significant strides in eliminating most fines and fees associated with juvenile court costs, much work remains to be done nationally. This initiative worked to support changemakers in other states and communities by providing insights and evidence to guide similar policy reforms. By highlighting Michigan's progress and documenting the positive impacts of reducing these financial burdens, we hope to inspire broader adoption of policies that protect youth and families from the harmful effects of justice-related costs.

We launched an online survey targeting eligible participants and offered compensation upon completion. Additionally, participants could volunteer for a qualitative interview to provide more in-depth insights into their experiences for an additional incentive. As the project progressed, our team incorporated focus groups with youth affected by juvenile court debt to enrich our findings.

Survey Development

Given the personal nature of discussing debt and the experiences of individuals involved with the justice system, we developed our survey questions using a trauma-informed lens. The questions prioritize accessibility and sensitivity by being written at a 6th to 8th-grade reading level, aligning with the national reading average, and allowing participants to share as much or as little as they feel comfortable about their personal experiences.

Aligned with our project goals, the survey questions were designed to gather detailed information about participants' juvenile court debt (e.g., amount, year assessed, court assessed) and explore how it has affected various aspects of their lives (e.g., family relationships, employment). Recognizing that some questions may be intrusive or uncomfortable, many were open-ended and optional, giving participants the autonomy to provide only the information they were willing to share.

Survey Overview

Our survey questions underwent several rounds of revision, incorporating feedback from individuals with firsthand experience in the juvenile justice system. Key feedback included using more accessible language for specific legal terms (e.g., “public defender” instead of “attorney”) and clarifying the reasons for requiring documentation for participation. This feedback was applied to the survey before release, making adjustments to ensure it was as welcoming and straightforward as possible. Sample questions include:

- How old were you when you started owing the court fines and fees?
- Did having fines and fees make it difficult for you to pay your restitution?
- If the courts stopped collecting or charging costs, how would that impact your life?
- Has the money you owe for juvenile court fines and fees made it hard for you or your family to afford other important things like food, housing, or healthcare? Please feel free to tell us as much or as little about your experience as you'd like.
- On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), please rate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement: Having to pay fines and fees makes it harder for young people to go to school or get job training.
- Have you ever felt stressed, anxious, or upset because of the debt you owe to the court?
- Has owing money for juvenile court fines and fees caused problems in your relationships with family members?

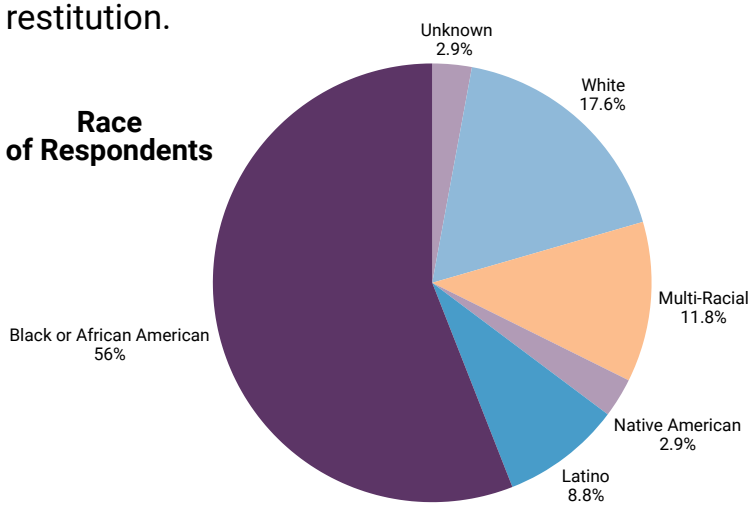
Findings

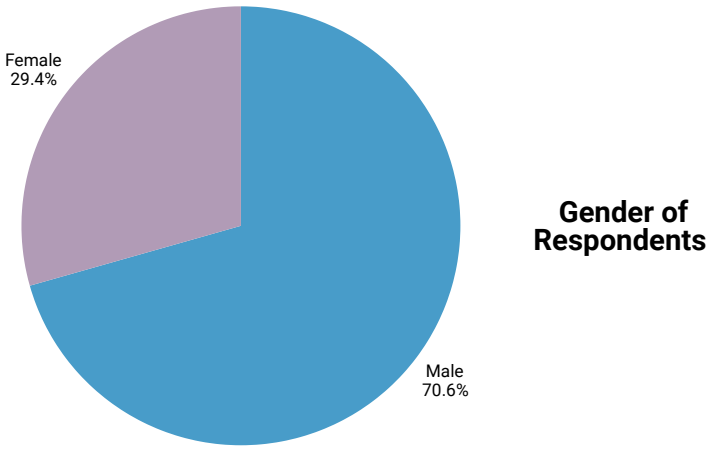
Our survey's findings shed light on the significant and far-reaching consequences of juvenile court fines and fees for youth and families. These financial penalties often create undue hardship, compounding the stress experienced by families navigating the justice system. This section delves into the key themes from both qualitative and quantitative, highlighting the necessity of Michigan's most recent reforms.

The total reported juvenile court fines and fees assessed to all 34 respondents amounted to approximately $86,593.43. This figure is likely underestimated, as some participants were unsure about previous payments made to the court, and others provided ranges for which we used the median value.

Although restitution was not the project's primary focus, we included questions about participants' experiences. **Of the 24 survey respondents who confirmed having restitution charges, the total reported amount was $57,466.** However, this figure is likely underestimated, as one participant had a pending case and was uncertain about the final restitution amount.

Among those 24 respondents, approximately 80% reported thatfines and fees made it difficult to pay off their restitution. This finding is striking, as restitution is meant to be paid to the victim, suggesting it should be a priority. However, the additional burden of fines and fees makes it increasingly difficult for youth to meet these financial obligations, further complicating the process of paying back restitution.





Findings

Economic Burden on Families

Consistent with existing research[8], 81% of participants agreed that juvenile court fines and costs make it harder for young people to break out of cycles of poverty or crime. One of the most prevalent themes identified through our review of open-ended survey responses and interviews was economic hardship, which appeared 28 times across the data. This manifested in different ways among respondents, ranging from contributing to food or housing insecurity to deepening justice involvement. A participant shared, *"I had to work several jobs to help my family afford food and rent as a kid, and the fees were taking money we desperately needed."*

Court costs can influence the trajectory of a young person's life. In particular, socioeconomic status for many respondents was associated with access to justice. **An overwhelming majority of respondents, 91%, agreed that when youth have to pay for public defenders, they may not use one because it costs too much**. Respondents reported owing an estimated $2,825 in public defender costs.

According to a report by the Gault Center, this reimbursement practice may discourage the appointment of counsel, terminate representation prematurely, and create a conflict of interest for attorneys. As one Michigan public defender explained, *"The imposition of fees and costs of counsel affects how parents are advising their kids on whether to waive their right to counsel."* [9]

While $2,825 already represents a significant financial burden for low-income families, this figure is likely an underestimate, as some youth indicated they were unaware of the full extent of their financial obligations.

Public defenders are crucial in mitigating the long-term costs associated with involvement in the juvenile justice system. For example, the average national cost of securely confining a young person is $214,620 per year.[10] Without the guidance of an attorney, youth may be unnecessarily placed out of their homes and subjected to these immense costs.

Findings

Throughout our conversations and review of open-ended responses, we identified five instances where participants described experiences reflecting the criminalization of poverty. As mentioned, youth who cannot pay off their court debt may face extended probation. One young person shared, *"I went three years on probation because of the simple fact that I couldn't pay the fines and fees."* This respondent also expressed how this harmed her employment status, explaining, because *"it was a red flag to employers that I've been on probation for that long."*

Before legislative reforms, local courts could intercept state assistance programs for vulnerable youth and families. One young person shared, *"Some of it [paying off court debt] comes from my adoption subsidy."*

When reflecting on the harms of juvenile court fines and fees, one guardian described the lasting damage to her child: *"How can a child see a successful future for themselves when, as a teen, they are already thousands of dollars in debt? It's a hopeless feeling."* Young people also recognized the transformative potential of eliminating this economic burden.

A fourteen-year-old focus group participant shared, *"[It] would make a huge difference because then we wouldn't have to have my mommy work three jobs."*

Mental Health

Juvenile court debt doesn't just place a financial strain on families; it takes a profound toll on the mental health of everyone involved. Mental health challenges emerged as a significant theme across open-ended survey responses and interviews, appearing in 15 instances. These accounts highlighted stress, anxiety, and emotional turmoil as everyday experiences for youth and their families navigating the financial obligations imposed by the court system.

Approximately 85% of survey participants reported feeling stressed, anxious, or upset at some point because of the debt they owed. One participant described the emotional weight of the court process itself as "emotionally and mentally taxing." Another respondent shared, *"I feel in over my head with fines, restitution, and courts,"* illustrating how the financial burden can be overwhelming, further compounding their mental health struggles.

Findings

For many, the impact of debt disrupts essential aspects of well-being, from sleep to personal care. One participant explained that "owing large amounts of money to the court is stressful. It affects health, sleep, and relationships." Another noted how the absence of debt would allow them to prioritize their well-being, saying they would have *"more money for caring for myself."*

These reflections highlight how financial obligations strain mental health and deprive youth and families of essential resources needed for their well-being.

Beyond the mental and emotional toll of juvenile court debt, respondents emphasized the importance of prioritizing mental health and treatment over punishment. One participant reflected on youth's broader struggles, explaining, *"Kids aren't bad; they are fundamentally trying their best."* For many, juvenile court fines and fees exacerbate already difficult circumstances, further pushing young people into cycles of stress and basic survival.

Mistakes, often made in the context of complex home environments or limited resources, were not met with support but with financial penalties that worsen their conditions.

Responses show the urgent need for systems that prioritize healing over punishment. One young person said, *"Mental health services [are needed]. Some kids aren't bad; they just come from a bad home."*

Without such support, the court system risks compounding the harm youth experience, making it harder for them to break free from the trauma and financial hardship that juvenile court debt perpetuates.

Collateral Consequences

The consequences of juvenile court fines and fees extend beyond direct impacts on finances. These unintended effects have been referred to as "collateral consequences," including the influence of court debt on family dynamics, job opportunities, and perceptions of the juvenile justice system

Findings

The theme of collateral consequences appeared across 34 open-ended and interview responses, making it the most prevalent theme in this project.

Family Dynamics

"It ruined relationships with my family because the fees were because of me."

Over 70% of survey participants indicated that juvenile court fines and fees caused problems in their relationships with their family members. In 14 open-ended responses, participants described how court debt created tension at home, straining trust, increasing conflict, and adding stress to already fragile dynamics.

Qualitative responses indicate that feelings of guilt and responsibility often strain the bond between youth and their caregivers, especially when court-imposed debt is involved. Financial obligations placed on families can heighten household stress and shift emotional burdens onto young people, making it harder to maintain supportive relationships at a critical point in their development.

Other young participants discussed wanting to take on more responsibilities to lessen the burden on their parents – one 14-year-old participant stated, *"I don't have a job but I want one cause my mom does not have a lot of money."* **Nearly three-quarters (72%) of participants agreed or strongly agreed that these costs make it harder for young people to get along with their caregivers,** underscoring the significant harm fines and fees inflict on family relationships.

Another participant expressed that eliminating fines and fees would benefit his relationship with his mother, allowing them to *"have money coming in and food coming in, so my mom and I don't have to argue about it anymore."*

Not only do these costs place a financial strain on families, but they also impact the intrafamilial dynamics. One parent shared, *"...My husband has had to work many more hours because of the fines and fees, which means less time spent with our family, which affects the little ones the most."*

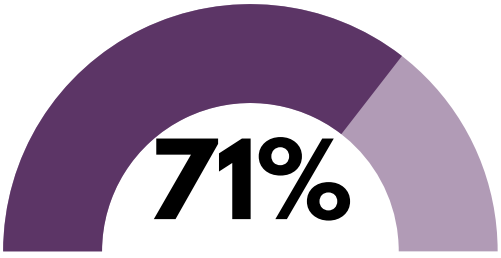
Findings

One participant explained, *"I had to miss shifts just to make it to court and keep up with payments—my boss stopped scheduling me."* For youth, the stigma of court debt, particularly in small communities, could deter employers. A parent shared, *"Living in a very small town where everyone knows everything. It has impacted my child by not being hired."*

Without stable income, youth and families often struggle to keep up with payments, which can prolong court involvement or trigger additional penalties. This creates a cycle: court debt limits job access, while the inability to pay that debt deepens system involvement.

One young person reported: *"I was trying to pay back what I owed, but nothing was enough. Eventually, I felt the only option was to do something illegal to get quick money."*

These stories underscore the economic consequences of juvenile court debt and how it can entrench families in long-term instability.



71% of participants agreed that having to pay fines and fees makes it harder for young people to attend school or receive job training.

Negative Perception of the System

"It felt like the Court wanted to place a great financial burden on us to break up the family unit, not reunite it."

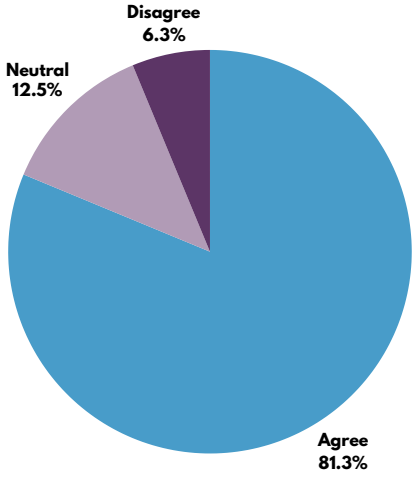
Not only does juvenile court debt negatively impact youth and families, it also damages the perception of the juvenile justice system as a whole.

As families struggle to manage the financial burden imposed by court debts, they begin to see the system not as a tool for rehabilitation, but as one that perpetuates harm and injustice.

Findings

This dynamic contributes to a harmful cycle for families: as parents work longer hours to meet financial obligations, children may feel neglected or unsupported. Survey responses indicate that this strain on family relationships can negatively impact other aspects of children's lives beyond system involvement.

A participant shared: *"There is also the stress that the Court can arrest you or your child for non-payment, which would create way more fines and fees, and also it could mean a stay in the Detention Center for your child and the cost for the stay."*



Over 80% of participants agreed that juvenile court fines and fees harm youth and families.

The broader consensus is clear: of the 32 participants who responded to this question, more than 80% agreed or strongly agreed that juvenile court fines and fees harm youth and families.

Compounded Challenges

Involvement with the system creates compounded challenges for youth and their families due to multiple difficulties and obstacles interacting, intensifying the overall burden, or making the problem more complex.

One interviewee shared how court-ordered community service significantly cut into the time he could spend working to support his already financially struggling family. His inability to contribute his usual income further strained their household's resources, while his mother's fees diverted money from basics, such as rent and food.

A survey participant reflected on the long-term impact of juvenile court fines and fees, expressing how their juvenile justice involvement harmed their reputation: *"I have already wasted my productive time doing odd jobs because of my reputation."*

Findings

In many cases, the burden of debt— not just court involvement— disrupted employment stability. Youth and families described taking time off work to attend court-ordered payment hearings or completing financial obligations like community service, often risking their jobs.

Eighty-four percent of participants agreed that juvenile court fines and fees could push youth deeper into the justice system, reinforcing the belief that these financial obligations are not just punitive but also counterproductive to the goal of rehabilitation.

In one interview, a participant stated that *"Fines and fees are the best way to keep the harm and trauma going. Keep families, Black and Brown youth stressed and back in the system – increasing recidivism, harsh punishment, cutting them off of college and education."*

Juvenile court fines and fees erode trust in the system, reinforcing its perception as a punitive institution that perpetuates cycles of harm.

Systemic Challenges

Our survey and interviews revealed systemic challenges related to juvenile court involvement. Internally, gaps in court processes contributed to youth and families perceiving a lack of support.

A young person or their family's ability to understand the juvenile justice system and the fines and fees they accrued was a significant barrier. One young person began accumulating juvenile court debt at eleven but did not understand the financial obligations or their consequences. Another young person shared, *"I was constantly worrying: How am I going to pay all this? What happens if I can't? Will I go to jail? It was always this endless 'what if' game."*

Policies and practices within the justice system are not always designed with families in mind. Seventy-one percent of participants found keeping track of their juvenile court fines and fees challenging.

In an interview, a young person explained that his family had given the court a false address because they lacked stable housing.

Findings

This led to significant late fees because they failed to receive early notices. Many online payment systems may be inaccessible due to unreliable internet access or the requirement to pay in person.

The primary argument for charging youth and families court fines and fees is that it prevents recidivism and promotes accountability. However, this report highlights several examples that counter this claim. Young people themselves have emphasized how such practices significantly inhibit their success.

One participant shared during an interview: *"Realistically, a kid isn't committing a crime just to do it – kids do some stuff, small mischief – but typically, there is something else. There's either a living condition problem, or they're desperate for money, or their parents are in some situation."*

This quote, consistent with the perspectives of their peers, underscores how the system of fines and fees fundamentally undermines the primary goal of rehabilitating young people.

A parent added to this perspective, saying: *"We need all our money to support and raise our children, not the court."*

Rather than focusing on their child's treatment and rehabilitation, many families reported feeling heavily burdened financially and emotionally by their court debt.

Some respondents preferred that courts prioritize restorative justice as a means of accountability, addressing the root causes of system involvement. When asked whether fines and fees taught him a lesson or held him accountable, one young person shared, *"Money didn't impact my sense of right and wrong. Kids often make mistakes out of survival."*

Restorative practices and community-based treatment provide pathways to engage and support entire families, which many respondents found more effective.

Findings

Research has demonstrated that restorative justice programs are more cost-effective and significantly reduce future delinquent behavior. One study found that only 18.4% of youth who participated in a restorative community conferencing program reoffended within a year, compared to 32% of youth who went through the traditional juvenile justice system. The analysis also revealed that the restorative justice program had a one-time average cost of $4,500. In contrast, the average annual cost of keeping a youth on probation can reach $23,000.[11]

Conclusion

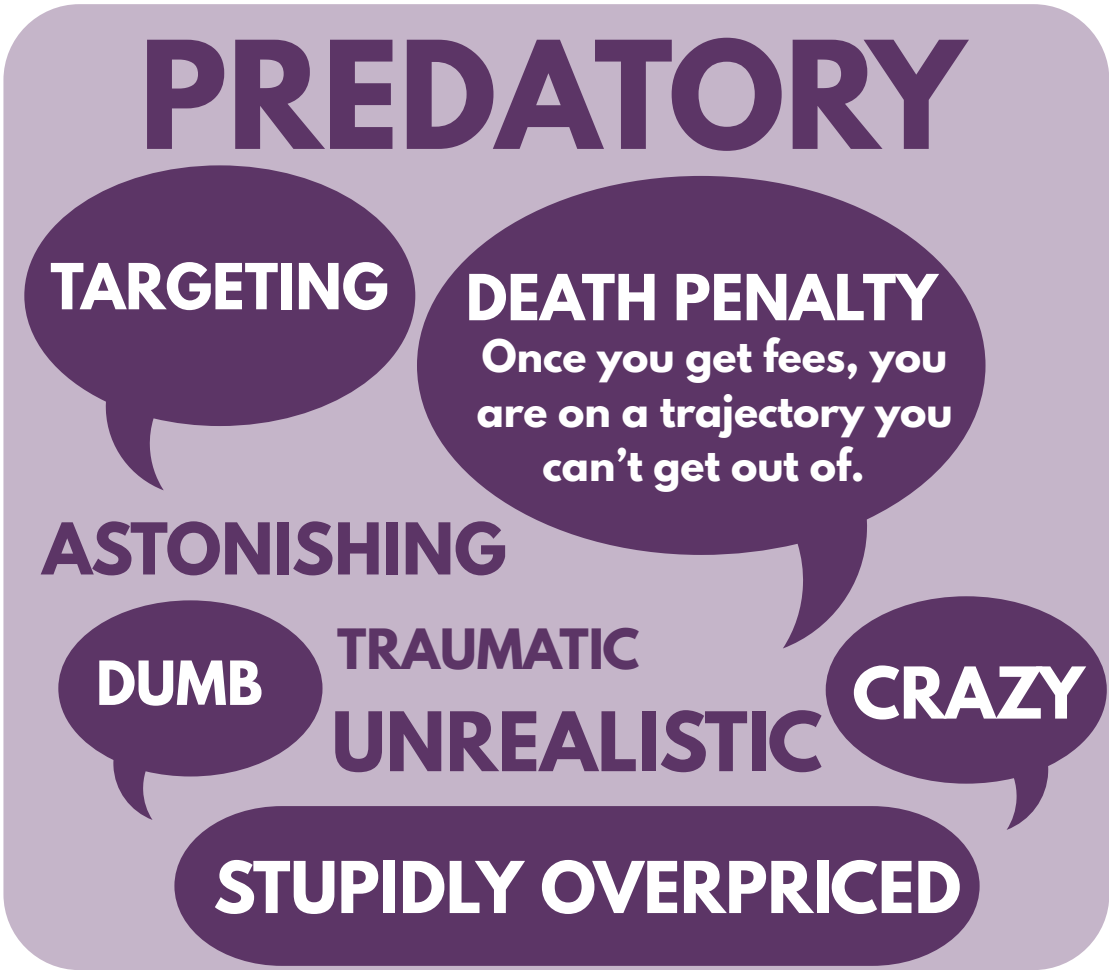
The Fineless Futures survey offers a small yet powerful snapshot of the harm that youth and families endure from juvenile court fines and fees. The juvenile justice system must prioritize rehabilitation and improving youth outcomes rather than imposing financial burdens that hinder their success. Extensive research and feedback from youth and families demonstrate that these fines and fees undermine long-term positive outcomes for young people.

Michigan has taken a critical step in transforming its juvenile justice landscape by eliminating most fines and fees and reducing harm to those involved. However, continued outreach and education are essential to ensure that youth and families fully understand their rights and the implications of these reforms.

As reform efforts expand across the country, it is imperative to center the voices, stories, and solutions of those directly impacted as a core tenet of advocacy efforts.

"Financial punishment was an ineffective tool in helping our teen and did not make us better parents, only more stressed and financially defeated parents."

We asked youth and families to share one or two words that sum up how they feel about fines and fees:



Translating Michigan's Experience Nationally

We recognize that many states and local jurisdictions are working to eliminate juvenile court fines and fees. To help inform these efforts, we have created a series of recommendations grounded in Michigan's multi-year advocacy campaign. While some strategies are specific to Michigan's decentralized juvenile justice system, many are adaptable across diverse state contexts.

Our findings fall into two core categories: messaging and legislative advocacy. Both categories were directly informed by those with lived experience and our efforts to eliminate juvenile court fines and fees. The recommendations in the messaging category emphasize communication strategies across multiple audiences—including lawmakers, the public, and those with lived experiences—to create a comprehensive understanding of the issues. The legislative advocacy category focuses on practical strategies for engaging lawmakers and other stakeholders to build momentum toward reform.

Messaging

- **Use of Data:**
  - **Fiscal Inefficiencies**: Emphasize fiscal inefficiencies[12] (such as low collection rates or costs to collect) and the real-life burdens on families. Highlight the dual costs of maintaining fines and fees policies in juvenile courts and the significant social and economic costs on youth and families.
- **Messaging for Lawmakers:**
  - Legislative Framing: Position eliminating fines and fees as a step toward creating a more efficient, streamlined juvenile justice system that prioritizes rehabilitation over punishment. Imposing fines and fees undermines the core principles of juvenile justice by contributing to deeper system involvement and harming the family unit. Research shows that financial penalties are linked to increased recidivism[13], and that youth who can't afford diversion often face harsher outcomes—[14]not because of their conduct, but because of their inability to pay.[15]

Translating Michigan's Experience Nationally

Messaging

- **Messaging for Lawmakers:**
  - **Political Appeal:** Frame the issue as one that can garner bipartisan support, emphasizing fiscal responsibility and fairness.
  - **Public Safety:** Highlight that removing fines and fees does not reduce accountability, as youth are still required to meet other obligations such as probation, community service, or counseling.
- **Messaging While Engaging with Those with Lived Experience:**
- **Empathy-Driven Messaging:** Acknowledge the courage of those sharing their experiences. Their stories are not just anecdotal but are critical to understanding the systemic harms of juvenile court fines and fees.
- **Empowerment and Partnership:** Center the contributions of people with lived experience as equal partners in reform efforts, emphasizing that their input shapes more effective policies.
- **Acknowledge Past Harm:** Use trauma-informed language to frame reforms, prioritizing healing and reducing retraumatization for youth and families affected by fines and fees. Consistently reiterate that youth and families are under no obligation to participate in discussions or disclose personal and traumatic experiences.
- **Use Sensitivity in Data Presentation**: When presenting data, especially about personal stories, be mindful not to reinforce stereotypes or amplify negative impacts.

Translating Michigan's Experience Nationally

Messaging

- **Messaging for the Broader Public:**
- **Highlight Community Benefits:** Emphasize how the elimination of fines and fees positively impacts entire communities, not just the youth directly involved.
- **Positive Outcomes:** Share success stories from other states to illustrate how reforms have increased family stability, reduced recidivism, and improved youth outcomes.
- **Clear Calls to Action:** Provide straightforward ways for the public to engage in local advocacy, such as signing petitions, attending advocacy meetings—including legislative sessions, town halls, or county commissioner meetings—or independently contacting legislators.

Legislative Advocacy

- **Support Pilot Initiatives:**
  - **Evidence-Driven Pilots:** Advocate for pilot programs to show lawmakers the practical benefits of eliminating fines and fees. For example, partnerships like MCYJ's work with Macomb County can provide concrete, localized evidence of reform success.[16]
  - **Community and Youth Outcomes:** Track improved outcomes such as better mental health, reduced recidivism, and increased family stability to strengthen the case for reform.
- **Funding Mechanism**:
- **Appropriations Strategy**: Encourage states to reallocate funds or create grants for juvenile justice reform, addressing concerns about potential revenue loss to court systems.

Translating Michigan's Experience Nationally

Legislative Advocacy

- **Funding Mechanism**:
  - **Court System Adjustments**: Michigan increased the reimbursement rate for community-based care through the state's Child Care Fund (CCF), providing a financial bridge amid elimination reforms. Consider whether your state has opportunities to strengthen or expand reliable funding streams to offset the full or partial elimination of juvenile court fines and fees.
- **Legislative Champions:**
  - **Bill Sponsors:** Support state legislators by identifying relevant speakers for committee hearings and providing issue briefs and talking points.
  - **Elevate Lived Experience:** Ensure individuals with lived experience have opportunities to share their stories in hearings or legislative meetings to humanize the issue and build empathy.
- **External and Internal Court Stakeholder Engagement**:
  - **Court and Community Dialogues**: Advocate for regular dialogues between court stakeholders and community organizations to build trust and promote transparency.
  - **Feedback Loops**: Establish feedback systems for continuous improvement, allowing stakeholders to review and adjust reforms as needed.
  - **Task Force Model:** A Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force or Commission can build cross-sector coalitions to provide data-driven recommendations.
  - **Legislation Drafting:** Ensure that a core group of stakeholders is committed to translating task force recommendations into actionable legislation. This includes working collaboratively across sectors to craft reforms that reflect lived experiences and best practices.

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MICHIGAN CENTER
MCYJ
for YOUTH JUSTICE

The Michigan Center for Youth Justice is a statewide advocacy organization based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, that works to advance equitable youth justice policies and practices that protect young people and help them achieve their full potential.

In memory of Deshawn Leeth, whose dedication advanced the cause of debt-free justice.

Published July 2025

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