



MICHIGAN CENTER *for* YOUTH JUSTICE



The Western Michigan Youth Juvenile Justice Fellowship Cohort with Senator Sarah Anthony in Lansing, MI.

A Day at Lansing's Capitol With WMU Youth

On Tuesday, May 21, young leaders participating in the Western Michigan Lewis Walker Institute Youth Juvenile Justice Fellowship Program traveled to Lansing, Michigan, to share their experiences with state legislators. The cohort came together to identify their priorities, safe storage laws, re-entry services for youth, and workforce development programs. They discussed these areas with [Representative Brenda Carter](#) (D-Pontiac), [Representative Christine Morse](#) (D-Texas Township), and [Representative Donovan McKinney](#) (D-Detroit). We thank these legislators for their time and our partnership with the Lewis Walker Institute.



Changes to the Juvenile Diversion Act

This month, we saw movement on Senate Bill 688, sponsored by Senator Chang (D-3). This legislation amends the Juvenile Diversion Act, allowing information sharing for research purposes in juvenile justice cases. Under the proposed provisions, researchers will be allowed to submit requests for information to study aspects of our juvenile justice system. With the recent legislative reforms, this legislation can provide our state with better data and research on the impacts of changes like access to pre-arrest diversion services. We know research can equip our communities and our state to identify what's successful for our youth and where we need to improve.

The legislation requires a data use agreement to protect personally identifiable information from public disclosure. The agreement must include provisions to protect all data, including preventing unauthorized disclosure. The legislation strives to balance the need for research and policy development with the protection of privacy, ensuring sensitive information is safeguarded from public disclosure while allowing controlled access under strict agreements.

The bill was successfully voted out of the Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Committee on May 9th with a substitute (S-2) and was referred to the committee of the whole.

Celebrating A Night of Advocacy in Action!

On May 17th, juvenile justice stakeholders, community members, and fellow youth justice advocates came together as we celebrated a night of *Advocacy in Action* at our 2024 gala! We were humbled and honored to see so many friendly faces during this special night. Thank you to everyone who joined us for an unforgettable evening, as we celebrated recent accomplishments, and our youth justice awardees, and looked forward to future endeavors in juvenile justice reform. We extend our gratitude for everyone's support of our work in creating a more fair and effective youth justice system in Michigan.



MCYJ Now Accepting Nominations for New Youth Fellowship Program

We are proud to announce a brand new youth fellowship program, *Voices of Justice*, slated to begin in the fall of 2024. *Voices of Justice* is a nine-month fellowship program in Michigan for justice-involved youth (ages 16 to 21). The program's offerings include increased policy and advocacy skills, an opportunity to lead a local advocacy project focused on the juvenile justice system, and more. Selected fellows will receive:

- A generous stipend
- Monthly training sessions
- Peer mentorship and support
- Financial resources for a justice-related project

Know of a young person who has been or is currently involved in the justice system? You can nominate them [here](#), or click the button below!

Nominate Someone!

MCYJ 2023 Annual Report Release!

We are delighted to share our 2023 annual report with you! Last year was a transformative year for youth justice in Michigan. We're so grateful for the continued support as we strive to create a more fair and effective youth justice system. Your belief in our vision gives us fuel to help justice-impacted kids reach their full potential.

We invite you to view the tremendous strides we made in the last year and follow our journey as we commit to supporting the implementation of historic youth justice reforms that were signed into law

last December. Thank you again for your partnership as we enter this new chapter.

[View Report](#)

Breaking Down Fines & Fees with Ray Durham

We are thrilled to share a brand new episode of *The Table: Conversations on Youth Justice*! Hear from [Ray Durham](#), attorney at the [National Center for Youth Law](#), and our usual hosts Katie and Macayla, as they investigate the historical context of juvenile court fines and fees, and how Michigan's recent movement to eliminate most fines and fees will benefit justice-impacted youth and their families.

Listen now at www.miyouthjustice.org/thetable or wherever you find your podcasts!



Next Month: Support Youth Justice While You Shop!

Save the date! MCYJ is partnering with [Kendra Scott Jewelry](#) to bring you an event where your purchase will help support our efforts toward youth justice reform!

Join us for a special collaboration, *Kendra Gives Back*, where 20% of proceeds from purchases will directly benefit our work. You can make your selection from the comfort of your own home on June 29 - 30th, or visit the staff at the Kendra Scott store in Ann Arbor, MI on June 29th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to select your favorite jewelry in person (and say hi to us along the way)!

Youth Justice in the News

- [Youth detention facilities face increased scrutiny amid a wave of abuse lawsuits](#)
- [Michigan State University research supports Michigan bipartisan bill reform in juvenile justice system](#)
- [WMU program looks to reform juvenile justice system through youth voice](#)

Upcoming Events

Coalition for Juvenile Justice

2024 Annual Conference

May 29th-June 1st; Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. Learn more and register [here!](#)

Dispute Resolution Center

9th Annual Unity Walk

June 8th, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Brown Chapel AME Church, 1043 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Learn more and register [here!](#)

The Sentencing Project

America's Growing Movement to Divert Youth Out of the Justice System Webinar

June 13th, 12:00 p.m. Learn more and register [here!](#)

Our Vision: a fair and effective justice system for Michigan's children, youth and young adults.

Our Mission: we work to advance equitable youth justice policies and practices that protect young people and help them achieve their full potential.

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