We are thrilled to provide you with an update on the state budget. This budget reflects the ongoing investment and support Michigan has to transform our juvenile justice system. The budget provides increased resources for the Child Care Fund reimbursement to counties, allocating $31.5 million in DHHS. This increase is essential to expand community-based care and provide evidence-based services to our youth. The Office of the Child Advocate, formerly the Office of Children’s Ombudsman, has received $1.6 million, aligned with the Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force recommendation. We are excited to see our state take steps forward to protect the rights of youth and enhance the quality of care within juvenile justice facilities.
Additional budgetary highlights include:

- $2.03 million to create and support a Juvenile Justice Services Division within the State Court Administrative Office.
- $550,000 to expand the role of the State Appellate Defender’s Office to include appellate defense for juvenile cases.
- $1.5 million for the State Appellate Defender’s Office to support the resentencing of youth serving life sentences.

We look forward to updating you on future hearings for the Justice for Kids and Communities legislative package in the fall. If you haven’t already, you can share your support for the Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force legislation with the Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Committee [here](#).

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**Automatic Record Sealing for Juvenile Adjudications Extended**

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) recently requested and received a 180-day extension from Gov. Whitmer in regards to implementing the automated record-sealing process for juvenile adjudications. Originally, this was scheduled to go into effect on July 3, 2023, according to the law that was passed a couple of years ago. MCYJ would like to offer a resource to those that are affected by this new change. If you or someone you know is interested in having their record sealed, they can still apply, and receive support throughout the process by contacting Michigan Legal Help at [www.michiganlegalhelp.org](http://www.michiganlegalhelp.org).

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**Rethinking Labels for Juvenile Justice-Impacted Kids**

In this captivating video, Cole Williams delves into the power of labels and their impact on young individuals who have been through the juvenile justice system. Williams challenges traditional thinking and offers a new perspective on how we perceive and define these young people.

Through [The Delta Project](#), Williams advocates for a paradigm shift in how we approach and interact with juvenile justice-impacted kids. Instead of focusing solely on their past mistakes, Williams encourages us to see their potential, resilience, and capacity for change.
We invite you to watch this thought-provoking video and join The Delta Project in their mission to reframe the narrative surrounding these remarkable young individuals. View the video below!

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Join Us in September in Grand Rapids!

We invite you to join us for the screening of the inspiring documentary, *Building Momentum*, to be hosted in partnership with the NAACP of Greater Grand Rapids. Following the film, community members will hear from our panel of advocates and community leaders, while delving into the film’s themes and discussing ways to drive effective change in your own community. Learn more about this FREE event and register [here](#).

Want to learn more about Café Momentum before registering for the event? Read:

- [Café Momentum's Hard-Fought Wins Are Helping Teens in the Justice System](#)
- ['Not just a job': Pittsburgh-area teens gain a sense of calm and confidence at Café Momentum]
Join us for a film screening and discussion about Building Momentum toward real youth justice.

Hosted by: MCYJ
In collaboration with: NAACP

MCYJ 2022 Annual Report

MICHIGAN CENTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT
We are excited to announce the arrival of our long-awaited annual report! This report is a testament to our shared commitment to nurturing the potential of every young person and ensuring that they receive fair and appropriate treatment within the juvenile justice system.

We encourage you to take a moment to read the report and gain a deeper understanding of the progress we have made together. Your support is invaluable to us, and we hope this report will provide you with a sense of pride as we work together to transform Michigan's juvenile justice system.

Read here!

The Table: Why Juvenile Justice?

On this month’s episode of “The Table: Conversations on Youth Justice,” Macayla Jones joins the show to share conversations with Judge Karen Braxton of Wayne County and Jason Smith, MCYJ’s Executive Director. They talk about how they arrived at careers in juvenile justice, interesting stories from their personal and professional past, and more! Check out the podcast page on our website to listen to this, and other, episodes.

Ep 7 - Why Juvenile Justice? (with MCYJ's Jason Smith and Wayne Co. Judge Karen Braxton)

Coming This Fall: School Justice-Centered Conference!

Save the date! MCYJ, in partnership with the Student Advocacy Center, is excited to announce an in-person conference energized around Creating Transformative Schools, scheduled for October 25, 2023, at the beautiful Sheraton Detroit in Novi, Michigan. Enjoy hearing from our keynote, Jaime T.
Koppel, the co-director at Communities for Just Schools Fund, as well as other professionals and advocates in the school and juvenile justice sectors. Presentation/workshop topics will include best practices for avoiding school disruptions, school safety and mental health funding, and action planning to create transformative schools.

Learn more about this event and stay tuned about registration through our e-communications or by checking our website events page here. Look below for a sneak peek at the topics and guest speakers that will be featured:

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Creating Transformative Schools&lt;br&gt;Jaime Koppel, Keynote Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 AM</td>
<td>Best Practices for Preventing School Disruptions</td>
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<td>11:45 AM</td>
<td>Lunch Panel: Holistic Approaches to School Safety</td>
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<td>12:40 PM</td>
<td>Honoring the Whole Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td>Action Planning to Create Transformative Schools</td>
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Justice-Related Resources

**Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration - A New Report by The Sentencing Project**

Through extensive research and data analysis, The Sentencing Project highlights successful alternatives to youth incarceration that have proven to yield better outcomes for young individuals.
These alternatives prioritize community-based interventions, restorative justice practices, educational support, mental health services, and other evidence-based approaches.

We invite you to dive into this illuminating report and join The Sentencing Project in their mission to reshape youth justice policies. Together, we can champion effective alternatives that prioritize rehabilitation, address systemic inequalities, and offer young individuals a chance to rebuild their lives. Read the report here!

Data Snapshot Shows Trends and Characteristics of Juvenile Cases

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recently released a new data snapshot on trends and characteristics of juvenile court cases. The snapshot gives an insightful visual for those interested in learning more about patterns regarding caseloads for juvenile court cases, the likelihood of adjudication across offenses, and what type of cases accounted for the greatest proportion of the juvenile court caseload. View the full snapshot here.

CJJ Releases New In-District Advocacy Toolkit

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) has provided a helpful new tool that gives advice, information, and resources to utilize for those interested in forging connections with their members of Congress. CJJ’s In-District Advocacy toolkit offers step-by-step guidance in meeting with your legislators whether a Representative or Senator both in-district or remotely, or engaging with a member of Congress.

This toolkit will also aid those interested in attending a town hall, planning a site visit, using social media to advocate for juvenile justice, or writing a letter to an editor. The CJJ toolkit can be utilized to build a solid foundation for in-district and remote advocacy, as well as learning how to network and gain meaningful relationships with members of Congress. Explore the full toolkit here!

Justice-Related Job Opportunities

- Citizens for Prison Reform (CPR) is hiring a policy associate and communications specialist. They will primarily be working on campaigns to end solitary confinement and improve prison oversight. CPR is looking for people who are passionate about prison reform and who want to make a difference in Michigan. If you have a strong interest in criminal justice, policy research, or communications, working with legislators and directly impacted families and individuals, you can learn more and apply here.
- The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) is looking for a juvenile justice quality assurance manager. Reporting directly to the Child Welfare Services Director, the position manages staff assisting trial courts with requirements and procedures related to juvenile justice data collection and sharing, developing quantitative and qualitative quality assurance
methods, and ensuring compliance with court rules, policies, and statutes. Learn more and apply here.

- **The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** is hiring for a program assistant to support the Michigan Justice Fund. The program assistant provides a full range of administrative support to the Michigan Justice Fund. This position is central to the flow of key information between program staff and external grantees as well as internal departments. This role is expected to be funded through the second phase ending in 2026. Learn more and apply here.

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### Youth Justice in the News

- MSU’s newly formed Youth Equity Project working to reduce disparities
- After 29 Years, Incarcerated Students Are Finally Going Back to School
- Care over Confinement: Kids Need Second Chances and Services to Succeed
- "Pain into purpose": Ypsi-based group offers peer supports for mothers of justice-involved youth

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### Upcoming Events

**The Sentencing Project**
**Why Youth Incarceration Fails Webinar**  
July 27th, 2023, 1:00 p.m. EST  
Learn more and register here!

**Coalition for Juvenile Justice**
**CJJ Youth Summit: Empowering, Enriching, and Inspiring Youth: Making Policy Personal**  
July 31st-August 2nd, 2023, University of Washington in Tacoma.  
Learn more and register here!

**Rutgers Juvenile Justice & Youth Development Certificate Program**
**Engaging Youth and Families Course**  
August 1st and 8th, 2023, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Learn more and register here!

**Youth MOVE Michigan**
**2023 Statewide Youth Summit**
August 2nd, 2023, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Lansing Conference Center. Learn more and register [here]!

The National Association of Counsel for Children

**46th National Child Welfare Law Conference**
August 10-12th, 2023, Dual – Online / Hyatt Regency Minneapolis 1300 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403. Learn more and register [here]!

Coalition for Juvenile Justice

**CJJ Racial and Ethnic Disparities Conference**
October 30th-31st, 2023, Omni Louisville Hotel, Louisville, KY. Learn more and register [here]!

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**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.

[Donate]

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