



The Peace Alliance

Factsheet on Violence and Crime Prevention and Intervention Program Examples and Effectiveness

Included are general examples as well as specific examples from two states that are national leaders in implementing effective prevention and intervention strategies for youth crime and violence. These are examples of the kinds of programs that the **Youth PROMISE Act** would help amplify around the nation.

Pennsylvania

Profiles of Existing Community Programs & Relevant Organizations:

- **Life Skills Training Program (LST):** is a community program designed to **prevent substance abuse and violence** and that provides middle school students with self-care tactics including: resisting peer pressure, decision making skills, communication skills and methods to reduce anxiety.
 - There are over **100 LST programs statewide** with an estimated **20,000** young people served.
 - Researchers found a **per dollar return on investment of \$25.72**, and a total potential economic benefit statewide of **\$16,160,000 per year**.
- **Multi-systemic Therapy (MST)** is a **treatment focused** program targeting at-risk youth 12-17 years old exhibiting chronic/serious antisocial behavior. Trained clinicians deliver **comprehensive care** over 3-5 months, including crisis care and intensive skills coaching, to change home, school and community environments.ⁱ
 - MST programs have been proven to **increase pro-social functioning, decrease truancy, and reduce drug and alcohol abuse**, both immediately and over time. Those who have completed the program had **75% fewer substance related arrests** 4 years after treatment.ⁱ
 - In 2008, MST produced an estimated **\$30 million in savings**.ⁱⁱ
- **Functional Family Therapy (FFT)** is an **intensive treatment program** targeting youth, 10-18 years old, with behavioral problems. It **engages family members** in therapy sessions with a clinician aimed at impacting the entire environment of the youth. The program improves supportive communication patterns and reinforces positive school-family and community-family relationships, and has been shown to effectively decrease general delinquent behavior and substance abuse, and increase family cohesion.ⁱⁱⁱ
 - FFT has been proven to **decrease the likelihood of sibling involvement with the justice system by 65%** 2.5-3.5 years after the intervention is administered.¹³
 - In 2010, FFT served a **total of 1,120 youth** and their families, with **72% of treated individuals discharged successfully** (completed all phases of treatment and indicated a reduction in risk factors).^{iv}
 - FFT can provide a **statewide economic benefit of \$136 million per year**.^{iv}

OHIO

Expected Impact of Juvenile Justice Reform on State Budget:

- It costs **\$338 a day** for each youth housed in a DYS correctional facility – **about \$123,370 per year**. The average daily facility population in FY 2010 was 1,125 and the average length of stay was 11.9 months.⁷
- Ineffective correctional programming, and lack of community programs, **increases both immediate short-term costs** with longer lengths of stay, **and long-term future costs** to public systems and new victims due to higher rates of recidivism. 27.2% of youth either return to DYS or are admitted to DRC within 1 year of their release from DYS; 40.7% within 2 years; and, 50.9% within 3 years.⁷
- By funding more effective community-based alternatives for juvenile offenders, **RECLAIM saved Ohio as much as \$45 for each \$1 invested** while improving public safety, and more than \$50 million in operating expenses through the closure of four DYS facilities between 2009 and 2011.⁶

Profiles of Existing Community Programs & Relevant Organizations:

- In Ohio, community-based alternatives to prison were established in HB 1000, also known as the Community Corrections Act (CCA).⁸
- The state currently **saves between \$2,000 and \$11,000 per person** by using Community Corrections instead of prison.⁸
- There appears to be less recidivism or re-incarceration for clients from community-based correctional programs than for prison inmates.⁸
 - Youth successfully completing community based correctional programs were 21% less likely to be re-imprisoned, with 37.5% of youth released from prison re-imprisoned, with only 29.5 percent of the youth completing the community-based correctional programs going back to prison
- **Montgomery County's LIFE (Learning Independence and Family Empowerment)** program is a Home-Based Family Counseling Program designed to address the behavioral health needs of youth ages 12 to 17 and their family members, involved with The Juvenile Court System.⁹
 - Of the 634 youth the LIFE Program has now served, only 0.9% were sent to an Ohio Department of Youth Services facility at any time following their enrollment.¹⁰
 - Youth who successfully completed the LIFE Program were 69.3% less likely to recidivate¹⁰
- The **Ohio Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice** program was developed to transform the systems' ability to identify, assess, evaluate, and treat multi-need, multi-system youth and their families and to identify effective program and policy practices. With the BHJJ program counties propose community based programs that are then funded by Ohio DYS; sometimes these programs have a state-wide focus such as programs attempting to address the problem of underrepresentation of young females in the juvenile justice system. Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery, and Summit County's participate in Ohio's BHJJ program.^v

- While the recidivism rate for youth released from Ohio DYS facilities is over 50%, in the 12 months after enrollment in BHJJ, only 36.6% of youth successfully completing the BHJJ program were charged with at least one new misdemeanor, only 9.4% were charged with at least one new felony, and only 34.5% were adjudicated delinquent.^{6 5}

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE EXAMPLES:

The term 'restorative justice practices' means facilitated group practices that emphasize shared understanding and repairing any harm experienced in connection with the actions of one or more individuals. Restorative justice practices may include community conferences, victim-offender dialogues, family group conferences, or restorative circles. This is a process taking hold in many schools lately, including in California. It's been seeing great effect.

After the Longmont Community Justice Partnership (in Longmont Colorado) implemented its Community Restorative Justice Program, recidivism rates among youth dropped to less than 10% in its first three years, compared to a county-wide rate of over 50%.

Restorative Justice programs from the Community Conferencing Center in Baltimore, Maryland has resulted in **a 60% reduction in recidivism in young offenders** compared to similar juvenile justice cases in the traditional juvenile justice system.

ⁱ <http://www.episcenter.psu.edu/sites/default/files/resources/FY%202011->

ⁱⁱ http://www.parecovery.org/documents/QUIC_Facts_040411.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.episcenter.psu.edu/sites/default/files/ebp/FFT%20logic%20model.pdf>

^{iv} http://www.episcenter.psu.edu/sites/default/files/resources/2010%20Evidence-based%20Intervention%20Outcome%20Summary_9-16-11.pdf

^v <http://mha.ohio.gov/Portals/0/assets/Initiatives/BHJuvenileJustice/bhjj-2011-evaluation-final-6-9-12.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.pewstates.org/research/reports/state-local-partnership-in-ohio-cuts-juvenile-recidivism-costs-85899478801?p=3>

⁷ <http://www.juvenilecoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/RightsizingJuvenileJusticeinOhio2-16-111.pdf>

⁸ http://www.policymattersohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2003/01/comm_corr_rep.pdf

⁹ <http://www.southcommunity.com/services/youth-care/learning-independence-and-family-empowerment-program/>

¹⁰ <http://www.fftinc.com/resources/LIFE%20Program%20FFT%20Article.pdf>