



ROBERT F. KENNEDY NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

2023 Highlights: A Year of Impact and Innovation

The Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice reached an important milestone in December 2023. We celebrated our 10th anniversary of service to state and local communities across the United States and among U.S. Territories! We are humbled to have positively impacted youth justice reform in more than 100 state or local jurisdictions through our provision of expert technical assistance, consultation, training, and speaking/presentation engagements. As we look back on 2023 alone, we reflect on the following key activities and achievements:

- ✿ Continued, renewed, and/or launched intensive Probation and Youth Justice System Reform technical assistance partnerships in 5 state and local jurisdictions, including the start-up of the State Justice Institute's funded, two year grant project in
 - Clark County, Washington
 - San Diego County, California, and
 - North Carolina District 25 comprised of Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties
- ✿ Released our "[Engaging in Impactful and Positive Probation and Youth Justice System Improvement](#)" video (November 2023)
- ✿ In partnership, we supported our Transformation of Youth Justice Practice Network (TYJ PN) in the development of "[A Call to Action: Applying Best Practices for Successful Transformation of Youth Justice](#)" (October 2023)
- ✿ Continued, renewed, and/or launched Dual Status Youth technical assistance partnerships in 5 state and local jurisdictions
- ✿ Launched grant project with Manitowoc County, Wisconsin to develop a comprehensive system of diversion approaches, practices and programs using the Diversion and Alternatives Reform Team (DART) Guidebook
- ✿ Completed Guam Department of Youth Affairs System and Facility Review Final Report (in new contract to provide support for implementation of our 11 recommendations)
- ✿ Produced 4 important publications and professional articles:
 - [Probation and Youth Justice System Review Guidebook](#) (May 2023)
 - [Keys to Youth Justice System Improvement: Demonstration of Practical, Sustainable, Measurable, and Replicable Solutions](#) (January 2023) - *Innovation Brief synthesizing the remarkable achievements of the six jurisdictions that participated in the Dennis M. Mondoro Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project (2019-2023)*
 - [Diversion and Alternatives Reform Team Guidebook](#) (October 2023)
 - [Achieving the Possible on Behalf of Dual Status Youth](#) (published in the Journal of Community Justice, Vol. 33, No. 01, Fall 2023)



- ✿ Completed the 2nd Season of our Podcast Series: [Youth Justice Transformation in Action](#) (ft. jurisdictional leaders in Youth Justice Innovation)
- ✿ Continued our unique partnership with James Madison University (JMU) to grow the impact of our newly formed [Innovation Center for Youth Justice](#) (ICYJ):
 - Completed the 1st Cohort of Transforming Youth Justice national Intern Program in affiliation with the ICYJ @ JMU
 - Featured our TYJ PN members as intern host sites and guest lecturers for the ICYJ Transformation of Youth Justice minor degree coursework curriculum
 - Co-hosted and facilitated the inaugural formal event for the opening of the ICYJ @ JMU, featuring a panel of students sharing their practical internship experiences within 4 jurisdictions that had developed innovative youth justice reforms in collaboration with our RFK National Resource Center
- ✿ Provided keynote, plenary, workshop presentations and remarks at the national and international conferences for:
 - National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges (System Review & Reform)
 - Coalition for Juvenile Justice (System Review & Reform)
 - 1st Child-Friendly Justice System and Child Rights International Conference (Tbilisi, Georgia; presented virtually on System Reform)
 - Nebraska Community Based Aid Conference (Diversion and Adolescent Development)
 - Oklahoma Children's Court Conference (Dual Status Youth)
 - South Dakota Victim Services Conference (Multi-disciplinary Team Best-practice)
- ✿ Provided training on Advancing Best Practices in Youth Justice for the Queens Public Library Network, which sponsors early intervention and diversion programming for the Queen's borough of New York
- ✿ Enhanced our social media outreach and communications practices resulting in a 67% increase in awareness of our technical assistance activities, publications and resources, relevant research on important youth topics, training opportunities, and notable highlights and information about the achievements of our TYJ Practice Network members and our partner jurisdictions

As we celebrate our first 10 years of positive impact on youth justice, we are uniquely poised to continue our leadership role through the provision of innovative and research informed technical assistance and training again in 2024 - and beyond. We are always honored to meaningfully collaborate with dedicated and passionate leaders and practitioners like you to positively impact **all** youth and families in an enhanced and improved youth justice system. We look forward to new opportunities to partner with you in the year ahead. Together, we will make a positive difference that produces tangible, measurable, and sustainable enhancements to reinforce your legacy of commitment and dedication to youth and families!

Please contact us directly at <https://rfknrcjj.org/contact-us/> to explore new opportunities on behalf of your jurisdiction's youth. If you wish to donate to the RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, please visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/eh6tgz> and use the drop-menu to designate your donation to the RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice.