

# CT CAN'T WAIT 10 YEARS TO REMOVE YOUTH FROM ADULT PRISON

## BACKGROUND

The Judicial Branch created a transition plan for pre-trial youth, under 18, to be moved out of the custody of the Department of Correction. The proposed solution is to complete a feasibility study about the repurposing of 1225 Silver St., Middletown, formerly the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS).

**We don't need a feasibility study to know that money and time will not help children currently incarcerated in adult prison.**

JUDICIAL BRANCH ESTIMATES  
REPURPOSING CJTS WOULD TAKE

10-16  
years



AND TAKE

\$ 67  
million

## HERE'S WHY IT WON'T WORK

### PSYCHOLOGICALLY DAMAGING

Incarceration slows children's maturity when they are kept away from environments that would help them grow. Federal guidance\* has recommended small settings for over 10 years.

### FRACTURES COMMUNITY

Prison isolates children from healthy relationships and increases recidivism, thus fracturing vital communities. Family contact reduces recidivism and overall health.\*\*

### TARGETS BLACK CHILDREN

Black children are overrepresented in Connecticut's incarcerated youth population, making up 40% of youth arrests in 2023, but only 11% of the state's youth population.\*\*\*

\*Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach, U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

\*\* Prison Policy Initiative, The positive impacts of family contact for incarcerated people and their families

\*\*\* Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard, CT Data



# CT CAN'T WAIT 10 YEARS TO REMOVE YOUTH FROM ADULT PRISON

## WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

### 1 Build on what's worked for young people & their communities

Connecticut should open 4 to 5 small and homelike facilities, modeled after successful programs like New York's Close To Home.\*\*

Small environments allow people to maintain a sense of dignity, while being held accountable for their actions have been shown to be effective at reducing recidivism.\*\*

### 2 Adequate Support

Adequate and compassionate staffing leads to positive youth outcomes.

NY state saw 50% drop in reconviction after implementing a mentorship program with credible messengers (adults with experience in the legal system).\*\*\*

### 3 Improve Conditions, Improve Outcomes

Connecticut must ban the use of chemical agents, give youth quality education and behavioral health services.



\*Close To Home, Division of Youth Development and Partnerships for Success, New York State

\*\*Why Youth Incarceration Fails, The Sentencing Project

\*\*\* Arches Transformative Mentoring Program An Implementation and Impact Evaluation in New York City, The Urban Institute

