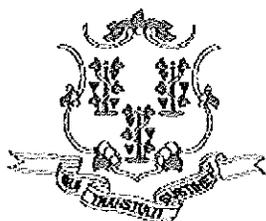




Department of Children and Families
Adolescent and Juvenile Services Division



Menu of Services

ADOLESCENT AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES

The mission of our Adolescent and Juvenile Justice Services units is to provide the resources and support needed for each youth to develop skills in the areas of vocation, education, employment, personal and emotional well-being. The agency seeks to further each youth's journey toward his or her greatest potential.

The Department of Children and Families, Adolescent Unit, will provide each youth transitioning through and from our care, with the opportunities to connect with community, cultural and personal resources along with educational opportunities that will nurture their success. These efforts will include academic, vocational and life skills programs; job training, and career exploration programs; safe, stable housing opportunities, health and mental health services in their communities; and connections to life long family, peers and caring adults.

This goal is accomplished through an array of holistic and strength-based services and opportunities for youth to practice and experience successes while they remain in our care. The developmental model provided by the Department allows youth to experience a full menu of supports.

The services outlined below describe programs social workers and parole officers may offer depending upon the unique needs of the adolescent or emerging adult.

The Mission of Juvenile Services at the Department of Children and Families is to serve children, adolescents and their families in Connecticut's juvenile justice system, to protect public safety, collaborate with the courts, communities and partners, and to provide a continuum of effective prevention, treatment and transitional services.

The Juvenile Justice Continuum encompasses Prevention, Diversion, Intervention, Delinquency Commitment, and Post Delinquency Commitment, and community re-entry through a Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ) approach. This approach provides adolescents and young adults skills needed to succeed in the community while holding them accountable to their victims and the larger community.

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The symbols below indicate whether the program is designated for Child Welfare youth, JJ involved youth or both populations

■ = Child Welfare

● = JJ

▲ = Both

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

- ▲ 1) **Youth Employment:** Summer youth employment (SYE) is a collaborative effort between DCF and Department of Labor (DOL) to provide gainful employment and work experience to DCF committed youth during a six week period in the summer. DCF provides funding to DOL to ensure that approximately 300 DCF committed youths (ages 14 to 18) are able to participate. In the spring of 2012 DCF and DOL began offering a year round work experience to DCF involved youth, who completed the summer employment program and wanted to continue through the school year.

- 2) **Community Restitution Apprentice Focused Training (CRAFT):** This service, based on a nationally recognized model for pre-apprenticeship and vocational training, is being implemented in Connecticut for youth who have been involved in the criminal justice system. The youth receive intensive, hands-on training in a range of skills necessary for the building trades. Participation also includes academic credit towards high school graduation, general job skills training, job placement assistance and ongoing support in the workforce through long-term follow-up once a youth has re-entered the community.

- ▲ 3) **Work to Learn Program:** This program is designed to insure that youth who will age out of the foster care have the skills and opportunities provided to them that will assist in a more successful transition to adulthood. Each program provides a variety of employment and educational services including; tutoring, academic assessment, job training, job shadowing and internships as well as youth business development, financial literacy, case management, clinical support, savings and asset development. These programs are available to DCF CW and JJ youth from ages 14-21 and are sited in Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, Waterbury and Norwich.

- 4) **Subsidized Vocational Employment Program:** Subsidized employment opportunities are available to DCF committed delinquent youth. The department operates this program similar to an internship opportunity by providing funding and supervision to youth while they work at local businesses in the community. The program will be time limited (up to 3 months) and in the form of a two tier model.

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Tier I- Primarily for youth without work history and between the ages of 14-17. Minimum wage entry level jobs no more than 20 hours per week from 1-3 months in duration. Examples of Tier I jobs could be: working at the local boys and girls club, working with a local barber or at a DCF contracted provider. The primary goal of the Tier I program is for the youth to develop basic skills required in any job independent of the job type such as showing up on time, working hard, demonstrating a good attitude, and appropriate language and social skills.

Tier II- Primarily for youth who have some past work experience or have been assessed as having some skills in a certain career field. Youth will generally be between the ages 17-20. The pay scale will be minimum wage, however can be adjusted based on the required skill level and the average wage being paid to others performing similar duties. The position will be in a field that will support the youths identified career goals. The duration of the subsidy will be from 1-3 months. DCF or its contractors will establish relationships with companies from various trades/industries to allow the youth an opportunity to work in these companies while DCF pays the youth and provides regular supervision of the youth. Examples of Tier II jobs could be: working with a carpenter, electrician, plumber, or other skilled trade, in a medical office, vet clinic, floral shop, tailor, or hair salon. The goal of the tier II program is to further enhance the youth's skill development in a specific field of interest and for the juvenile to be able to obtain a sustainable wage job upon completion of his/her DCF commitment.

EDUCATION and VOCATIONAL SERVICES

- 5) **Technical High School(s)**: Each year DCF seeks to fill 5 slots in each of the 16 technical high school throughout the state. Youth must enter the high school during the eight grade; in view of this requirement staff must identify potential candidates during the 7th grade.

- ▲6) **Post Secondary Education Matching**: The Post Secondary Education Consultants review a committed youth's educational profile in the youth's senior year of high school to determine an appropriate match to a higher educational program.

- 7) **Post Secondary Education Funding**: The Department provides tuition funding up to the CT State University Cost of Attendance Rate. At the present time, the annual budget for a youth in Post Secondary Education is \$22,000. Assistance with the annual DCF 632 budgeting is available to include financial aid and scholarship funding.

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- ▲ 8) **Additional Support Services: Tutoring, Case Management, etc:** The Department provides additional services for youth up to the age of 21 that include tutoring, case management and other support services, separate from the annual budget.

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICE OPTIONS

- 9) **Intensive Home Based Services: Multi-systemic Therapy-Family Integrated Transitions (MST-FIT):** This service uses the evidence-based Intensive Home Based (IHB) treatment model, Multi-systemic Therapy - Family Integrated Transitions (MST-FIT), to provide integrated individual and family services to adolescents with co-occurring mental health and chemical dependency disorders during the period of their re-entry from residential or juvenile justice facilities back into their communities. MST-FIT promotes behavioral change in the natural environment including helping parents learn to monitor and to intervene positively with their adolescents.
- 10) **Intensive Home Based Services: Reentry and Family Treatment (RAFT):** This service, Reentry and Family Treatment (RAFT) Program, expands the publicly-funded adolescent substance abuse treatment system to provide enhanced Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) services to substance-abusing juvenile offenders being released after a year or more in a controlled environment back to the cities of Hartford, New Britain, Bridgeport, Milford, New Haven, and Waterbury. RAFT will especially target youth 16 and 17 years of age who are being newly served by Connecticut's Department of Children and Families (DCF) juvenile justice and adolescent substance abuse treatment system.
- ▲ 11) **MST-PSB:** Following the evidenced based clinical model, Multisystemic Therapy - Problem Sexual Behavior (MST-PSB), this service will provide clinical interventions for adolescents who will be returning home from Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) or a residential treatment program that has provided sex offender specific treatment or for adolescents with problem sexual behavior living in the community that are at high risk for incarceration or residential treatment if intensive community based services are not provided.
- ▲ 12) **One on One Mentoring Program:** The One on One Mentoring Program (OOMP) is designed to provide DCF committed youth ages 14 and older with a volunteer mentor. Mentoring provides youth with a caring responsible adult, who can help guide and support them during their transition to adulthood.

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- ▲ 13) **Community Based Life Skills and Life Skills Program:** The Department offers community based life skills education and training programs for all youth in care. Youth in foster care are eligible for a community based life skills program (CBLS) located in the area where they live. For youth in Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC), life skills education is provided by the TFC provider. Youth who reside in congregate care receive life skills education within the program milieu.
- 14) **Substance Abuse Treatment:** This service provides outpatient adolescent substance abuse treatment (ASAT) including substance abuse screening and evaluation, individual, group and family therapeutic interventions for adolescent identified as New Choices clients, ages 12 through 17, who are court-involved, are under the supervision of an adult or juvenile probation officer and are currently residing in New Choices catchment area.
- 15) **Community Targeted Re-Entry Pilot Program (CTRPP):** This service provides pre-release and post-release services for boys at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) including social and life-skill building, vocational and career development and psycho-educational programming through character development, leadership and recreational opportunities.
- 16) **Intensive Home-Based Services: Functional Family Therapy (FFT):** This service provides an intensive period of in-home clinical intervention, family support and empowerment, crisis intervention, case management and access to medication evaluation and management.
- ▲ 17) **Youth Advisory Boards:** Each Regional Office has a Youth Advisory Board comprised of DCF adolescents in out-of-home care. Youth under the care of Juvenile Services are also eligible to participate. These Youth Advisory Boards (YABs) give DCF youth the opportunity to have input into the creation, revision and/or review of departmental policies and procedures related to services offered. In addition, YABs are actively involved in identifying and finding solutions to the unique problems presented to youth transitioning from out-of-home care.

A Statewide Youth Advisory Board consisting of two youth from each of the six regions meets on a quarterly basis with the Commissioner to report out on their activities and to share areas of interest and/or concern.

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- ▲ 18) **Support Staff**: Support Staff is a service designed to address the individualized needs of a child or youth in the community who may be exhibiting mild to moderately challenging behaviors in the home, in school or in the community. This service provides a range of life supports focused on making positive decisions and behavioral choices; assisting with attaining social and emotional gains; connecting with positive peer and other community supports and reinforcing success in school.

- ▲ 19) **Unique Service Expenditure**: When traditional or currently available services are not sufficient, DCF staff shall consider new or expanded services that might increase the prospect of success for a youth and determine whether that youth might benefit from a Unique Service Expenditure (USE) Plan. The purpose of the USE Plan is to develop additional services, when the traditional services appear to be insufficient.

- ▲ 20) **Gang Treatment Specialist Unit (G.T.S.U.)**: Gang Treatment Specialist Unit is tasked with identifying gang involved Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare youth. This unit educates staff, providers and youth about the gang subculture and seeks to redirect gang involved youth into strength based pro-social activities that focus on healthy relationships, vocational and job skills development as well as job placement.

- ▲ 21) **Therapeutic Support Staff**: Therapeutic Support Staff is a service designed to address the individualized needs of a child or youth with complex behavioral health needs. This service is intended for youth whose level of functioning puts them at risk of entering a residential level of care, disrupting from their home or foster placement, or for children or youth who are being discharged from residential treatment or a more acute level of care. It is intended as a component of a comprehensive treatment plan.

- 22) **Child Trauma Clinic**: This service provides trauma-focused clinical evaluations and therapy to juvenile justice involved children. Services are brief, focused, and evidence based.

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- 23) **Juvenile Review Board (JRB):** JRB's are designed to divert youth from the Juvenile Justice Systems. Referrals are typically accepted by police and schools. There is one DCF funded JRB in each of our 6 regions. Panels use the BARJ (Balanced and Restorative Justice) model. Youth and family members go in front of the board to explain an incident, take responsibility, and accept a consequence. There will be one DCF funded JRB in each of our 6 regions. JRB's are designed to divert youth from the Juvenile Justice Systems. Referrals are typically accepted by police and schools. Panels use the BARJ (Balanced and Restorative Justice) model. Youth (and family) goes in front of the board to explain the incident, take responsibility, and accept a consequence. Consequences may include community service, apology letters, restitution, mediation, participation in social/recreational activities, and referrals to appropriate services.

- 24) **Juvenile Justice Intermediate Evaluation JJIE/DCFIE:** Juvenile Justice Intermediate Evaluation/DCF Intermediate Evaluation, Service provides a comprehensive and multidisciplinary out-patient assessment to assist in treatment planning for children and youth referred by the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters and/or DCF involved JJ involved (includes children with frequent police contact and those involved with a JRB) needing comprehensive evaluation.

- 25) **JJ Juvenile Sexual Treatment:** This service, Juveniles Opting for Treatment to Learn Appropriate Behavior, (JOTLAB), is a comprehensive community based rehabilitative treatment program that serves adjudicated and non-adjudicated male and female youth who have engaged in inappropriate and abusive sexual behaviors.

STRUCTURED LIVING ENVIRONMENTS

- 26) **Community Housing Assistance Program (CHAP):** The Department offers a subsidized housing component for youth ready for less intensive supervision and more independence. The CHAP Program serves youth who have graduated high school or obtained their GED and have an approved **Post Secondary Education** plan. Youth in CHAP are eligible to receive case management services from a "credentialed" provider to assist with life skills development.

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- ▲ 27) **Preparing Adolescent for Self Sufficiency (PASS):** PASS homes are group homes that help youth in obtaining vocational training, work readiness and other community integration skills. These group homes provide services across several domains, including education, vocation, employability, independent living skills, health, mental health, community and permanent connections. All PASS homes employ an educator/vocational instructor.

- ▲ 28) **Congregate Care:** Congregate care is array of structured and supervised programs that are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These programs exist throughout the state. This includes intermediate-term treatment settings such as Residential Treatment Centers and Therapeutic Group Homes and temporary/transitional programs such as Stars, Safe Homes, and crisis stabilization units.

- ▲ 29) **Supportive Work, Education and Transition Program (SWET):** The SWET Program is a community-based stand alone, staffed apartment program that serves adolescents, age 16. The program utilizes coaching, teaching, and adult leadership to promote the acquisition of independent living skills, including all aspects of self-care, education, vocational planning and community access with the goal that each youth will develop the skills necessary to function successfully as an independent adult.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- 30) **Sibling Connections:** This program focuses on DCF committed youth, ages 14-21, who are residing apart from their siblings. The program utilizes various opportunities to increase contact between siblings in an effort to support permanent family connection(s).

- ▲ 31) **Safe Harbor Program:** Collaboration between the Department and True Colors, Inc. The program was created to provide culturally competent, affirming service or training for youth, foster parents, adoptive parents and providers regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Questioning and Inter-Sex youth. This program also provides continued support to foster homes that provide care for LGBYQI youth.

- ▲ 33) **Fatherhood Program:** The Department has an initiative to work with young fathers to improve the well being of their children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible and committed fathers.

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- 34) **Fostering Responsibility, Education and Employment (F.R.E.E.):** This reentry service is designed to support adolescents and young adults involved with the juvenile justice system who are returning to their community from public or private congregate care treatment settings. This program will provide an array of services to support the adolescent's growth in all areas of functioning through family focused interventions and build on natural supports while accessing services and opportunities available in the local continuum of services. These activities will assist youth in avoiding negative peers and behaviors while exposing them to enriching activities that will ultimately lead to improved social skills, maintaining gainful employment, productive lifestyle, and reduce recidivism.

- 35) **Medicaid:** Youth are eligible to obtain Medicaid up until the age of twenty-one in Connecticut. Medicaid eligibility entitles young people to the full Medicaid benefits package. This package includes a broad array of health care screening, diagnosis and treatment services.

- 36) **Re-Entry Program:** This service is for youth who have left DCF care but were committed to the Department due to abuse or neglect at the time of their 18th birthday. Such youth *may* be eligible to re-enter care on a case-by-case basis in order to continue their education.

- ▲ 37) **Driver Education Program:** The Department will pay fifty percent of the cost of the driver's education program. Youth must successfully complete a certified driver's education program in order to obtain a driver's permit or license.

- 38) **Parent Project:** This program provides a highly structured, 10-16 week parent training program. It is designed specifically for parents/caregivers of youth/adolescents who engage in risky behaviors such as running away from home, truancy or "pre-delinquent behaviors".

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- ▲ 39) **Wilderness School (WS):** The Wilderness School offers high impact wilderness programs in order to foster positive youth development. The school is designed as a journey experience, which is based on experiential and therapeutic learning models.

Wilderness School programs include a variety of one day course options for youth and their caregivers, provider staff and social work staff throughout the year.

Twenty day, eight day, and five day Expedition Programs take place during summer months in groups of ten youth appropriate for the most rigorous challenges. Follow-up programs are available during the year to reinforce the student summer learning experiences.

Upon request, the Wilderness School will design, develop and provide specific group courses to promote to "team building" utilizing activities such as rock climbing, ropes courses, caving, canoeing and cross country skiing.

Educational/Vocational & Employment Training Programs

- 40) **Post Secondary Education (PSE) and Post Secondary Training and Employment**

The Department of Children and Families may provide financial assistance and support services for (Child Welfare) youth in post secondary education or employment training programs within available DCF budget appropriations in accordance with policy 42-20-20. Funding is available for youth in a college degree program until the end of the academic year in which they turn (23) twenty-three years of age. Funding is available for (CW) youth who pursue a vocational education program until the end of the academic year in which they turn (21) twenty-one. Funding is available for youth who pursue an employment training programs for up to 18 months.

Post High JJ youth may be eligible for vocational training, in skilled and semi-skilled trades as well as employment training.

- 41) **Post Secondary Education Consultation:** The Post Secondary Education Consultants consult with Area Office staff regarding transitioning youth to an appropriate post secondary education track. The consultant assists with educational planning for youth who were unsuccessful in original post-secondary education program and are enrolling in a second higher education, vocational or employment training program.

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- 42) **CT Post Secondary Education Committee:** The Department of Children and Families has established a network of 13 different higher education institutions (DCF Partner Schools) across the state to ensure that students in foster care have the opportunity to access and succeed in their institutions. PSE consultants assist Partner Schools with enhancing services for youth in the foster care system to include summer bridge programs, individualized orientation, campus support groups, year round housing, peer mentoring program, on campus liaison, and problem resolution.
- Mitchell College-MAST
 - Southern Connecticut State University
 - University of Saint Joseph
 - Housatonic Community College
 - Manchester Community College
 - Fairfield University
 - Lincoln Technical Institute
 - Sacred Heart University
 - University of Connecticut
 - Gateway Community College
 - Middlesex Community College
 - Lincoln College of New England
 - Capital Community College
- 43) **Additional Housing and Living Subsidies:** The Department provides housing and living subsidies for youth in post-secondary education during academic break which is in addition to the youth's annual budget.
- ▲44) **College Tours & Conferences:** The Post Secondary Education Consultants coordinate college and vocation preparation activities and services such as workshops, conferences, college and vocational tours, etc. to prepare youth for post secondary education.
- 45) **Youth Focus Workshop Groups:** The Post Secondary Education Consultants assist DCF Area Offices and service providers with education workshops for students in the foster care and Juvenile Justice systems who are beginning to explore post secondary education and job training programs.
- ▲46) **Information Resource:** The Post Secondary Education consultants disseminate resource information for youth pursuing post secondary education, such as school applications, scholarships, grants etc.

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- 47) **Youth Planning & Programming:** The Post Secondary Education Consultants facilitate the use of federal funds and coordinate efforts that enhance services to youth in post secondary education. Example ETV Vouchers, computer purchasing and distribution, summer bridge programs, loan reimbursement, etc.

- ▲ 48) **Educational Assessment & Career Counseling:** The Department of Children and Families has established a partnership with the New Haven based *Integrated Wellness Group* for the purpose of conducting achievement and occupational assessments of DCF involved youth. This service is designed to assess aptitudes and interests while assisting staff and youth to determine which course of study or occupation is likely to be the most successful choice. The Post Secondary Education Consultants assist in streamlining referrals to the organization.

- ▲ 49) **Job Corps:** The Post Secondary Education Consultants streamline the applications to the Job Corps Program. Job Corps is a no cost educational and vocational training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. Although Job Corps serves youth between the ages of 16-24, The Department of Children and Families requires DCF involved youth to be at least 18 years old of age to apply.

- 50) **Early College Experience and Summer Bridge Programs:** The Department of Children and Families has developed a partnership with UCONN's First Star Program for the purpose of recruiting 30 foster youth entering 9th grade to participate in a year-round program that includes a four week residential summer immersion on the university's main campus at Storrs. Youth will experience a much needed head start to their high school years by receiving a broad system of academic and college prep supports along with the strong and positive social implication of early college awareness issues.

- 51) **Programming for Pregnant and/or Parenting Girls:** The Department of Children and Families has targeted services for pregnant or parenting foster youth residing in the maternity group homes to experience enhanced specialized services that will assist in their transition to post secondary education. Youth will participate in achievement and occupational assessment through the *Integrated Wellness Group* and be connected to a mentor that will assist in the transition.

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- ▲ 52) **The Career Pathways Collaborative:** The purpose of the Career Pathways Collaborative is to create career and job opportunities for DCF adolescents with emphasis placed on intensive training, preparation and employment placement. Various Community Colleges have committed to working with Career Pathways to provide the training.

Companies in need of newly-trained workers throughout the state have been identified. These companies are interested in providing opportunities to older adolescents committed to DCF and transitioning into adulthood.

Manufacturing Model

The Career Pathways Collaborative manufacturing model is a year-long blended learning program that includes classroom instruction, hands-on machining instruction, and online manufacturing training. The manufacturing model provides a paid one-month, 15 hour-per-week- internship for each manufacturing student. Full-time subsidized employment at a smaller manufacturing company for up to six months will follow successful completion of the educational and internship program.

Non-Manufacturing Model While manufacturing is a very strong program, there will be DCF clients who are better suited for pathways of a shorter duration and outside the manufacturing field, these students will also be offered a paid 3 month, 15 hour-per-week internships in order to gain greater on-the-job experience. Programs such as; EMT, medical office assistant, welding, pharmacy Tech, and vet assistant are an integral part of the Career Pathways Collaborative

All students accepted to Career Pathways will take part in a preparatory program designed to provide them with an introduction to behavioral and academic expectations and small, facilitated study sessions. Facilitated study will provide the opportunity for students to work individually or in groups to become more versed in computer use, studying skills and introductory concepts in their career pathway. Facilitated study sessions will also be tailored to the needs of the each student based on their entrance exam scores.

- ▲ 53) **Job Funnels:** The Post Secondary Education Team streamlines applications and linkage to the CT Job Funnels. The Job Funnels initiative promotes career pathways in the construction industry for unemployed and underemployed workers in seven Connecticut communities covering Eastern, North Central, Northwest, South Central and Southwest. CT targeted occupations include: painters, sheet metal workers, carpenters, iron workers, electricians, and plumbers.