



Juvenile Justice Costs:

CONNECTICUT HAS ALLOCATED NEARLY \$200 MILLION TO JUVENILE JUSTICE FACILITIES IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

Sample Capital and Development Costs

\$57 million - the amount to build the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, equipped with 240 beds.

\$54 million - the total estimated cost for the construction of the Bridgeport Juvenile Matters Detention Center and Courthouse.

\$27,535,750 - the total cost for the expansion of the Hartford Detention Center.

Sample Operating Costs

\$34.7 million - the annual operating and personnel budget for the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) and Juvenile Parole Services.

\$1.4 million - the operating funds appropriated for the Hartford Detention Center expansion.

\$514,000 per youth - the average annual cost to keep one youth at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School

Recommendations for Change: Where To Start

The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance is working on solutions to decrease spending on jails and prisons and redistribute the funding towards positive youth development programming, truancy reduction programs, mental health counseling, and community-based services proven to decrease delinquency and reduce recidivism. To begin, the Alliance recommends Connecticut:

1. **Rethink the building of new secure juvenile detention and correctional facilities and reallocate the funding** toward comprehensive community-based programs that provide positive alternatives for young people most at-risk of entering or re-entering the juvenile justice system.
2. **Decriminalize Family With Service Needs**, thereby diverting some young people from the juvenile justice system whose offenses are only truancy or running away.
3. **Develop more community-based behavioral health programs** to reduce the overrepresentation of African-American and Latino/a youth in the system and to provide rehabilitative services for arrested girls who face a multitude of risk and problems in the community and at home.