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On the Rise: A National Youth Deflection Initiative

On the Rise: A National Youth Deflection Initiative is a comprehensive effort aimed at reducing youth involvement in the justice system by implementing youth deflection, expanding youth pre-arrest diversion, and strengthening family and community-based supports.

Youth deflection and pre-arrest diversion initiatives provide “upstream” support to young people who: (1) are displaying behaviors associated with delinquency; (2) are at risk of becoming engaged in the justice system; or (3) have already committed minor offenses and are at risk of further justice system involvement.

Deflection includes accountability. By holding youth accountable for their behavior, integrating early intervention and deflection strategies, utilizing restorative justice principles, and creating pathways to success, this initiative aims to break intergenerational cycles of risk and create sustainable opportunities for youth and their families. **On the Rise** provides the community with a proven alternative that focuses on public safety while effectively intervening with youth who are at risk or engaged in the justice system.

Core Strategies

- 1. Creating More Youth Deflection Sites Across the US, Starting with Civil Citation**
 - a. Implementing and scaling Civil Citation models that provide alternatives to arrest and criminal charges for eligible youth.
 - b. Strengthening partnerships with law enforcement, schools, and family and community organizations to increase deflection and pre-arrest diversion opportunities that provide accountability for behavior while prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment.
 - c. Utilizing restorative justice approaches to address behaviors in a way that fosters accountability while avoiding the long-term legal consequences of a delinquency arrest.

2. Implementing Strategies that Provide Assessment and Needed Services

- a. Using early intervention and evidence-based assessment tools focused on identifying and addressing risk factors before and when youth encounter the justice system.
- b. Utilizing restorative justice initiatives that hold youth accountable for their behavior through restitution, community service, and victim engagement.
- c. Expanding access to family-based intervention strategies that enhance stability, reduce adverse childhood experiences, and build resilience.
- d. Partnering with schools, community organizations, and behavioral health providers to implement evidence-based programs that support youth in crisis.

3. Research and Policy Collaboration

- a. Partnering with research institutions and agencies such as the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to evaluate the effectiveness of Civil Citation and youth deflection and pre-arrest diversion strategies.
- b. Conducting data-driven studies to identify trends, refine interventions, and ensure access to deflection and pre-arrest diversion programs across states and communities.

4. Empowering Youth Through Opportunity

- a. Expanding access to education, job training, and mentorship programs that provide youth with a clear path to success.
- b. Including the whole family in the process and providing continued support.
- c. Strengthening partnerships with local businesses and workforce development organizations to create meaningful employment pathways.

By leveraging the proven effectiveness of civil citation and restorative justice initiatives, **On the Rise** aligns with federal and state priorities for juvenile justice. This evidence-based, data-driven solution enhances community safety and reduces juvenile justice system involvement while empowering families and communities to support lasting change.

Additional Information

For more information on Youth Deflection, see the Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC) brief (October 2024): Visit ptaccollaborative.org/ptacc-suite/ and click on “PTACC Youth Deflection.”

For more information about *On the Rise: The National Youth Deflection Initiative*, contact info@civilcitation.com.