

## Wisconsin's Youth Justice System

The vision for Wisconsin's community based YJ system is a focus on prevention and diversion with the provision of accountability and services for youth who come to the attention of the YJ system. This vision is guided by the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) commitment to ensuring all youth have the tools to thrive in adulthood.

A community based youth justice system is designed to serve the greatest number of youths through local prevention and diversion services and reduce the number placed out-of-home. Wisconsin is committed to ensuring young people referred to YJ are served by the appropriate agency or services, and that the YJ system does not function as a default intervention for youth in the state.

DCF assumed fiscal and programmatic oversight of Wisconsin's community based youth justice system in 2016. Associated responsibilities include training, maintenance of data systems, development of YJ standards, and building capacity through technical assistance. These duties are carried out in close consultation with counties, as Wisconsin's YJ system is state supervised, and county administered.

Additional details about the structure of Wisconsin's YJ system can be found in [Appendix B](#).

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