MISSION

End the criminalization of youth

CTJA is led by 3 woman of color and focuses on partnering with young leaders ages 18-25 who have been impacted by our legal system.
Our History

- Founded in 2001
- Our youth-adult partnership began in 2017 with the founding of our Justice Advisors
- June 2020: Launched #InvestInMeCT
#InvestInMeCT seeks to reduce the number of system-involved youth by addressing the root causes of youth criminalization.

The goal of the campaign is to build opportunity-rich communities where all youth and families can access the resources they need to succeed.
#InvestInMeCT Revisited Report

June 20, 2022: Ending the Criminalization of Youth: Address the Root was released as a follow up to our first report in 2020.
# CTJA's Partnership in Action

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WHY ENGAGE YOUTH AND FAMILIES AS PARTNERS?
Why is this partnership important?

- Directly impacted perspective
- Informative policy creation
- Informs additional areas of impact [cross-system impact]
- Truly with community, not for community
- Targets addressing systemic and community gaps with community-based solutions
What does an authentic partnership look like?

- Intentionally building relationships
- Mutual and shared contributions
- Lots of reflection and transparent conversations
- NO tokenism
- Ongoing capacity building
- Investing in your partnership
Centering youth and families is giving their experiences and opinions value and power.
STAY IN TOUCH

@theCTJA
@ctjusticealliance
CT Justice Alliance
CTJA.org