

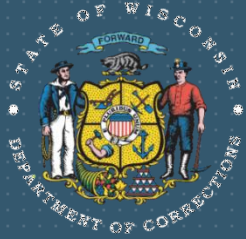
Wisconsin Counties Association

2025 ANNUAL ***GAME DAY***

CONFERENCE

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Youth Justice Reform in Action



Progress Towards Achieving the Vision of Act 185

Lance Horozewski
Division of Juvenile Corrections, Administrator
Wisconsin Department of Corrections

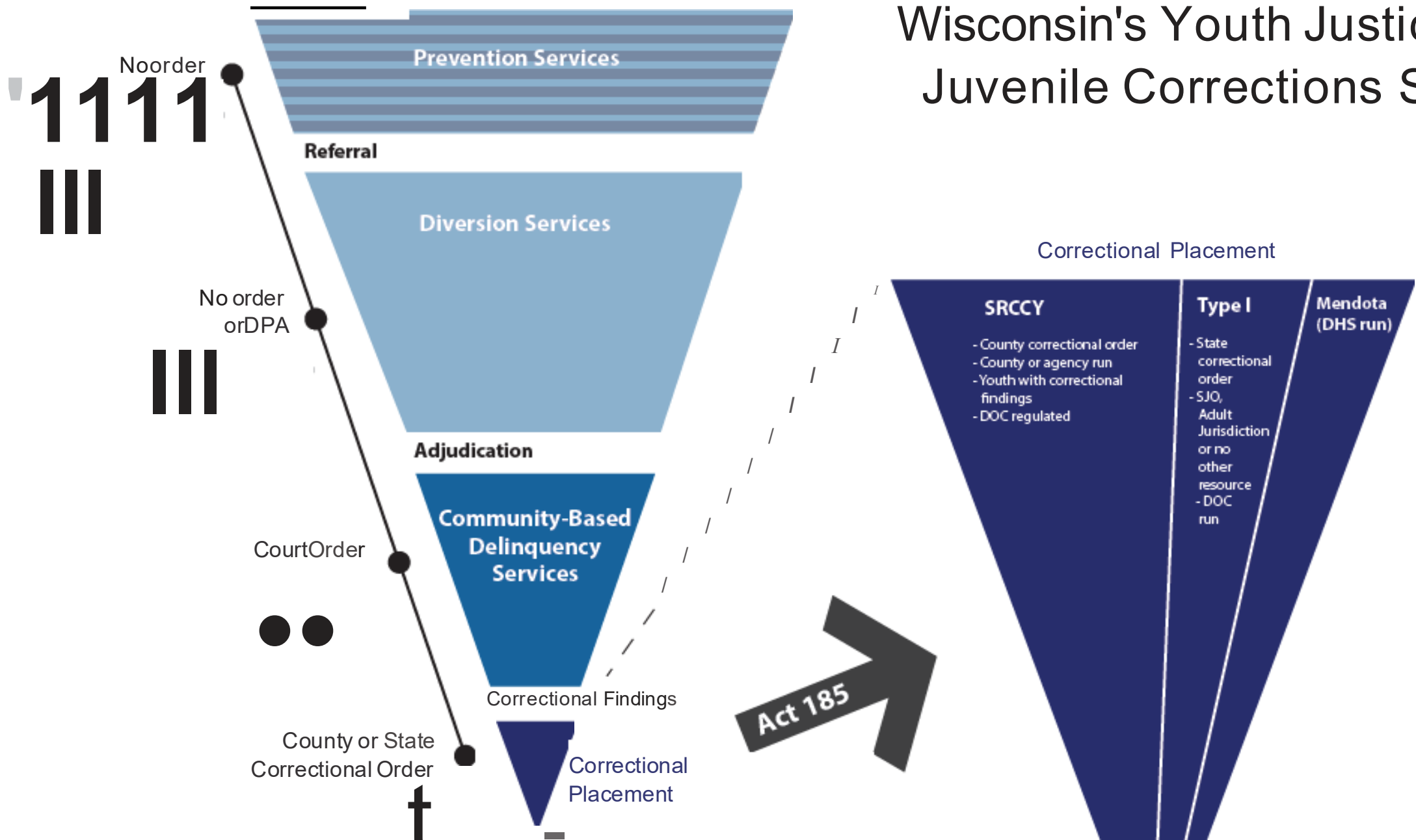


Presentation Overview

1. Act 185 background
2. Type 1 Facilities
3. Updates
4. Questions



Wisconsin's Youth Justice and Juvenile Corrections System





Major Provisions of Act 185

- Establish new, small and closer to home secure facilities across the state
 - DOC-operated Type 1 facilities for Serious Juvenile Offenders (SJO), Adult convicted minors, and SROCCY COP
 - County or tribal operated Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth for non-SJO correctional placements
 - Expand Type 1 Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center
 - Close LHS/CLS and convert to adult prison
-



Major Provisions of Act 185

- Limit local detention to 30 days and grandfather existing programs
 - State Leg. provide building funds for SROCCY
 - State funding for Type 1 facilities
 - Create Admin Code for SROCCY DOC 347
 - Youth Aids bonus for girls SROCCY and serving regional youth
 - Expand MJTC
-

Major Provisions of Act 185 Cont.



- For all non-SJO youth the court shall make a correctional placement to an SROC
 - If no SROC is available or unable, a change in placement can be made to Type 1
- A youth at a SROC can be transferred under a change in placement to MJTC
- Youth will continue to transfer to MJTC from any DOC Type 1

Why "Closer to Home"?



- Research shows that when incarcerated youth have frequent access to community and family support, recidivism is reduced
 - Able to bring local services into facility
 - Staff represent community youth come from
 - Better transition to community
-

Why "Smaller Facilities"?



- Research shows, large institutional settings are more dangerous for youth and staff
 - Increase risk factors
 - Fewer services
 - Often located in rural areas where most youth do not come from
-

Type 1 Correctional Facilities



- Operated by DJC and DHS
- Administrative Codes: 376, 373, 371, 380, 393
- Current facilities
 - Lincoln Hills
 - Copper Lake
 - MJTC

Type 1 Correctional Facility



- Serious Juvenile Offenders
- Minors Sentenced as adults
- County Commitment

Type 1 DJC



Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools – Irma, Wisconsin



Type 1: DJC Program Overview

- Full array of mental health services
 - Full array of physical health services
 - DPI recognized school
 - AODA
 - SOT
 - DBT
 - Therapeutic Milieu
-

Type 1: DJC Milwaukee



- Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth
 - Located in Milwaukee's north side, 7930 Clinton Ave.
 - 32 beds for boys
 - Primarily serve youth from the Milwaukee County area
 - Local service providers and community resources

Southeast Regional Care Center: Milwaukee



Exterior Design



EXTERIOR DESIGN

BIRDS EYE VIEW LOOKING SOUTH



EXTERIOR DESIGN

OUTDOOR RECREATION [OFF DAYROOM]



3D VIEW LOBBY



3D VIEW DAYROOMS



3D VIEW BEDROOMS



3D VIEW

EDUCATION: CENTRAL





Southeast Regional Care Facility for Youth

Current building Project

Type 1: DJC Fitchburg



- Located in Fitchburg WI
 - 32 beds for boys and 8 for girls
 - Finalizing design
 - Tentative break ground date of July 2026
 - Tentative opening end of 2028

- Once both facilities are operational, LHS will transition to an adult prison





ENTRANCE DRIVE VIEW







Updates



- LHS/CLS continues to serve boys and girls
 - Current census is 6 girls and 77 boys
 - Milwaukee Type 1 is scheduled to open end of 2026
 - Dane County Type 1 is scheduled to open 2028
 - Need to deal with funding
 - When LHS/CLS closes, need to deal with no youth facility in northern part of state
-

Thank You



Lance Horozewski



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BUILDING A MODEL FOR WISCONSIN

The Jonathan Delagrave Youth Development and Care Center

Presented by:

Hope Otto, Human Services Director

Amberlyn Yohn, Administrator of Youth Rehabilitative Health

For:

Wisconsin Counties Association



JDYDCC: A Vision Realized

The facility's launch on May 17 was a transformative milestone for Racine County.



The center is a first of its kind in Wisconsin, carrying Jonathan Delagrave's legacy of community-centered leadership.

Aligning with DOC 347 — shifting from incarceration-driven youth justice models toward development, care, and rehabilitation.

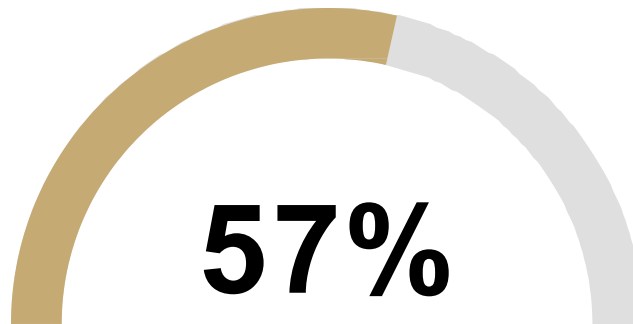
What's Working



Youth-Centered Services: Early wins in offering safe housing, education access, mental health services, and increased dental/community health screenings.

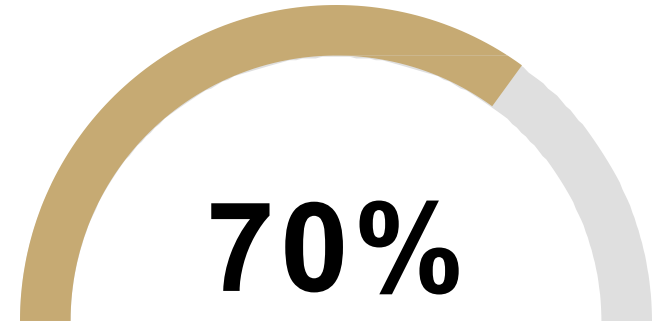


**Decline in suicide
watch and
suicide contacts**



Suicide Watch

57% decrease



Suicide Contacts

70% decrease

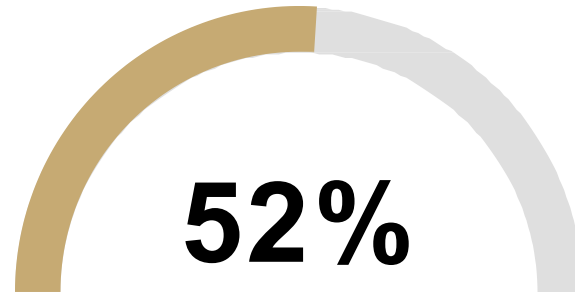
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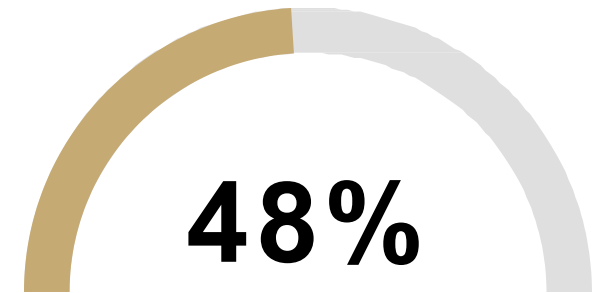


Increase in group
therapy
participation and
groups offered



Group Therapy Participation

52% increase



Number of Groups Offered

48% increase

Average Daily Population: 18 Youth

Average stay: 5–6 months, up to 2 years



15 Youth

Have started RISE=UP
since opening



9

Out-of-County Youth

Half of all participants come from across state

What's Working: Family Engagement and Education



Family Meetings

- Held once per week
- 90% parent/guardian participation



Education & Programming

- 3 hours of school daily
- 4 hours of RISE=UP/ASPIRE programming daily
- Only 1 youth (Brown County) has participated in ASPIRE



Classes and Credits

- Credits: 51 earned + 1 high school diploma (from 9 released HS youth)
- Class Completions: 12 completed (from 3 released MS youth)

Partnerships & Opportunities

Partnerships

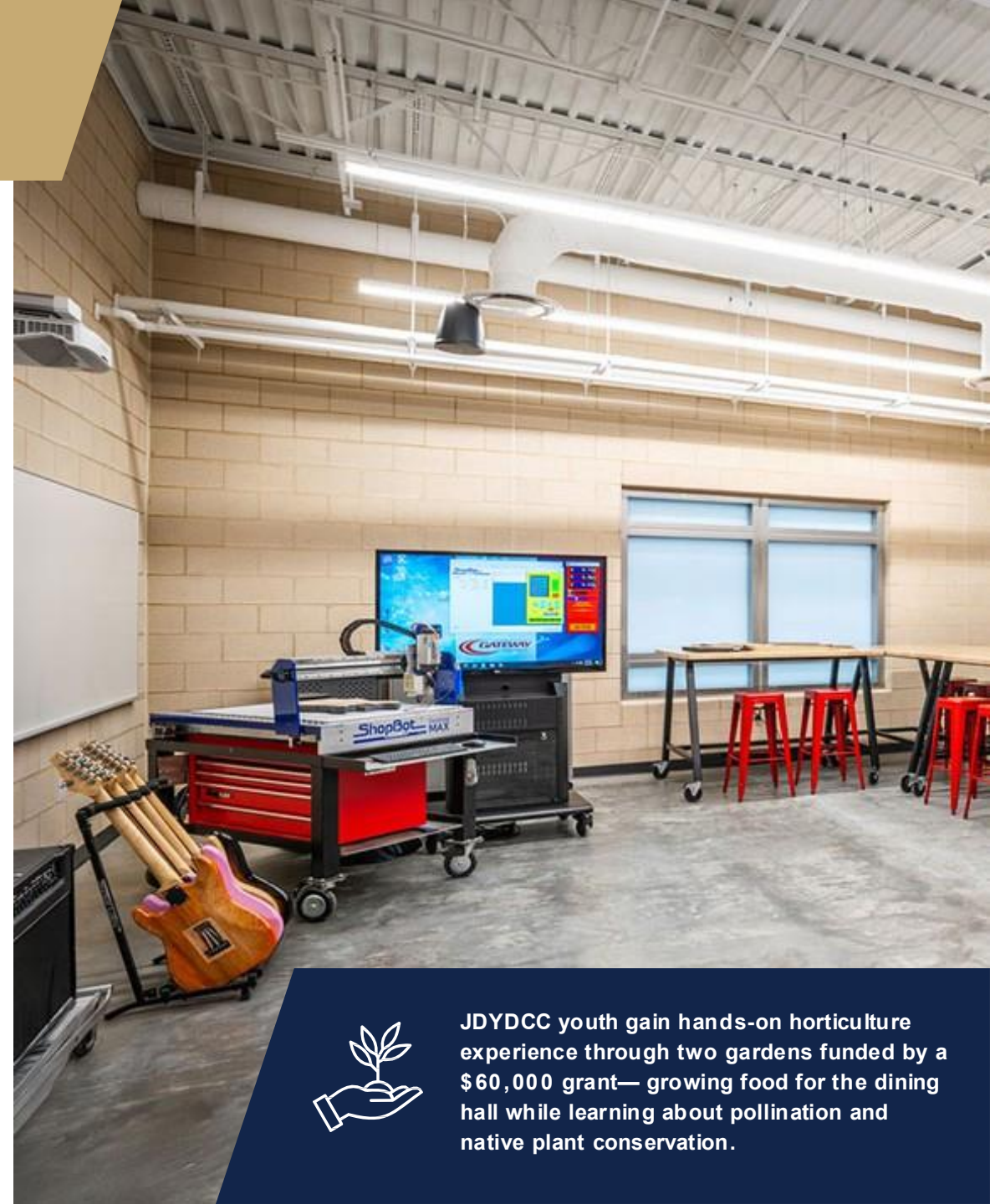
- **Gateway Technical College** – 3D printing (8 sessions: lightsabers, keychains, fidget spinners), NC3 certificates, with future barber/cosmetology and drone programs.
- **Educators Credit Union** – Financial literacy workshops (saving & budgeting).
- **Root-Pike Watershed Initiative** – Gardening fruits, veggies, and native plants. Hands-on soil testing, water quality, insects.
- **Youth for Christ** – Offered 3x per week.

Opportunities

- Youth are building skills in gardening, 3D printing, and other hands-on projects.

Highlights

8 Gateway Sessions **50** Jars Pickled **3x** Youth for Christ Sessions/Week



JDYDCC youth gain hands-on horticulture experience through two gardens funded by a \$60,000 grant—growing food for the dining hall while learning about pollination and native plant conservation.

Challenges

Workforce

- Recruiting/retaining mental health and youth care staff
- High-skill demands: de-escalation, trauma-informed, and crisis intervention
- Staff fatigue and difficulty disengaging

Cultural Transition

- Moving from corrections to therapeutic model
- Staff are undergoing ongoing training in trauma-informed care, de-escalation, and wellness skills
- Aligning culture across all shifts

Capacity & Demand

- 48-bed facility (40 male, 8 female)
- Separate 346/347 youth programming adds complexity
- Direct supervision requires higher staffing levels

Funding Sustainability

- State support critical for true operational costs Essential for



What's Next?

Area	Details
Expanding Programming	Restorative justice, vocational training, and family therapy. New grant will fund Functional Family Therapy (FFT), starting 6 weeks pre-release and continuing post-release to strengthen family engagement, communication, and conflict resolution.
Statewide Leadership	JDYDCC serving as a demonstration site for DOC 347 implementation, sharing lessons with other counties.
Policy Innovation	Leveraging outcome data to push reforms in juvenile justice.
Community Trust	Facility strengthens youth and family trust by demonstrating county's commitment to care, not punishment.

Future

Regional SRCCCY Considerations

Counties are on the frontlines of DOC 347 implementation—
Racine County invested early with JDYCC.

Call to Action: Encourage counties to share lessons, collaborate regionally, and advocate for sustained state funding.



Thank You

Together, we can continue building opportunities and support systems that change lives for youth and families

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