

SPRING 2024 CNC UPDATES:

Where We Are Now:

Over the last four years we engaged in collective efforts to influence P.A's Juvenile Justice Taskforce, appointed by the governor in 2020, and we've played critical roles in drafting, revising and reviewing bills currently pending in our state legislature that would keep PA's youth free. While we are proud of that work, we've listened to young people's voices about the need to fight even harder for policies and practices that strengthen our communities.

We've made a collective decision to double down on our demands to close youth prisons, stop charging youth as adults, and reinvest in transformative justice. We will continue pushing for efforts that are grounded in traditional organizing, youth leadership, harm reduction, and focused on keeping prisons closed, shut-down, and communities together and whole. **You can read our updated demands below.**

If you are interested in joining our coalition, [please submit an interest form](#).

We've Updated Our Demands:

- **Place a moratorium on building or re-opening youth facilities.** We call on lawmakers to immediately close or stop the reopening of juvenile detention facilities and youth placement centers.
- **Treat Children As Children:**
 - Do not charge youth as adults.
- **Reinvest public dollars** in community based alternatives and improving public safety that does not rely on policing or incarceration.

Our Stance on Youth Incarceration:

Youth incarceration is flawed both morally and in practice. It's an ineffective, costly, and harmful strategy that fails to improve community safety and youth well being. Ample evidence exists that public opinion supports rehabilitation, and that community-based alternatives are more beneficial. They improve public safety, are more cost-effective for taxpayers, and offer better outcomes for the youth and communities involved.

Our Guiding Principles:

- **Youth Power:** We believe in self advocacy and self determination. Youth and those most impacted by the justice system must lead the transformation of the juvenile justice system.
- **Collective Power:** We seek to form alliances through building trust, open communication and vulnerability by collaborating with allies across the state.
- **Transformation:** We believe that incarceration is destructive and oppressive. We believe in transforming the policies, systems and practices that produce unfair and unjust outcomes by race.

Campaign Highlights:

Over the last four years, we have created a vision and action steps towards eliminating youth incarceration and eradicating pathways that funnel young people into placement facilities. To date, we have:

- Hosted Town Halls for stakeholders and the general public where young people and families spoke of their experiences with the carceral system
- Youth leaders [published op-eds](#) highlighting the need for policy reform
- CNC youth leaders testified on CNC demands to the PA Juvenile Justice Task Force
- Led a successful letter writing campaign targeting key influencers and stakeholders
- Installed art installations across the state
- Created [an album](#) showcasing the talents, hopes, and dreams of directly impacted young people
- Significantly influenced the [PA Juvenile Justice Task Force's formal recommendations](#), including a nearly unanimous recommendation to end the automatic prosecution of youth in adult courts
- Formed a Youth Steering Committee comprised of youth leaders with direct lived experience
- Submitted detailed policy recommendations to the Task Force; many of which are now written bills