

# Citizens for Juvenile Justice



**FOUNDED:** 1994

**CURRENT ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$599,000

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## Investment Opportunity

CfJJ seeks a \$1.5M investment over the next two years to expand its research and public education portfolio and increase its staff to include full-time development and grassroots organizing capacity. The investment will also support the state-wide Leadership Forum, a collaboration between high-level government and nonprofit sector partners to develop cross-sector strategies that promote positive outcomes for young people, better served communities, and improve public safety.

Young people who enter today's juvenile justice system often leave with poorer life outcomes than when they arrived. Once in the system, they are more likely to drop out of high school, become unemployed, and commit future crimes.

- Over 70% of youth charged in court have committed minor offenses, yet one-third of them are detained in locked, jail-like facilities at some point during their case, costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars each year;
- 40% of children entering the system have open child welfare cases;
- White children and children of color offend at similar rates and commit similar types of crimes, yet Latino youth are six times more likely and black youth eight times more likely to be incarcerated than white youth.

Through advocacy, research, public education, and coalition building, Citizens for Juvenile Justice (CfJJ) works to keep young people out of the adult criminal justice system, reduce unnecessary incarceration of children and youth, ensure effective treatment and services, and eliminate system-wide racial and ethnic disparities.

Over the last few years, more than 10,000 young people across Massachusetts have been positively impacted by CfJJ's work to create a more effective and developmentally appropriate justice system.

## Two-Year Goals

- Launch a web-based, interactive public education project about the juvenile justice system
- Develop a community-responsive vision and plan for holding children and youth accountable without using the court system
- Grow a network of state and grassroots organizations engaged in system reform
- Advocate for more effective strategies for children and youth with behavioral health needs

## Ways to Invest

### FINANCIAL

- \$25,000 funds a Grassroots Organizer to engage youth and families in community meetings and focus groups
- \$10,000 helps support the Leadership Forum
- \$5,000 funds new research and analysis on the intersection between behavioral health and juvenile justice

### IN-KIND

- Media and messaging training for staff
- Auditing services
- Printing and graphic design services
- Web development

## Leadership & Governance

Executive Director Naoka Carey has nearly two decades of experience advocating for youth, pushing for systems reform, and representing children and youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Before CfJJ, Naoka worked to abolish life without parole sentences for children, represented teenagers in foster care in Washington, D.C., and was a private litigator in Boston. She has degrees in law and education and worked as a youth organizer and trainer prior to graduate school.

CfJJ is governed by a Board of Directors that includes experts in adolescent development, juvenile justice, mental health, and legal services.

## CITIZENS FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE MODEL



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**CfJJ is a champion for our young people: knowledgeable, well-respected, and effective in building partnerships within the State House and beyond.**

**KAREN E. SPILKA**  
Massachusetts State Senator

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CfJJ's unique model combines issue-based, data-driven research with pragmatic approaches to policy advocacy.

**Advocacy:** CfJJ works with youth, community groups, service providers, state agencies, and law enforcement to improve the juvenile justice system. CfJJ helps shape state policy by drafting and advocating for legislative reforms and advising policy makers at all levels of government on fair, effective, and appropriate policies for young people.

**Research:** Juvenile justice policies must be informed by accurate data and information on best practices. As a trusted source of information on juvenile justice reform, and one of the only organizations regularly examining how Massachusetts systems for young people are currently functioning, CfJJ is called upon for its expertise on how the system can best address and prevent delinquent behavior and arrests and keep children and communities safe.

**Public Education:** CfJJ is home to the most current information and data available on juvenile justice in Massachusetts. Through reports, fact sheets, briefings, forums, and conferences, CfJJ creates an informed dialogue among policymakers, the media, and the public about the state of juvenile justice and the thousands of children and teens who are part of the system each year.

**Coalition Building:** CfJJ leads the Massachusetts Coalition for Juvenile Justice Reform, a statewide network of over 40 organizations working together to improve the juvenile justice system. CfJJ also hosts the professional staff for the Massachusetts Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum, a collective impact group of senior leaders from state systems that serve children.

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**CfJJ's remarkable commitment to youth voice makes them an invaluable partner to youth organizers across Massachusetts.**

**GEOFF FOSTER**  
Teens Leading the Way

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### Key Investors

- THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION
- THE BOSTON FOUNDATION
- GARDINER HOWLAND SHAW FOUNDATION
- THE HYAMS FOUNDATION
- PUBLIC WELFARE FOUNDATION

### Partners

- CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN
- JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM COALITION
- MASSACHUSETTS CHILD WELFARE & JUVENILE JUSTICE LEADERSHIP FORUM
- MASSACHUSETTS KIDS COUNT
- TEENS LEADING THE WAY

## IMPACT AND PRIORITIES

CfJJ's impact includes successful campaigns to bring 17-year-olds into the juvenile system and to end life without parole sentences for children and youth, as well as launching state and national coalitions for juvenile justice reform.

CfJJ's statewide research has:

- Exposed the high rates of arrests in Boston, Springfield, and Worcester schools for low-level misbehavior
- Revealed the large numbers of children with disabilities held in juvenile detention facilities
- Focused attention on the high numbers of youth in child welfare system who "cross over" into the juvenile justice system, as well as on their troubling histories while in child welfare
- Highlighted dramatic declines in juvenile crime following reforms to reduce the detention population and bring 17-year-olds into the juvenile system

CfJJ works closely with legislators, agency leaders, service providers, youth, and community members to craft workable and responsible policy solutions.

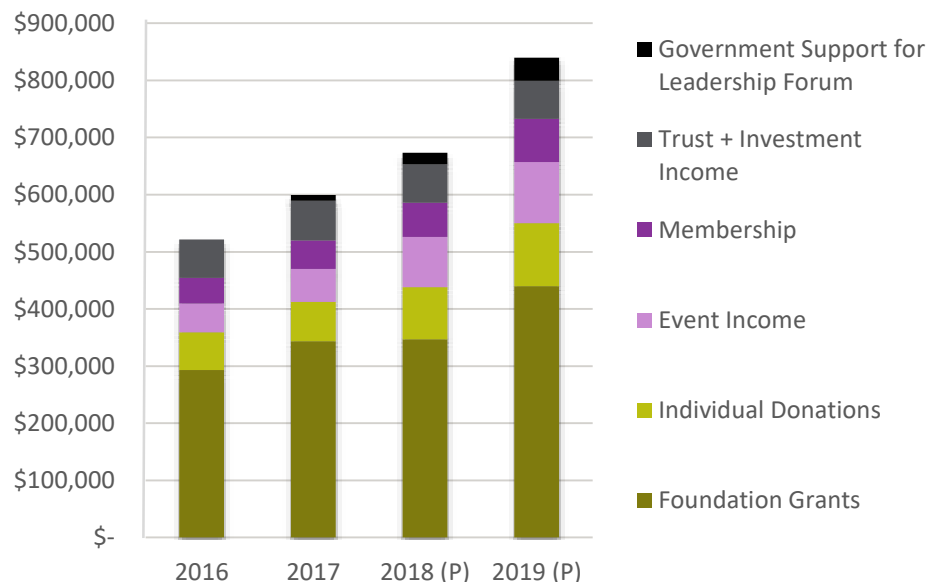
Current advocacy priorities include:

- Addressing system-wide racial and ethnic disparities
- Promoting community-based alternatives to secure confinement or court processing
- Ensuring developmentally appropriate sentencing practices, policies, and laws for children and youth
- Highlighting the importance of family engagement in achieving lasting positive outcomes for children and youth

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

CfJJ is preparing to launch its next strategic planning process to ensure fiscal, programmatic, and operational health over the next five years. The organization will focus on growing revenue by engaging new individual and corporate partners and securing additional support from private foundations.

### Revenue by Source



### Success Story: HC

At 17, HC was charged with a domestic violence case following a conflict with his father. Thanks to CfJJ's successful advocacy to include 17-year-olds in the juvenile justice system, HC was committed to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) instead of an adult jail.

At DYS, HC completed a treatment program, passed his high school equivalency exam, and secured full-time employment with a landscaping company. DYS offered partial funding for driver's education so HC could save enough money to buy a car and cover his insurance. Since he had transportation, HC was able to secure a higher paying job with a demolition company. He continues to receive voluntary services from DYS to support his progress.

### Publications List

**Less Crime for Less Money:** Reducing unnecessary and harmful court processing for children and teens (2016)

**Missed Opportunities:** Preventing youth in the child welfare system from entering the juvenile justice system (2015)

**Unlocking Potential:** Addressing MA's overuse of juvenile detention (2014)

**Arrested Futures:** The criminalization of school discipline in MA's three largest school districts (2012)

## PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

Below is a summary of the key measures Citizens for Juvenile Justice tracks to demonstrate progress, create internal accountability, incorporate lessons learned, and adjust strategy as necessary.

	FY 2017	FY 2018 (P)	FY 2019 (P)
<b>PROGRAM PERFORMANCE</b>			
Legislative advocacy for system reform	File legislation and secure cosponsors	Secure favorable reports on legislation and passage	Evaluate impact, introduce new reforms
Number of advocacy trainings for grassroots and community partners	4	6	8
Number of cities reached by Diversion Network, a community-based effort to hold children and youth accountable without using the court system	1	2	4
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH/CAPACITY-BUILDING</b>			
Number of full-time equivalent employees	4.5	6	7.5
Number of research-driven reports	2	3	5
Number of donations from corporate and event sponsors	25 \$44,000	35 \$70,000	45 \$90,000
Total revenue	\$599,000	\$673,400	\$840,000

## SOCIAL IMPACT

CfJJ collects and analyzes data on current practices in Massachusetts and nationally to advocate for effective policies that support children. The organization tracks the number of reports, draft bills, and legislative champions, as well as initiatives and collaborations, that support a fair and effective juvenile justice system. CfJJ's work to ensure the healthy development of children and young people is an investment that will yield brighter futures and safer communities across Massachusetts.

Below are key indicators that represent progress toward the organization's ambitious vision.

INDICATOR	FY2016
Number of fact sheets, research briefs, and reports published	1 LEGISLATIVE BRIEF 4 FACT SHEETS 1 REPORT
Number of statewide decision makers engaged in planning to reduce racial disparities in the juvenile justice system	14
Number of partners in Massachusetts Coalition for Juvenile Justice Reform	45
Number of Massachusetts youth positively impacted by legislative changes accomplished in the last five years	> 10,000