

Community Transition Services Program

This document is intended to provide answers to some of the frequently asked questions of **Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) families**.

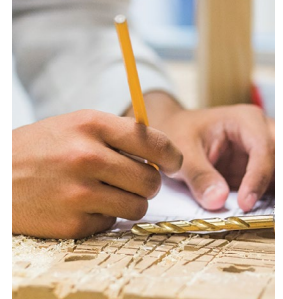


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WHAT IS COMMUNITY TRANSITION SERVICES (CTS)?

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CTS provides a least restrictive option to residential confinement for eligible JR young people. CTS offers therapeutic supports and connections to services along with electronic monitoring in the community while the young person is finishing their sentence at home. It provides them with opportunities to enhance their independent living skills, establish housing, obtain their own transportation, and build credit, helping them prepare for a successful reentry and future.



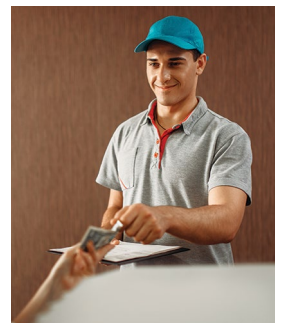
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WHAT KIND OF SERVICES ARE PROVIDED WHILE A YOUNG PERSON IS PARTICIPATING IN CTS?

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Services offered depend on their goals and what they need. Services may include:

- Housing support
- Connections to education, vocation, and work training
- Referrals for mental health or substance use treatment
- Family counseling
- Treatment for sex offenses
- Independent living skills
- Referrals for other community-based services



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HOW LONG CAN A YOUNG PERSON BE ON CTS?

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If eligible, young people can be on CTS for up to the last 18 months of their sentence.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



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WHEN WILL CTS BE AVAILABLE?

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CTS will be available six months after JR implements the new risk assessment – the Integrated Developmental Evaluation and Assessment (IDEA). CTS is set to launch May 1, 2024.

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HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN CTS?

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JR plans to phase in the CTS program with 5-10 young people in two locations. Additional youth will be added to the CTS program in staged intervals to ensure a smooth transition for them, the JR staff, and the community.

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HOW DO I KNOW IF MY YOUNG PERSON IS ELIGIBLE FOR CTS?

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If they are serving a **juvenile** sentence, they may be eligible for CTS if:

- They have served 60% of their minimum sentence and no less than 15 weeks, and
- JR has determined that the CTS program is in the best interest of the youth and the community using a risk assessment tool, and has considered the availability of placement, treatment, and programming. This determination includes consideration of their behavior while in confinement and any disciplinary considerations.

If they are serving an **adult** sentence, they may be eligible for CTS if:

- (1) They have a release date with Department of Corrections (DOC) after their 25th birthday, but on or before their 26th birthday, or (2) They have an earned release date on or before their 26th birthday, and they have completed 60% and at least 15 weeks of their term of confinement.
- They have no more than 18 months remaining on their term of confinement.
- Having DOC Supervision upon completion of their residential obligation does not disqualify them from eligibility for CTS.
- JR has determined that the CTS program is in the best interest of the youth and the community using a risk assessment tool, and has considered the availability of placement, treatment, and programming. This determination includes consideration of their behavior while in confinement and any disciplinary considerations.



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WHAT FACTORS WILL MAKE MY YOUNG PERSON INELIGIBLE FOR CTS?

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A young person is not eligible for CTS if they:

- Have pending charges or warrants
- Have a juvenile or adult sex offense and have been classified as a Level III by the Adult End of Sentence Review Committee or the JR Sub-Committee
- Will be transferred to Department of Corrections (DOC), are currently in DOC's custody, or under DOC's supervision
- Were adjudicated or convicted of the crime of Murder in the 1st or 2nd degree
- Meet the definition of Persistent Offender found here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=9.94A.030>
- Require an out-of-state CTS placement



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HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY YOUNG PERSON IN PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE IN CTS?

A

If a young person is eligible and interested in transferring to the CTS program, you can support and encourage them to:

- Participate in treatment
- Attend school or work in the community (if they are at a community facility)
- Display a positive attitude and behavior
- Engage in recreation and community activities
- Develop a Future Plan
- Establish or work toward safe and stable housing
- Connect to family/natural supports in the community

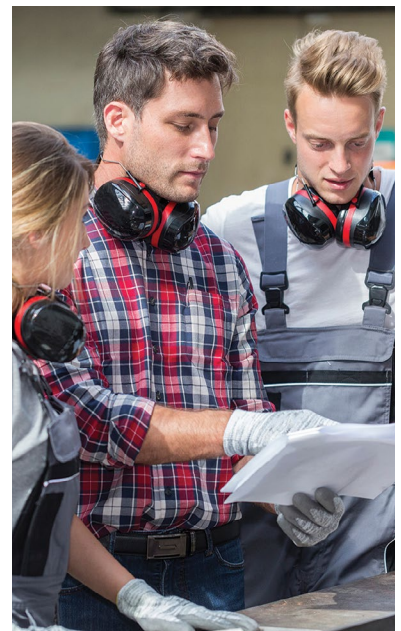


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WILL I BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY YOUNG PERSON'S PARTICIPATION IN CTS?

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No. The CTS program is part of JR's continuum of residential care and is provided at no cost to you or your loved one.





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WHAT IS INVOLVED WHEN A YOUNG PERSON PARTICIPATES IN CTS?

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They will have an orientation phase for the first seven days in which they stay at home unless attending school, work, or treatment appointments. This helps them adjust to the new opportunity and get familiar with the structure. They will work with their community counselor to identify a structured daily schedule and ensure the electronic monitoring equipment is functioning well.

As part of the requirements for CTS, young people are expected to:

- Enroll in school or secure employment, or both, depending on their reentry goals
- Attend treatment to address any mental health, substance use, or medical concerns
- Take advantage of community services and supports.
- Connect with family and participate in pre-approved community activities
- Maintain regular contact with the community counselor and other regional office staff to ensure accountability to the CTS program requirements
- Wear an electronic monitoring unit (GPS ankle or watch) for the entire time they are on CTS
- Refrain from using drugs or alcohol
- Refrain from possessing or using a firearm or deadly weapon
- Not leave the county without written permission from their community counselor or designee
- Not leave the state at any time during participation in CTS



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HOW IS CTS DIFFERENT THAN BEING AT A COMMUNITY FACILITY?

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The main difference between a community facility and CTS is that the young person can live at their identified home instead of at the community facility. Additionally, because they are still under sentence and living in the community, they are on electronic monitoring. Another difference is that they can have their own cell phone, drive a car, and build their credit while on CTS. They have access to community services and supports for 12 and up to 16 hours daily, with approval from their community counselor. Young people work with a community counselor and other staff from the regional office instead of a residential counselor, even though they are still serving their sentence.



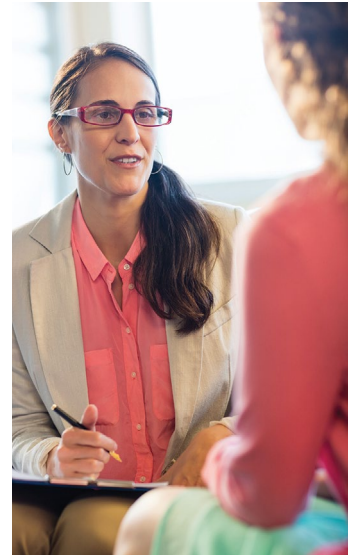
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HOW WILL JR STAFF HELP MY YOUNG PERSON PREPARE TO APPLY FOR THE CTS PROGRAM?

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JR residential and community counselors work together to help prepare you and your young person for the CTS application and review process. This involves a shared responsibility to:

- Meet with you and your young person
- Review the available assessments and identify the risks and needs
- Help complete the CTS screening form, electronic monitoring agreement, and Future Plan
- Review the contact expectations and incentive program with both of you
- Conduct the home assessment of where they plan to live
- Ensure legal notices are issued on time
- Prepare you for the Interim Future Planning Meeting - CTS Review
- Attend the Interim Future Planning Meeting - CTS Review with both of you
- Help you and your young person develop a structured weekly schedule to follow if accepted into the CTS program



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HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY COUNSELOR AND OTHER STAFF SUPPORT US DURING CTS?

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The community counselor and other JR staff in the regional offices will work closely with you and your young person to support their programming, health, wellness, and accountability to the CTS program. JR staff will:

- Stay in close contact with both of you during the CTS orientation
- Help your loved one maintain a structured weekly schedule
- Monitor the CTS electronic monitoring agreement and help troubleshoot if needed
- Assist your young person with access to school or work activities
- Conduct check-ins with community services and supports
- Help them with treatment appointments
- Offer support and resources to you as needed and as available
- Encourage both of you to participate in recreation and community activities
- Provide housing essentials as needed and available



Q HOW DOES CTS ALIGN WITH DCYF'S EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOCUS?

A JR prioritizes identifying and building community capacity using DCYF's strategic priority of eliminating racial disproportionalities and advancing racial equity. JR will identify community providers who reflect the young people being served with regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender expression.

Using a new needs assessment and involving youth, family, and community in the development of the CTS program will create joint ownership and an opportunity to provide the right services to the right young people at the right time in a way that matches their needs and Future Plan goals.



Q CAN MY YOUNG PERSON TRANSFER FROM AN INSTITUTION DIRECTLY TO CTS?

A CTS is a least restrictive placement option as part of the continuum of residential care. CTS will begin with drawing eligible candidates from the eight community facilities.

If your young person is not eligible for community facility placement due to security classification or sentencing restrictions, they may not be eligible for CTS. Their situation may be reviewed individually to determine if or how they may be eligible for community step-down placement either at a community facility or CTS.



Q WILL MY YOUNG PERSON BE ON PAROLE WHILE PARTICIPATING IN CTS?

A No. CTS is a least restrictive placement option as part of their residential sentence. The time spent in CTS does not count toward a parole aftercare obligation. If they are required to serve a parole aftercare obligation, it will begin when they have completed their residential sentence in a JR institution, community facility, or on CTS.

Q WILL MY YOUNG PERSON HAVE TO REGISTER WHILE PARTICIPATING IN CTS?

A If they have a registerable sex, kidnapping, or firearm offense, they will be required to register with the county they plan to reside in while participating in CTS.

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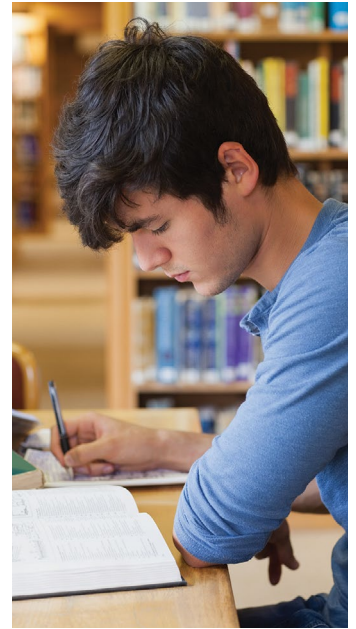
WHAT HAPPENS IF MY YOUNG PERSON VIOLATES THE CONDITIONS OF CTS?

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If they are on a DOC sentence and commit a violation requiring them to be transferred to total confinement *after* their 25th birthday, they will transfer to the custody and supervision of DOC for the remainder of their sentence. They will not be eligible for CTS again. If they are under the age of 25, they will return to a JR institution.

If they are on a JR sentence and violate the conditions of CTS, they will be returned to a JR institution. If the violation includes an escape or other illegal activity, they could also receive a new charge.

Once a young person is transferred back to an institution, they may be eligible for CTS again if they are approved through the same screening and acceptance process.



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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY YOUNG PERSON IS DONE PARTICIPATING IN CTS?

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Once they finish their residential sentence, they will be done with CTS. The electronic monitoring equipment will be removed. If they have a parole aftercare obligation, it will begin the day they finish CTS. If they have an obligation to Juvenile Court or DOC, that term will begin the day they complete their sentence on CTS.

If they don't have any obligations to any court or JR, they are eligible for supports through JR's Community Assisted Reentry (CAR) services for up to 12 months after they finish CTS. CAR services are 100% voluntary. Their community counselor can help explain more about what CAR services and supports look like.



For more information on CTS, read the *CTS Fact Sheet* at: https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/JR_0038.pdf

For more information on CAR services, read the *Community Support for All Youth Fact Sheet* at: https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/JR_0043.pdf

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