

Get Involved: Juvenile Justice Policies

Washington lawmakers asked the Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice to make recommendations on three juvenile justice topics. The Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice is a group the Governor chose to advise on juvenile justice in Washington. We are working with people with experience and knowledge about these topics to create recommendations. Lawmakers will use our suggestions to try to pass new laws.

We are looking for people with a personal connection to the juvenile legal system to join these projects and share their ideas and feedback.



Topic	Current System	Project
Community Compensation Program	A judge can order a youth with a juvenile offense to pay restitution to someone they hurt. However, youth often don't have money to pay their restitution. The result is that the person who got hurt never gets money to get back what they lost, and the youth who got charged restitution is left with debt problems.	We will make recommendations for how Washington State could create and run a program that would help cover the costs associated with harm from a juvenile offense. Who should run that program? What should it pay for? Who should be eligible to receive money? How do they apply?
Juvenile Record Sealing	When a youth goes to juvenile court, they end up with a juvenile court record. Some records automatically get "sealed" or hidden from the public when the youth turns 18, but others don't. A juvenile record may appear on a background check even after being sealed. A juvenile record can make accessing education, housing, loans, and employment harder.	We will make recommendations for how juvenile records should be handled. When should a juvenile record be available to the public? Who gets access to juvenile records? How do juvenile records impact the lives of people who have them?
Raise the Age	Usually, people charged with a crime under 18 go to juvenile court, and those ages 18 or older go to adult court. Juvenile courts focus on rehabilitation, have more services, and have shorter sentences than adult courts.	We are recommending a plan for how those ages 18, 19, and 20 could go to juvenile court instead of adult court.

Get Involved

Your experience and ideas about these issues are important. You can help people understand why we must solve these problems and the best way to solve them. You can share your ideas on improving laws, give feedback, or tell your story about these topics.

If you want to be involved or learn more, contact Heidi Sadri (she/her) at heidi.sadri@dcyf.wa.gov or (360) 878-0732 (call or text).

For more information about the policy projects, go to our website:



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