Young Adult Diversion Framework

The Young Adult Diversion Framework illustrates how special education, career and technical education, and other workforce development strategies can be offered as part of a diversion program.

### Referrals

- Justice-Involved Young Adults (ages 16-24)
- Eligibility

### Services

- Needs Assessments
- **Programs**
  - Education & Workforce Development
  - Family Interventions
  - Behavioral Health Interventions
  - Mentoring & Life-Skills Training
  - Career Counseling & Job Placement Services
  - Other Wraparound Services

### Outcomes

- Participant Outcomes
- Program Outcomes
- Community Outcomes

### Multisystem Coordination and Treatment

**Who**

- Diversion programs are often supported by multiple organizations, including education, workforce development, justice, and social service agencies.

**What**

- Partners should leverage resources, ensure frontline staff are trained on the unique needs of young adults, and use data for program improvement.

**How**

- Partners should establish partnership and data-sharing agreements; participant referral, intake, and case management protocols; and other supportive policies and practices.

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See the next page for descriptions of each of the framework components.
REFERRALS

Justice-Involved Young Adults
The target population is justice-involved young adults (ages 16-24) who have been arrested but not yet adjudicated. It may also include young adults on parole or probation who are at risk of becoming involved in the adult corrections system.

Eligibility
Eligibility for referrals is typically determined at the law enforcement phase, pretrial/prosecution phase, or specialty court phase using screening criteria (e.g., age, lack of prior convictions, and offense) and validated risk assessments.

SERVICES

Needs Assessments
Programmatic decisions are made using validated assessments that measure a participant’s needs.

Diversion Programs
Programs that redirect young adults, typically first-time offenders, from prosecution or incarceration to community-based programming, supervision, and supports.

• Education and Workforce Development
Includes special education, career and technical education, and other workforce development programs.

• Family Interventions
Includes family counseling, multisystemic therapy, functional family therapy, and other family-based interventions.

• Behavioral Health Interventions
Includes substance abuse and mental health interventions such as detox services, individual psychotherapy and counseling, and anger management.

• Mentoring and Life-Skills Training
Includes services that connect youth with peers or caring adults to provide positive support and programs that teach personal and interpersonal skills.

• Career Counseling and Job Placement Services
Includes services that prepare participants for employment and help them find jobs.

• Other Wraparound Services
Includes transportation, caregiver services, Medicaid assistance, aftercare planning, housing, legal advocacy, and other supports.

OUTCOMES

Participant Outcomes
• Credential attainment
• Living-wage employment
• Family and community reengagement
• Improved access to behavioral health services
• Diversion program completion and exit from the justice system

Program Outcomes
• A streamlined, multisystem approach to diversion
• Program persistence and completion
• Reduction in criminal behavior

Community Outcomes
• Reduced system costs
• Safer communities
• A skilled workforce
• Improved quality of life in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by crime and incarceration

About the Framework
The Framework aligns with foundational youth diversion models and resources, including the Juvenile Diversion Guidebook prepared by the Models for Change Juvenile Diversion Workgroup.