



Effectiveness and Return on Investment from Juvenile Statewide Contract Programs

Findings and Next Steps from the Results First Project

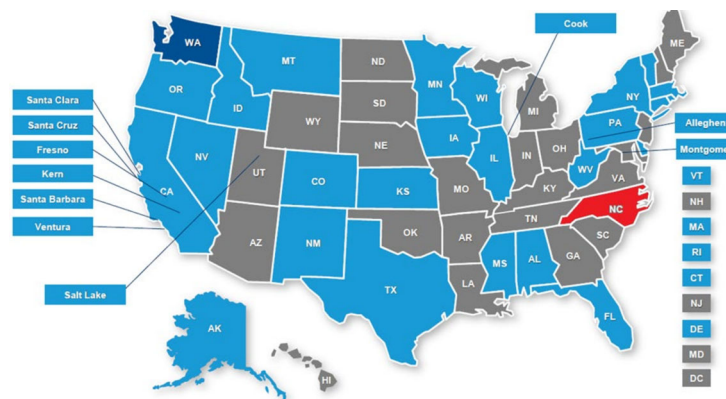
April 2022



What is Results First?

Helps decisionmakers identify and invest in proven, cost-effective programs that can **improve outcomes** and **optimize taxpayer dollars**

OSBM collaborates with agency partners to assess the **effectiveness** and **return on investment** from state-funded social programs



North Carolina is one of 27 states that have participated in Results First Initiative



What is Results First?

Project components

1. **Inventory** state-funded **programs** by policy goal



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Goal: **Disrupt the cycle of recidivism**

Programs: **Statewide contract programs** targeting **adjudicated juveniles** with a **high-risk** of reoffending

- Group homes
- Transitional living homes
- Short-term residential programs
- Community-based family services



What is Results First?

Project components

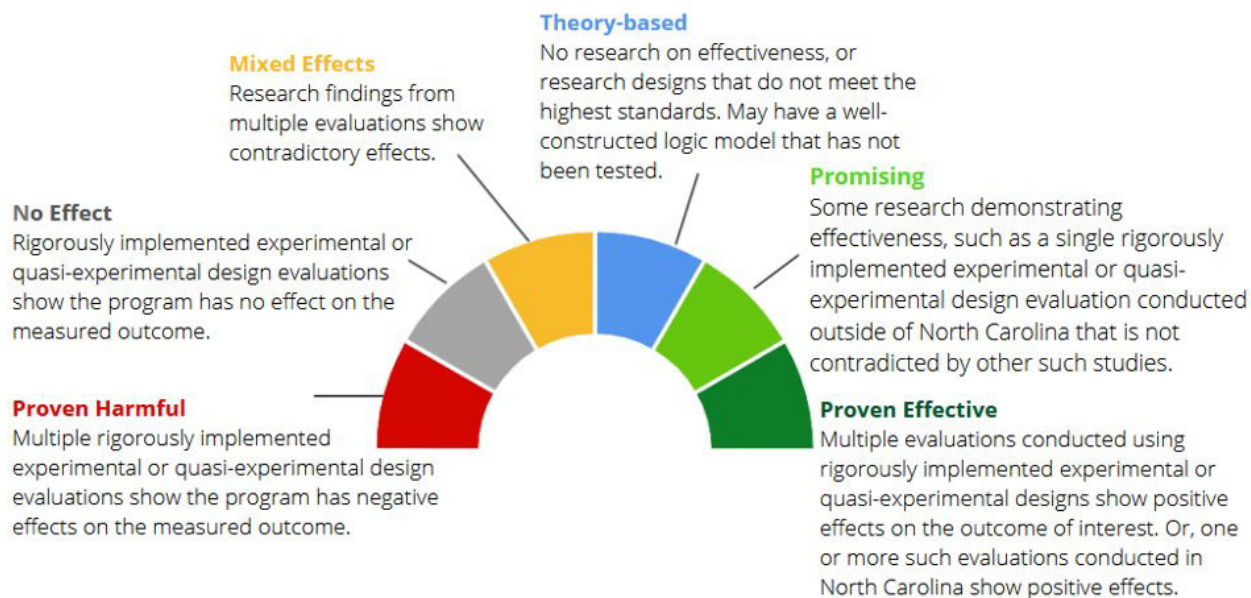
1. **Inventory** state-funded **programs** by policy goal
2. **Review evidence** of effectiveness from existing research



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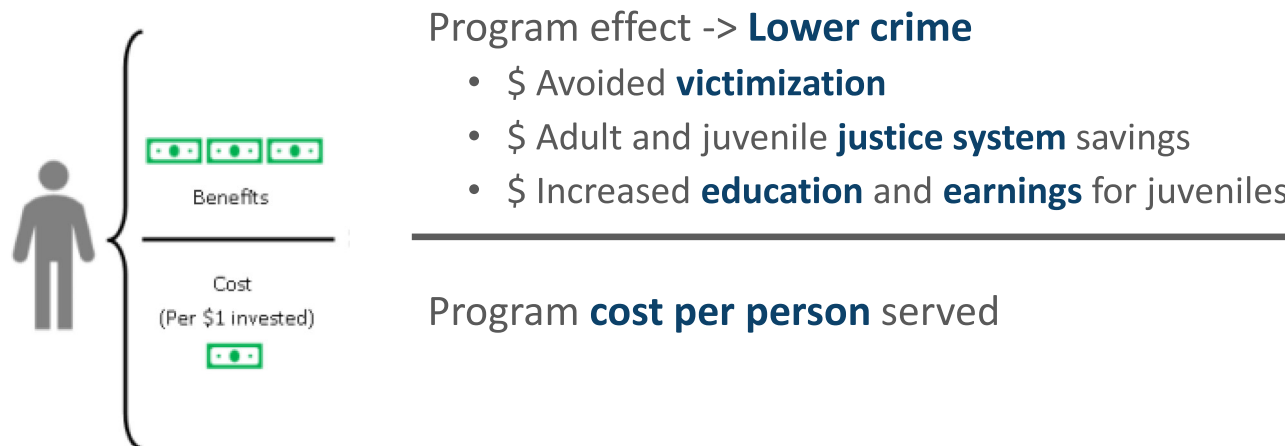
1. **Inventory** state-funded **programs** by policy goal
2. **Review evidence** of effectiveness from existing research
3. Compare delivery costs and expected long- term benefits per person: **Estimate return on investment**



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1. **Inventory** state-funded **programs** by policy goal
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Adapted from Minnesota Management and Budget



What is Results First?

Findings inform decisions



Program delivery and investments



Contract design



Future impact evaluation priorities



Performance and outcome monitoring



Results First

DJJDP Next Steps

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April 1, 2022

DJJDP's Reasons to Engage with Results First

- ▶ Two principles guide DJJDP's work:
 - **Children have the capacity to change;** and
 - **Delivering the right program at the right time** – targeting interventions based on what is appropriate and proven effective for the individual's needs – **maximizes benefits** to victims, the justice system, juvenile and families.

Project Focus

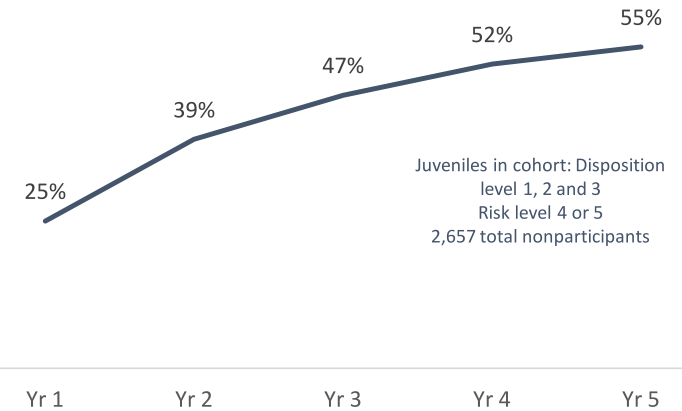
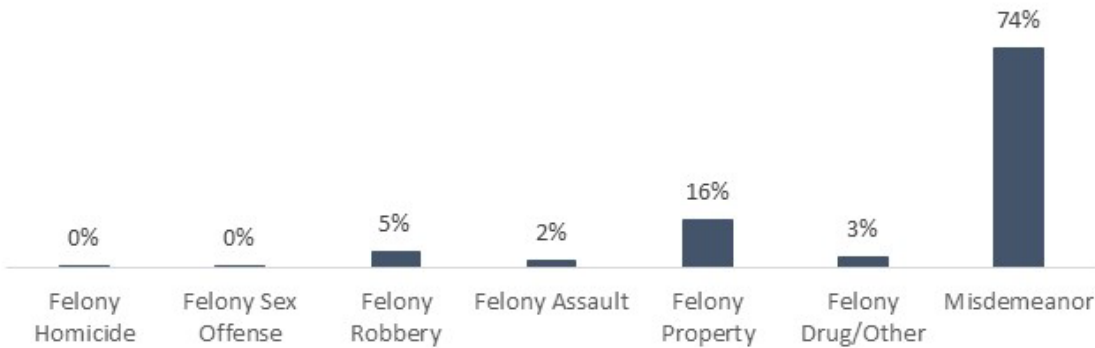
- ▶ **Statewide contract programs** targeting **adjudicated juveniles** with a **high-risk** of reoffending
 - Group homes
 - Transitional living homes
 - Short-term residential programs
 - Community-based family services

- ▶ **Goal: Disrupt the cycle of recidivism**
 - Restore community safety
 - Skill building for leading successful, productive adult life
 - Benefits avoided victims, juveniles, families, taxpayers

Baseline

55% of high-risk juveniles **recidivate** within 5 years without program intervention

Most repeat offenses are **misdemeanors**

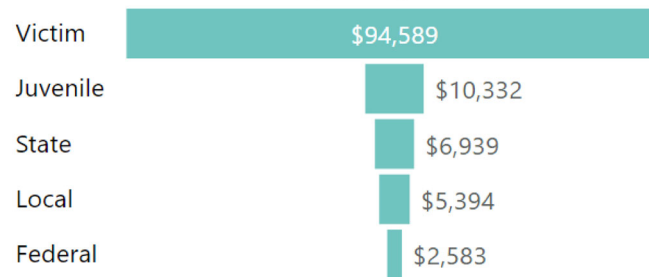


Cost of a Recidivating Event

- ▶ Results First analysis shows that contractual programs serve to facilitate both **changes in behavior** and the resulting **societal benefits**.
- ▶ Two main factors that comprise the expected benefits from juvenile recidivism interventions are:
 - the effect of program participation on crime reduction, and
 - the avoided societal cost of a recidivism event.
- ▶ **Preventing a repeat offense among high-risk juveniles saves North Carolina \$120,000 on average in victim, societal and justice system costs – 79% of which is associated with the impact on victims.**

Cost of an Average Recidivism Event among High-Risk Juveniles

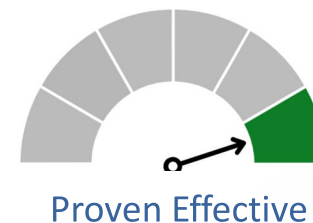
\$120K



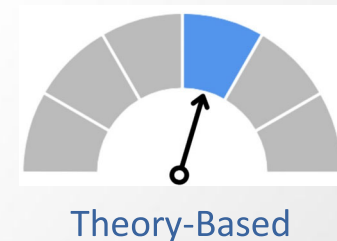
Inventory and Evidence Review Findings:

- ▶ 7 contract-funded program models and program subcomponents identified

3 of 7 proven to reduce recidivism



4 have strong theory base but **need further research**

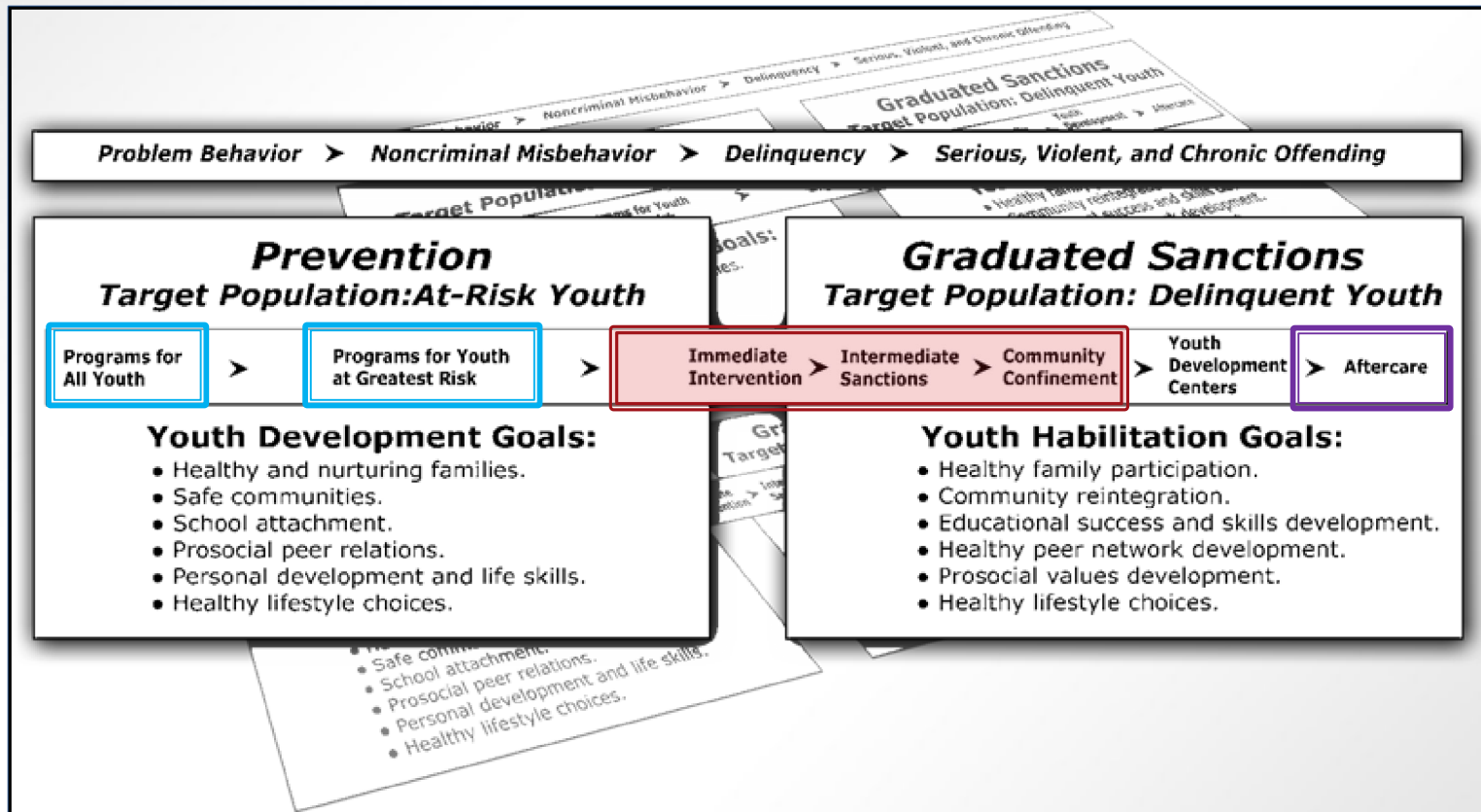


- ▶ **Costs, benefits, and ROI** estimated for the **3 programs** that had rigorous research evidence

Programs and Evidence Ratings

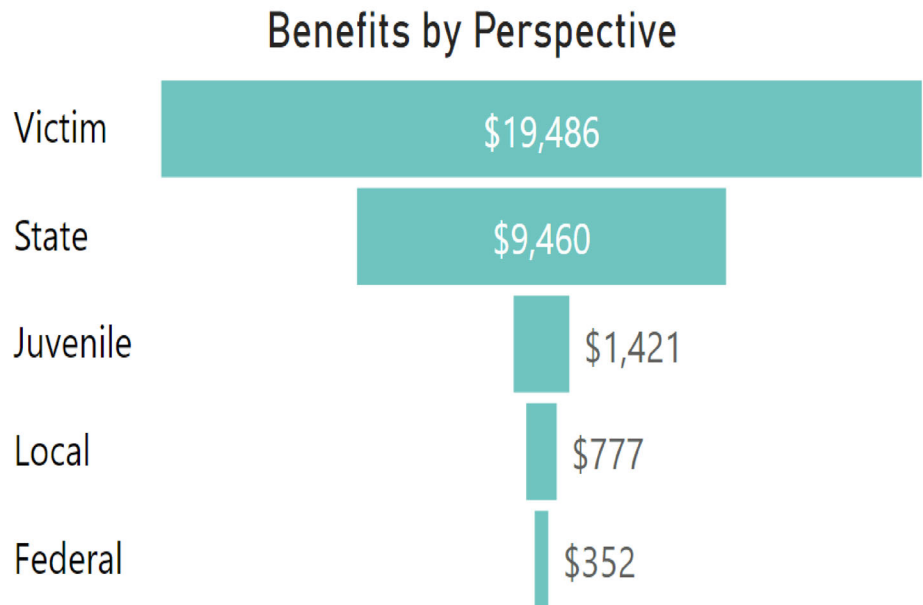
Methodist Multi-purpose Group Homes and Transitional Living Homes using the Value-Based Therapeutic Environment Model (Program Model)	Proven Effective
Eckerd Male Short-Term Residential Program (Program Model)	<i>Theory-based</i>
Restorative Justice (Program Subcomponent)	<i>Theory-based</i>
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Forward Thinking Interactive Journaling (Program Subcomponent)	Proven Effective
Motivational Interviewing (Program Subcomponent)	<i>Theory-based</i>
Substance Abuse Behaviors Group (Program Subcomponent)	<i>Theory-based</i>
AMIkids North Carolina Family Services - Functional Family Therapy (Program Model)	Proven Effective

NC Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategy



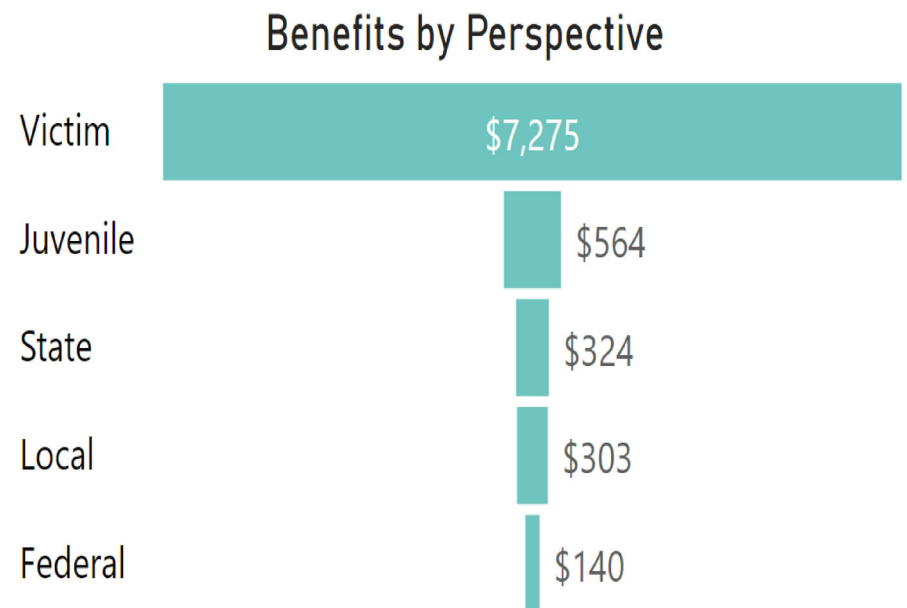
Value Based Therapeutic Environment (VBTE)

- ▶ Group Homes and Transitional Living Homes--Methodist Home for Children
- ▶ Reduces recidivism by 26%; returns **\$13.01 per dollar spent**
- ▶ *Per participant: Costs \$2,421; Benefits \$31,496*



Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Youth in Institutional and Residential Settings

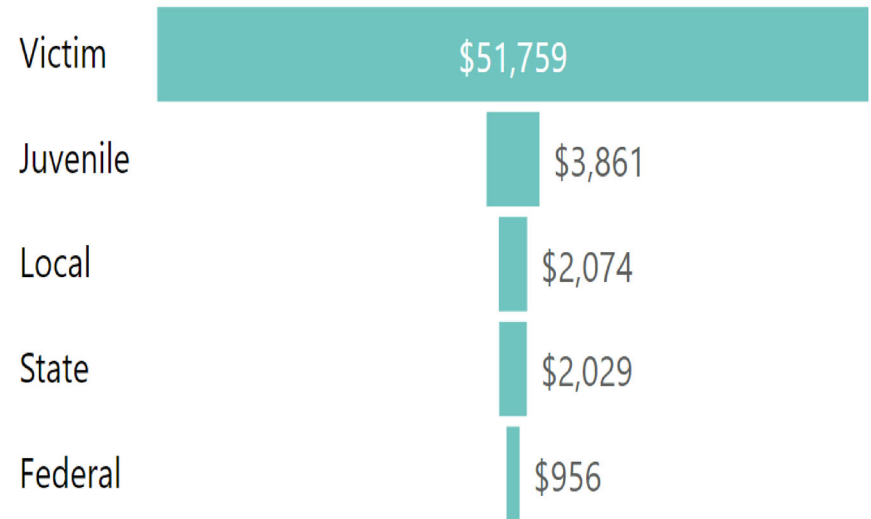
- ▶ Short Term Residential--Eckerd
- ▶ Reduces recidivism by 10%; returns \$5.13 per dollar spent
- ▶ *Per participant: Costs \$1,678; Benefits \$8,605*



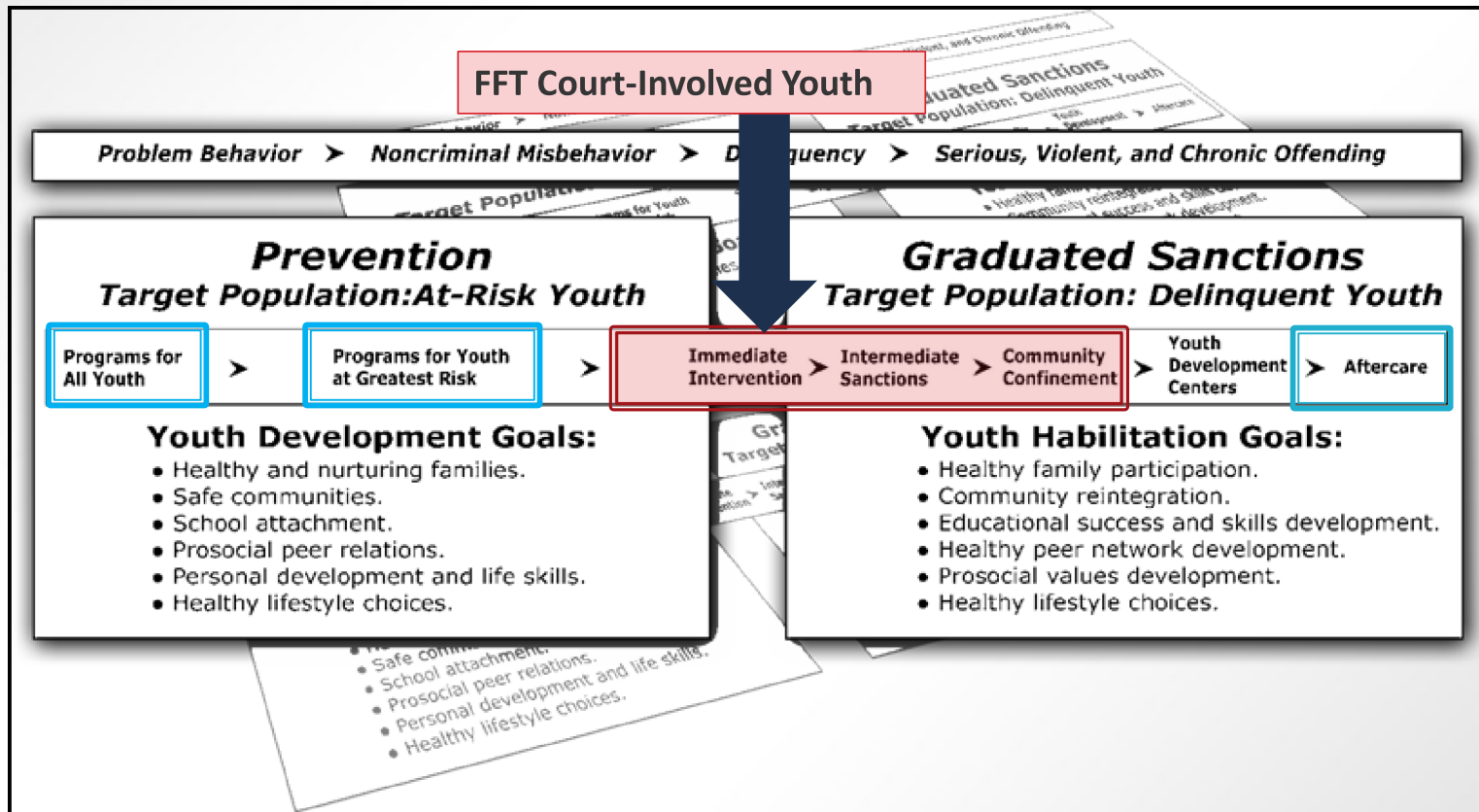
Functional Family Therapy

- ▶ AMIkids
- ▶ Kids reentering communities on post release supervision: (**depicted in graph to the right*)
Reduces recidivism by **69%**; returns **\$9.44 per dollar** spent
Per participant: Costs \$6,428; Benefits \$60,679
- ▶ Court-involved youth:
Reduces recidivism by **13%**; returns **\$0.97 per dollar** spent
Per participant: Costs \$6,428; Benefits \$6,219

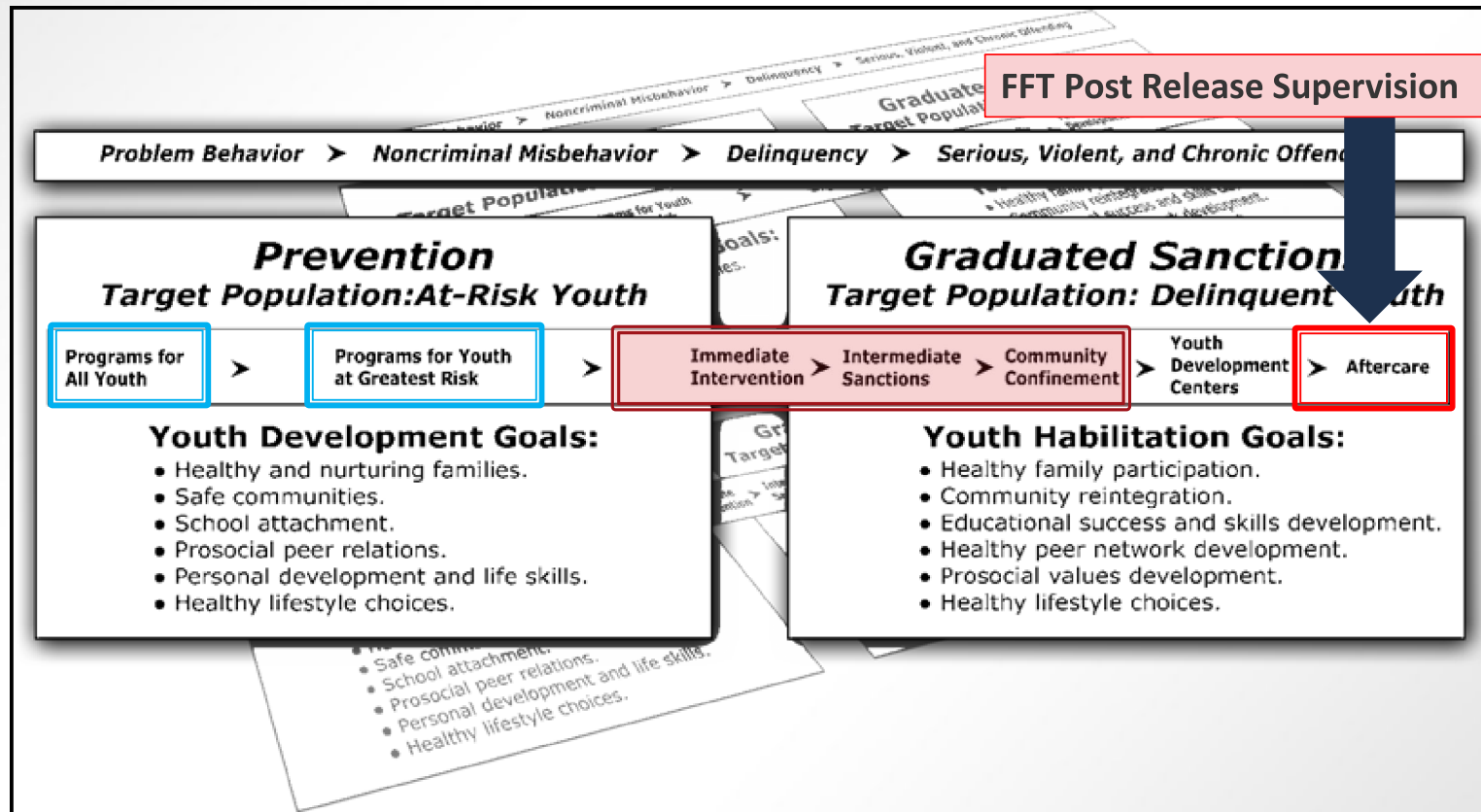
Benefits by Perspective



FFT Use Along the Juvenile Justice Continuum



FFT Use Along the Juvenile Justice Continuum



DJJDP Next Steps

- ▶ **Expand the use of AMIkids (FFT) for Youth on PRS:**
 - DJJDP aims to expand the number of post-release supervision youth served by FFT.
 - Provide educational outreach to Court Services and Facility Operations staff
 - DJJDP will also consider seeking additional funding to expand overall program capacity.

DJJDP Next Steps

▶ Fill Priority Research Gaps:

- DJJDP plans to seek funding opportunities and academic partnerships to assess top-priority programs that have not yet been rigorously evaluated, with the goal of measuring their effectiveness relative to alternative treatments like confinement.

DJJDP Next Steps

▶ Incentivize Proven Practices:

- DJJDP intends to incentivize providers to deliver proven effective and high-fidelity programs to targeted populations by expanding performance-based contracting.

DJJDP Next Steps

▶ Communicate and Educate:

- Inform legislators and other stakeholders of the outcomes related to public investments in preventive, forward-thinking juvenile programming.
- Communication efforts will aim to increase awareness of the value of serving high-risk youth in settings other than youth development centers.

DJJDP Next Steps

▶ Continue Partnerships:

- DJJDP will continue to look for opportunities to partner with OSBM on projects that inform the state's policy making process, both through Results First and through other avenues

JJAC Change Budget Request

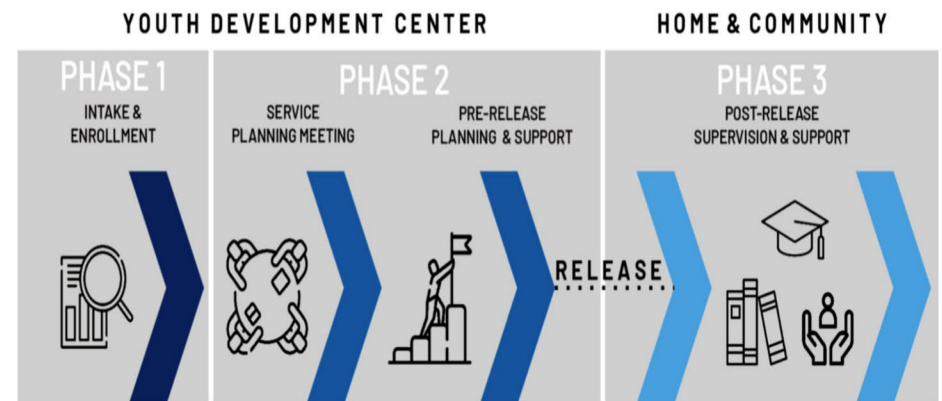
- ▶ Re-Entry Services
 - *Addresses Escalation Clause:* Juvenile Justice requests an inflationary price increase of 5% for contractual services consistent with standard contractual language for maintenance of current services in residential sites and community-based services.



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R2R: Reentry to Resilience

- ▶ *Re-Entry to Resilience Model through Communities in Schools: Fund Communities in Schools of North Carolina (CISNC) to further develop and implement a comprehensive re-entry program model in the highest committing counties.*



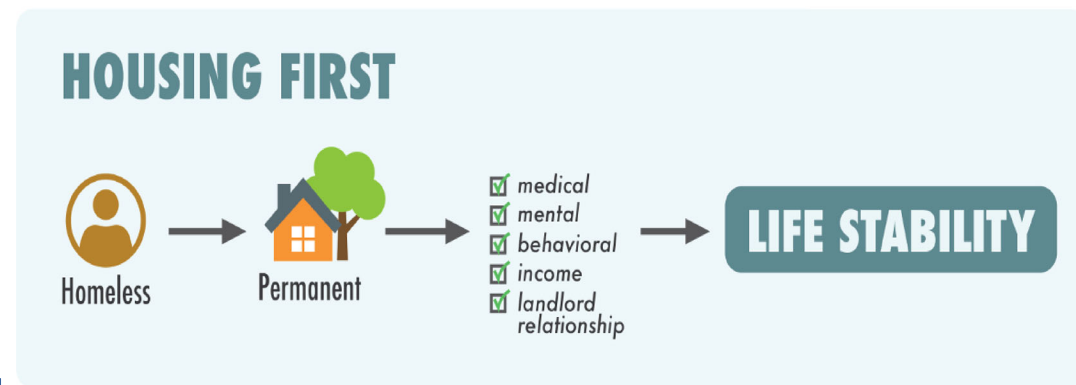
JJAC Change Budget Request-Housing First Models

- ▶ Address the juvenile justice system's increasing homeless juvenile population
- ▶ Target juveniles 18 or older being released from Youth Development Centers, Detention, or Residential Placements
- ▶ Provide housing as a continuation of an intervention



Housing First Models

- ▶ Housing First Models are designed to serve juveniles re-entering communities from secure detention, Youth Development Centers (YDCs), Residential Placements, or other placements; and are shown to increase compliance with mental health services and employment consistency and reduce recidivism.



JJAC Change Budget Request-Vocational and Educational

- ▶ Expand Juvenile Crime Prevention Council fund to extend the vocational, educational, and career programs available in the Youth Development Center into the community upon re-entry of older youth.

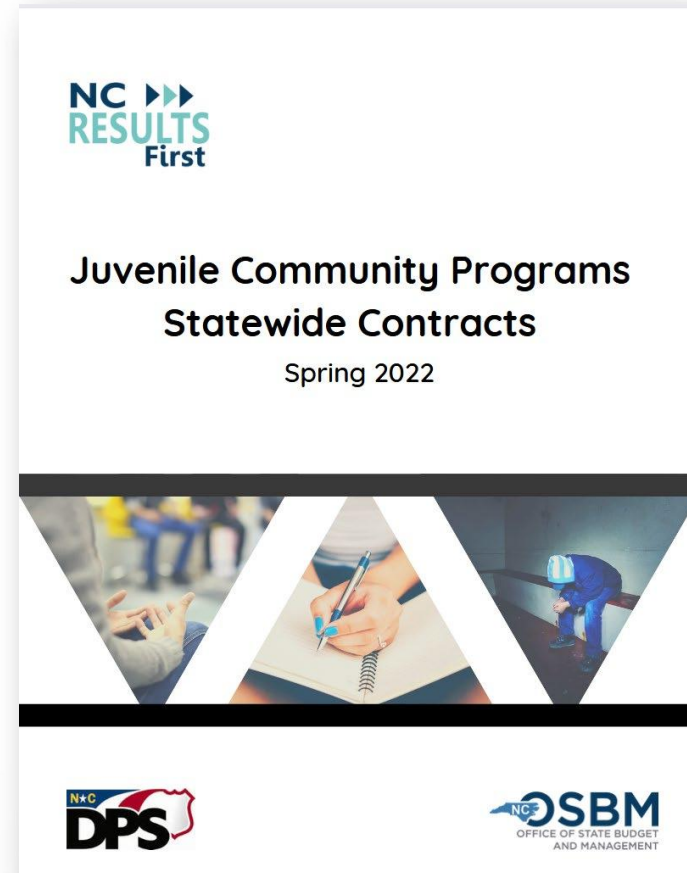


JJAC Change Budget Request- Non-Recurring Funds

- ▶ Relocation of Forsyth Transitional Living Home
 - Elevated county DSS needs and withdrawal of lease contract with DPS.
 - Location of another site in Wayne County
 - Need for non-recurring funds to prepare site/home for adjudicated youth ages 16 to 18 who received a Level II disposition or a Level III commitment and require a step-down service after discharge from a Youth Development Center, Residential Care Program, or who demonstrate a need for independent living services

Hot off the Press!

Report with detailed findings and next steps will be available soon



Questions and Discussion

