

## State Youth Justice Advocates Fiscal Checklist

Juvenile justice advocates can use clear strategies and tools to increase the likelihood that reform and reinvestment campaigns will succeed. This checklist outlines strategies for advocates to engage lawmakers, consider important reform and reinvestment questions, and ensure dollars generated from facility closures end up back in the communities where they are most needed.

### Get Reform and Reinvestment on the Agenda

- Build relationships with agency leaders to get reform and reinvestment into budget requests
- Work with governor's office to get reform and reinvestment into the governor's budget
- Identify a legislative champion who will prioritize reform and reinvestment

### Ensure Reform Includes Appropriate Reinvestment

- Push for adequate reinvestment (from both inside and outside the justice system)
- Target dollars to rebuild communities most impacted by incarceration and crime
- Prioritize investments that can reduce entanglement with the youth correctional system

### Prioritize Local Reinvestment

- Establish mechanisms to shift savings to investments in communities
- Ensure that state funding flows to localities and is consistent and adequate
- Create incentives that encourage placement in local youth programs, not state facilities
- Include strong evaluation and oversight language to ensure quality

### Provide Towns Where Facilities Reside with Alternatives to Youth Incarceration

- Incorporate a plan to address concerns of job loss and unemployment
- Engage with local communities on how best to repurpose facilities after closure

### Push for a Fiscal Note to Estimate Potential Savings

- Push for high-quality, long-term forecasts of potential savings — fiscal notes — to be drafted for reform and reinvestment legislation
- Ensure that fiscal notes are consistent, properly researched, detailed, and accessible

### Create a Process to Estimate Annual Savings Once Reforms Are Enacted

- Make sure that a trustworthy, non-partisan agency calculates annual, ongoing estimates of the savings from reforms
- Be specific about what types of costs and savings will and won't be considered
- Craft a defensible, transparent formula to calculate savings
- Allow for estimates to be informed by data from a variety of state departments and agencies, as well as outside sources

### Create an Independent Oversight Commission

- Include a clearly stated purpose for the oversight commission within statute
- Require the commission to represent the full range of youth justice stakeholders
- Empower the commission to assist in implementation, monitoring, and evaluation and provide resources to the commission to carry out these duties
- Give the commission the authority to propose additional legislative reforms