



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Youth Justice Fellows First Convening

Clayton Hotel | Denver, CO
May 15-17, 2025

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Increase knowledge of evidence-based strategies to improve youth justice.

Build connections with legislative peers and learn from experts.

Develop individual action plans related to youth and young adult policy issues.

Receive NCSL staff support and technical assistance.

TOPICS OF FOCUS

**Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction * Adolescent Brain Development *Alternatives to Detention and Incarceration *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the System *Youth Defense and Other Due Process Protections * Juvenile Probation *Diversion and Reducing System Involvement * Funding and Justice Reinvestment *Mental Health * Reentry *Conditions of Confinement * Sentencing and Juvenile Life Without Parole*



◆◆ Thursday, May 15

5 p.m. Registration and Meet in Lobby to Walk to Dinner

5:30 p.m. Networking Dinner at Sol Cocina

Gather for informal networking and mingle with other Youth Justice Fellows, faculty and NCSL staff.

200 Columbine St #110, Denver, CO 80206

◆◆ Friday, May 16

8 a.m. Meet in Hotel Lobby for Uber rides to NCSL Headquarters

NCSL Headquarters address

7700 E. First Ave. Denver, CO 80230

8:15– 9 a.m. Breakfast

Take this opportunity to network with other fellows and discuss challenges and opportunities related to youth justice in your state.

9 – 9:20 a.m.

Welcome

Representatives from NCSL and The Annie E. Casey Foundation will welcome the inaugural cohort of the Youth Justice Fellows and provide an overview of the agenda.

- Anne Teigen, associate director, Criminal and Civil Justice Program, NCSL
- Jennifer Ubiera, senior youth justice policy associate, Annie E. Casey Foundation

9:20–10:30 a.m.

Meet the Fellows!

Meet faculty experts Brian Lovins and Xavier McElrath-Bey and hear from each fellow on their interest in youth justice as a whole and what they would like to learn during this year long learning opportunity.

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Break



10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

Youth Justice Trends: Where Are We Now?

NCSL staff will provide an overview of youth justice policy through the years. From the punitive policies of the 1990's, to the early 2000's U.S. Supreme Court cases that looked at adolescent development, through the pandemic to where we are right now.

- Speaker: Anne Teigen, associate director, Criminal and Civil Justice Program, NCSL

11:15 – 12:15 p.m.

Rehabilitation is the Goal of the Youth Justice System. So, what is the job to be done?

Community safety is a shared goal for everyone, but unlike the adult system, the juvenile justice system's main goal has been rehabilitation, ever since it was first created in 1899. Hear about innovations and strategies that help young people avoid future justice involvement and mature into law abiding adults.

- Speaker: Brian Lovins, president, Justice System Partners
- Discussion

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

No Child is Born Bad

Hear the personal story from the co-founder of the Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network on how the violence and poverty he experienced as a child led to criminal justice system involvement and how, as an adult, he turned his remorse into action and now advocates for children across the country.

- Speaker: Xavier McElrath-Bey, executive director of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY)
- Discussion



2:20 – 3:15 p.m.

Transforming Juvenile Justice Through Strategic Financing

State and local funding form the backbone of financial support to juvenile justice systems. Hear from researchers who worked on a newly released study on how states can strategically finance a system that will produce better outcomes for kids and communities.

- Moderator: Sarah Brown, director, NCSL
- Speaker: Kristine Chan, Ph.D., MSW, research scientist, Child Trends
- Speaker: Kristen Harper, vice president for public policy and engagement, Child Trends (Via Zoom)
- Discussion

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

Policy Opportunities and Challenges Breakout

You will split into two smaller groups and engage in two 20-minute discussions with faculty experts and colleagues on policy opportunities and challenges.

Breakout Leaders:

- Xavier McElrath-Bey, executive director of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY)
- Brian Lovins, president, Justice System Partners

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Reflections on the Day

4:30 p.m.

Adjourn and Take Ubers Back to Clayton Hotel

Evening

Dinner on your Own

◆◆ Saturday, May 16

8:15 a.m.

Meet in Hotel Lobby for Uber rides to NCSL Headquarters with Luggage

NCSL Headquarters address

7700 E. First Ave. Denver, CO 80230

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast and Group Photo



9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Facilitated Discussion on Policy Options

This facilitated discussion will allow everyone to brainstorm on policy options that they would like to explore further for their state and if those options are politically or practically feasible.

- Moderator: Sarah Brown, director, NCSL

10:15– 10:45 a.m.

Action Planning

This is an opportunity for you to create action items for yourself and your state and map out what you want to learn more about in coming months.

10:45– 11:45 a.m.

Action Plan Report Out

You will identify steps to put their new knowledge to use, report to the group on their action planning exercise and communicate with NCSL staff and faculty experts on the information and support they need to complete their plan.

- Moderator: Anne Teigen, associate director, NCSL

11:45 a.m.

Closing Remarks

Noon

Lunch will be available as fellows learn about next steps for the program.

NCSL gratefully acknowledges Annie E. Casey for support of this meeting.



**THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION**

NCSL Headquarters

7700 E. First Place | Denver, Colorado 80230 | May 15-17, 2025

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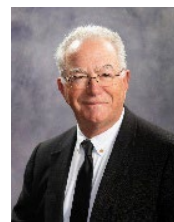
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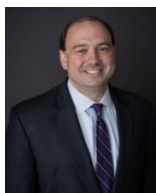
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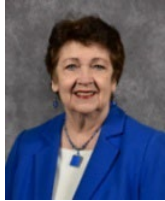
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