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@ProgenyICT



progenyks.com

about us

Progeny is a youth/adult partnership focused on reimagining the juvenile justice system and reinvestment into community-based alternatives.



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vision

Through our Invest Don't Arrest campaign our goal is to transform the juvenile justice system in Kansas by closing the remaining state youth prison and shifting power to the communities most impacted by these systems through investment in programs that build a healthier Kansas for youth development.



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Reimagining the juvenile justice system in Kansas

Progeny is a program of Destination Innovation, a hub of youth leadership development.

destinationinnovation.org

campaign goals



1 Close the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC)

Kansas's remaining youth prison needs to be shut down. While Kansas has made some progress in reducing youth incarceration, the state continues to lock up youth at a higher rate than most other states. In addition, youth of color are significantly over-represented in the state's juvenile detention centers and prison. Young people sentenced to long-term incarceration are held at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex, a facility that closely resembles an adult prison. A state audit of KJCC uncovered allegations of sexual abuse and violence against the young people incarcerated there. The funds used to run the KJCC should be redirected to a strong community-based continuum of supports and opportunities for youth in Kansas.

2 Protect the Reinvestment Dollars of Senate Bill 367

Senate Bill 367 was passed in 2016 to reduce youth incarceration and reinvest in community-based alternatives. After several years of funding, efforts have only just started to release young people from youth prisons, returning them back to communities. Unfortunately, however, young people who have been impacted by youth incarceration have not played a role in determining how Kansas should reinvest money to support youth in their communities. One consequence of SB367 was to close down halfway houses and group homes throughout the state resulting in very few options for young people leaving youth prisons. In addition, Kansas has not adequately invested in transitional housing, employment and positive, safe spaces for youth in their communities.

3 End all fines and fees associated with youth justice system involvement.

The state of Kansas charges families fines and fees for taking, prosecuting, and incarcerating their children. Research shows that juvenile justice fees increase recidivism. The higher the financial obligation the more likely a youth was to reoffend. Outstanding debt pushes young people deeper into the system for failure to pay. Kansas must enact legislation that abolishes court fines and fees and ensures that this legislative action does not result in more punitive interventions.