Keeping youth from being committed to Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

Redeploy Illinois has been a signature program for the state of Illinois since April 2005 serving youth 13-to-21 years of age. The program diverts offenders from juvenile prison by providing community-based supervision, case management, and mental health services. Children’s Home & Aid Redeploy Illinois program serves youth in 20th Judicial Circuit and Madison County targeting youth who have committed a felony (excluding class x felonies) and are facing a possible commitment to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ). Redeploy completes the appropriate assessments to determine the best service plan for the youth and then wraps them with needed services. At Children’s Home & Aid, the juvenile justice specialists work closely with probation and the court system to educate them on trauma, behaviors and that commitments don’t result in positive outcomes. This relationship is integral to the success of the program.

Expanding Redeploy Services

IDJJ expanded services to youth on supervision and who have committed misdemeanor offenses. Most of these youth will have had no previous IDJJ commitment. This expansion is likely to decrease further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Why is this result important?

“Research on former foster youth, homeless youth, and young adults involved in the juvenile justice system shows that all are likely to live below the poverty level, to have trouble paying bills and other expenses, and to depend on public assistance. These youth find themselves, experiencing poor outcomes across these major domains as well—education, employment, family formation— that mark the transition to adulthood.”

In 2006, IDJJ had custody of 1,500 youth and by 2017 that number had dropped to 400. By preventing commitments and keeping youth in the community, we are increasing the likelihood stronger protective factors and better outcomes overall. We are supporting the transition to adulthood and strengthening families and communities through the work being done by Redeploy.

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70% of Children’s Home & Aid clients who discharged in 2019 increased their protective factors

88% of Children’s Home & Aid clients had no new offense while enrolled in the program, for FY19

“Protective factors are conditions or attributes in individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities, thereby increasing the health and well-being of children and families.”

*FY19 per capita annualized cost of Illinois youth prison operation and maintenance – not including education, treatment, or post-release supervision— The Costliest Choice: Economic Impact of Youth Incarceration
(1) https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/promoting/protectfactors/