

YOUTH DIVERSION NEWSLETTER

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This newsletter highlights upcoming training opportunities, data, and important updates related to statewide youth diversion. Please share with YDT staff, referring agencies, volunteers, and community partners.

UPCOMING TRAINING / EVENTS

Visit cysalearning.org for more information and to register.

Training	Dates / Location
Motivational Interviewing	September 11, 17 & 18 — Bloomfield
Victim Engagement	September 15 & 16 — Cheshire November 9 & 10 — Location TBD
CYSA Annual Conference	October 15 — Hartford Marriott
YDT Training	October 20, 22, 27 & 28 — Bloomfield December 7, 8, 14 & 15 — Location TBD
RJ 101 and 201	November 17 & 19 — Virtual
YDT Statewide Quarterly Meeting	December 3, 2026 — Virtual

On-Demand Training

- [Youth Diversion Team Overview Training for Referring Agencies \(CYSA website\)](#)
- [Youth Diversion Team Overview Training for Volunteers & Team Members \(CYSA website\)](#)
- [OHIO Scales Training \(CHDI website\)](#)

Based on year-end reports from YDTs receiving DCF JRB funding, here is what teams are asking for and what they're up against:

TOP TRAINING REQUESTS

- Human trafficking training
- Navigating re-offending
- Advanced trauma-informed training, including how to ask trauma-informed questions
- Guidelines for vaping and substance-abuse cases, including addiction services
- Financial support for victims
- E-bike laws and handling e-bike cases
- Engaging reluctant or resistant youth and families
- Alternatives to suspension
- Harm circles and community-building circles

TOP BARRIERS & CHALLENGES

- Lack of mentoring opportunities
- Knowing when to engage a victim, and getting victims to agree to participate
- Limited exposure to technology and arts opportunities
- Limited access to entrepreneurship opportunities
- Limited exposure to career pathways
- Limited access to job-skills training
- Lack of non-traditional activities
- Access to services that are unavailable, costly, or have waitlists

YEAR-END UPDATE — DCF JRB SUPPORT & ENHANCEMENT GRANT

These year-end figures show how Youth Diversion Teams receiving DCF JRB Support and Enhancement funding performed in FY26, and offer a snapshot of what's happening across the state.

38 YDTs receiving DCF JRB funds	925 New cases	1,378 Total cases (incl. carry-over)	32.2% Cases referred pre-arrest
32.6% Cases referred from Juvenile Court	68% YDTs actively engaging victims	82% YDTs using 4-Quadrant agreement	

- 10 YDT audits were completed at the end of FY26.
- For FY27, 36 awards have been made across DCF Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

JJPOC POLICY UPDATE

Universal Police Policy for Diversion — Current Status

- POST-C has created an internal working group.
- Minor tweaks have been made to the original recommendation.
- A POST curriculum subcommittee has been created to review the current POST Academy Juvenile Law curriculum and rewrite it and to incorporate the new policy.
- The final diversion referral policy will not be approved until the curriculum revamp is completed — the policy and curriculum should be approved together.

Youth and Police Interactions — Current Status

- A subgroup of the JJPOC Diversion Workgroup is meeting regularly to develop a toolkit promoting positive interactions between police and youth.
- The toolkit is intended for both police departments and youth-serving agencies, such as Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs).

Juvenile Court Referral Form

- CSSD has created a new referral form for diversion to the Youth Diversion Team (YDT).
- The form is intended to streamline and standardize the diversion referral process across all Juvenile Courts.
- The form identifies the probation officer making the referral, captures pertinent information needed by YDT staff, and includes basic screening tool results.
- Probation officers should now be using the new referral tool.

Returning Cases to Juvenile Court After Diversion

- Once an intake has occurred, the case cannot be returned. Intake should ideally occur within two weeks of referral from Juvenile Court.
- If there are challenges initially engaging the youth or family, probation can assist.
- If there has been no engagement or communication prior to intake, discuss the situation with the probation officer to determine whether another diversion option may be appropriate.

Records Erasure: Workgroup Continues

A small working group is examining records erasure for youth who successfully complete the YDT process. Currently, no policies direct police departments on what to do with an arrest record after successful diversion — potentially allowing records to be retained.

- When a youth goes to Juvenile Court for non-judicial handling and successfully completes probation, the Juvenile Court sends a letter requiring police to erase records associated with the case. The same process does not currently occur for diverted youth.
- The working group plans to present its work to the JJPOC Diversion Workgroup, aiming to develop a recommendation for the upcoming legislative session.
- The group is considering where this policy should appropriately live in legislation or with POST) and is awaiting feedback from POST.
- A potential policy would require police to erase all arrest-related records for a youth who successfully completes YDT diversion.

Waiver/Consent Form: Updates Underway

- The Waiver/Consent form signed by families before participation in diversion will receive several updates.
- Language will be revised to reflect correct terminology, including changing “*convicted*” to “*adjudicated*” where appropriate.
- The form will be updated again once the outcome of proposed records-erasure language is known, rather than delaying the current revisions.
- Additional language regarding victim engagement will be added to provide greater clarity for youth and families.

REMINDERS — For all YDTs across the state, please make sure you complete the following:

- **Ohio Scales:** Complete the Ohio Scales at intake AND again at case closure.
- **Exit Surveys:** Complete the exit survey at case closing. These will be used internally for now but will eventually become part of the reporting process.

RESOURCES

E-Bike Resources

- [CPCA E-Bike Safety Initiative | Connecticut Police Chiefs Association](#)
- [E-Bikes — Watch for Me CT](#)
- [Connecticut E-Bike Laws 2026: Classes, Sidewalks, Trails + Where You Can Ride](#)
- [Electric Bicycle and Motor-Driven Cycle Laws \(CGA\)](#)

Basic overview: Connecticut uses a three-class e-bike system, requires helmets for all e-bike riders and passengers under C.G.S. §14-289k, sets a minimum age of 16 for Class 3, and does not require licenses or registration for Class 1–2 e-bikes. Class 3 e-bikes are restricted from most multi-use paths unless specifically allowed.

Category	What It Means
Classification	Class 1: pedal-assist only, up to 20 mph. Class 2: throttle + pedal-assist, up to 20 mph. Class 3: pedal-assist only, up to 28 mph; must have a speedometer.
Motor power limit	Maximum output 750 watts (changing to “not more than 750W” on Oct. 1, 2026). Devices over 750W without pedals are reclassified as motor-driven cycles.

Category	What It Means
Helmets	Mandatory for every e-bike operator and passenger, all ages, all classes — stricter than CT's standard bicycle helmet rule.
Age requirements	Class 3: minimum age 16. Classes 1 & 2: no statewide minimum age.
Licensing / registration / insurance	Not required for Class 1–2–3 e-bikes. Required only if the vehicle is reclassified as a motor-driven cycle or motorcycle due to wattage or design.
Where you can ride	Classes 1 & 2: allowed anywhere bicycles are permitted, unless local rules restrict. Class 3: allowed on roads and bike lanes; generally prohibited on multi-use paths unless the managing agency explicitly permits. Municipalities may add restrictions (sidewalk bans, trail rules).
Trail & park access	Class 1 gained expanded access to certain state-park and public-land trails as of Oct. 1, 2025. Class 2 remains restricted on natural-surface, non-motorized trails unless allowed locally.
Rebates (CHEAPR program)	Connecticut's CHEAPR e-bike voucher (\$500–\$1,250) is currently paused, with no new round announced.

Bottom line: Connecticut's e-bike rules are among the strictest in the country on helmets, while still allowing broad roadway access for standard Class 1–3 e-bikes.

SUPPORTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Coming Soon:** More information will be shared about a YDT/Youth Diversion Conference planned for May 2027. Watch for Save-the-Date information!
- **Fairfield YDT Support Group:** Fairfield YDT continues to hold monthly “support group” meetings for any YDT interested in participating. Contact Jessica Bloomberg (JBloomberg@fairfieldct.org) for the meeting link and to join the listserv.
- **Tow Youth Justice Institute Pathways to Success Conference:** TYJI is holding its annual Trailblazers and Innovators in Youth Justice Conference this fall. More information will be available soon.

Questions? Contact Erica Bromley at ebromley@ctyouthservices.org