

WHAT IS VERMONT'S COUNCIL FOR EQUITABLE YOUTH JUSTICE (CEYJ)?

- The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ACT (JJDPA) requires that each state have a state advisory group (SAG) aimed at reducing racial disparities, improving the youth justice system, and preventing delinquency. The Council on Equitable Youth Justice (CEYJ) is Vermont's SAG.

WHAT DOES CEYJ DO?

- We advise the governor & Vermont legislature about issues related to youth justice, at-risk youth, and prevention.
- We provide money for projects that support improving the juvenile justice system, reducing ethnic and racial disparities in the juvenile justice system, and preventing delinquency.
- We promote developmentally appropriate strategies for working with youth and families.
- We work to prevent young people from getting involved with the justice system.
- We make sure that Vermont complies with the main requirements of the Federal Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA).
- CEYJ collaborates with VT DCF to operationalize the JJRA. DCF is the Designated State Agency that applies for federal funding towards Vermont JJRA efforts and provides expertise to the Council.
- The council is grounded in prevention and works to ensure justice by building equitable and effective opportunities for children, youth, and families to thrive in Vermont.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER?

- Council members are entitled to a \$100 stipend per council meeting and a \$50 stipend per committee meeting.
- Professional development opportunities: representing the Council at national conferences, attending workshops related to emerging trends in the juvenile justice system, receiving training and mentorship opportunities, and other resume building activities.
- By joining CEYJ as a youth member, you bring youth perspective, passion, culture, and an understanding of peer experiences—YOU are the expert on youth with lived experience in the Vermont juvenile justice system. YOU have influence and can improve outcomes for young people across the state!
- You'll gain a community of individuals: (policy makers, government workers, young advocates, system-impacted individuals, community members, etc.) from across the state, region, and country who are dedicated to using their skills, knowledge, and expertise to further the Council's goal of protecting our youth.
- All council members are expected to regularly attend meetings/the CEYJ retreat. However, reasonable absences are excused with prior notice or approval by the Executive Committee (this isn't true all absences count towards attendance criteria). Council members are expected to advise the Juvenile Justice Coordinator, Council Chair or Committee Chair if they cannot attend a meeting.
- Council members must be actively engaged during meeting times.
- 1 out of every 5 (20%) council members must qualify as a youth member. To be considered a youth member, you must have joined the Council prior to your 28th birthday.

WHAT DO YOU GAIN BY JOINING?

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If you have any questions, please reach out to Juvenile Justice Coordinator, Sheri Lynn (Sheri.Lynn@vermont.gov).