

State initiatives

Redeploy Illinois

The Redeploy Illinois Act took effect in December 2003 and provides counties with funding for probation departments to assess delinquent youth and refer those deemed low-risk to community-based programs that include education, recreation, community service, and crisis and health intervention. Redeploy program participants are non-violent youth who would otherwise be incarcerated.

Redeploy Illinois programs are obligated to reduce the number of youth commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) by 25 percent from the average number of commitments for the previous three years. Redeploy Illinois sites are operating in Macon County, the 2nd Judicial Circuit (serving Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White counties), St. Clair County, and Peoria County.

Services provided by Redeploy Illinois programs include: aggression replacement training, functional family therapy, GPS monitoring, substance abuse and mental health treatment, life skills education, parent/family support, and victim support.

In the first two years of implementation, Redeploy Illinois pilot sites, on average, reduced DJJ commitments by 44 percent (226 youth) within their communities. The Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board estimated that the reduction of 226 youth equals a gross DJJ savings of more than \$11 million in the four sites.

In 2004, 59 percent of youth court-committed to IDOC were convicted of property or drug crimes. Research has shown that non-violent youth are more likely to become further involved in delinquent or criminal behavior if they are securely confined rather than remaining in their communities and receiving services to address mental illness, substance abuse, learning disabilities, and unstable living arrangement.¹⁷ Community-based services are less expensive than institutional care, but counties currently have a fiscal incentive to commit youth to IDOC. Community-based programs may be more cost-effective, but the county must pay for community-based treatment programs. The cost of housing and providing services to youth in IDOC is covered by the state.

Implementation of Redeploy Illinois began in Macon County and the 2nd Judicial Circuit in November 2004. During the evaluation period, between March and December of 2005, Macon County reduced commitments to IDOC by 36 percent, from 53 to 34 youth, and served a total of 22 participants.¹⁸

The Second Judicial Circuit Redeploy Program served 45 youth annually and the average length of program participation was nine to 12 months. Probation assumed the administrative function and day-to-day oversight of the program. Evaluators estimated that during its first year of operation, the program will reduce its youth commitment rate to IDOC by 56 percent, from 41 to 18.¹⁹

In 2005, Redeploy Illinois pilot sites in Peoria and St. Clair counties began implementation. In Peoria County, the focus of Redeploy is on high-risk youth probationers and youth who would otherwise have been sent to IDOC for a court evaluation. Between June 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, Peoria County served 68 youth.²⁰ Among other services, Redeploy youth receive mentoring, individual and family counseling, Aggression Replacement Therapy, and increased community supervision.

In St. Clair County, the goals of Redeploy Illinois are to provide evaluations locally instead of committing youth to IDOC for a court evaluation, and increasing the capacity of St. Clair County to provide evidence-based treatment in the least restrictive setting. Between July 1, 2005 and May 5, 2006, St. Clair County served 37 youth.²¹ Treatment services supported with Redeploy funds include functional family therapy, multi-systemic therapy, aggression replacement therapy, family group conferencing, and intensive community supervision. Evaluations of the Peoria and St. Clair sites were completed for 2006 and can be found on the Authority's website.

Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

The Annie E. Casey Foundation established the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) in 1992 to demonstrate that jurisdictions can establish more effective and efficient alternatives to placing youth in detention centers. The national foundation is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children. JDAI focuses on the juvenile detention component of the juvenile justice system with an underlying belief that youth are often unnecessarily or inappropriately detained at great expense, with long-lasting negative consequences for both public safety and youth development.

JDAI is coordinated by several state and local agencies and entities, including the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, Illinois Department of Human Services, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department, and the Authority. Detention alternative initiatives have been implemented in DuPage, Franklin, Jefferson, Kankakee, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Peoria, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties.

JDAI promotes changes to policies, practices, and programs in efforts to: (1) reduce reliance on secure confinement, (2) improve public safety, (3) reduce racial disparities and bias, (4) save tax dollars, (5) stimulate overall juvenile justice reforms, and (6) implement new or enhanced non-secure alternatives to detention, such as innovative probation-based services.

The foundation tested the initiative in five pilot sites nationwide, including Cook County.²² Cook County made substantial improvements on all four objectives. The county was able to decrease the number of youth unnecessarily detained by implementing an objective detention-screening instrument. Cook County also reduced the number of failures to appear in court by creating an automatic notification system to confirm court appearances. Alternatives to detention were also created, such as evening reporting centers, where 92 percent of youth placed in centers remained arrest free during their placement. Finally, Cook County was able to improve conditions of confinement by decreasing the number of youth detained, thereby easing overcrowding in their

detention center. Changes to mental health care, staff training, and the facility itself that improved conditions of confinement were also implemented.

Building on the success of the Cook County initiative, the Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative was formed to promote the objectives of JDAI throughout Illinois. The initiative is a collaboration of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, Illinois Department of Human Services, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department, and ICJIA. DuPage, Franklin, Jefferson, Kankakee, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Peoria, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties have received detention alternative funding. Efforts are ongoing to evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative.

Disproportionate minority contact

Between FY03 and FY05, the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission funded efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact in Peoria County, St. Clair County, Cook County's south suburbs, and Chicago's Lawndale community. Each site hired a local coordinator to collaborate with the W. Haywood Burns Institute, a leading national organization working to reduce the over-representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. The Burns Institute model requires the active commitment and participation of key traditional and non-traditional stakeholders in the juvenile justice system in each site—including judges, prosecutors, public defenders, police, probation, political leaders, service providers, and community groups. The institute leads stakeholders through a data-driven, consensus-based process that focuses specifically on changing policies, procedures, and practices to reduce racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Models for Change

Models for Change, an initiative of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is based on its investment in research regarding adolescent development and delinquent behavior. The initiative also is laying the groundwork for significant changes in law, policy and practice. Models for Change partners with the states of Illinois, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Washington to advance juvenile reforms that effectively hold young people accountable for their actions, provide for their rehabilitation, protect them from harm, increase their life chances, and manage the risk they pose to themselves and the public.

Models for Change supports the reform efforts under way in Illinois to bring about change in three areas needing improvement: juvenile court jurisdiction, community-based alternatives to secure confinement, and disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system. The MacArthur Foundation, in partnership with its grantees in the juvenile justice field, developed a model juvenile justice system that responds to delinquency locally and informally whenever possible. Under this vision, all but a limited number of juvenile offenders are to be supervised, sanctioned, and treated in community settings.

Illinois Balanced and Restorative Justice Initiative

The principles of balanced and restorative justice were adopted as the guiding philosophy for the Illinois juvenile justice system by the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998. In 2002, the collaborative Illinois Balanced and Restorative Justice Initiative was formed to provide leadership, education, and support to the courts, governmental agencies, organizations, communities and individuals as they strive to promote the values and principles of BARJ in their communities.

Safety Net Works

Safety Net Works is a 2008 grant program from the Governor's Office designed to reduce youth violence and victimization in Illinois. The initiative brings together state and community resources to develop strategies intended to make targeted communities safer places for youth.

Safety Net Works Initiative goals include:

- Engaging communities in comprehensive, coordinated youth violence prevention activities through a coalition approach.
- Addressing a wide range of individual, family, and community factors that keep young people from reaching their full potential and by providing services, interventions, and supports that will build healthy environments.
- Promoting youth engagement and leadership in all aspects of the initiative.

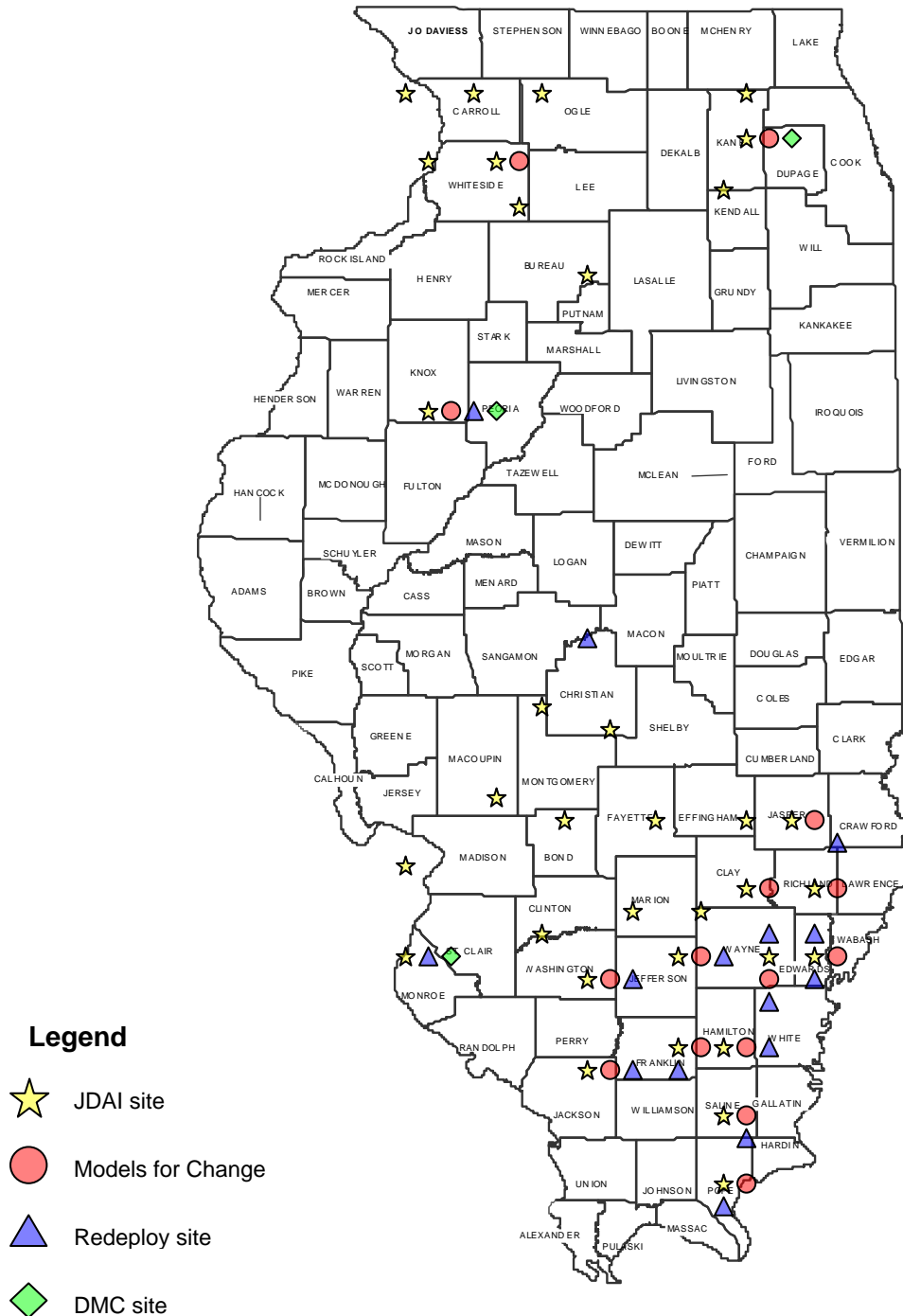
The Chicago communities selected to participate include Auburn-Gresham, Austin, Brighton Park, East Garfield Park, Englewood, Gage Park/Chicago Lawn, Grand Boulevard, Humboldt Park, Little Village, North Lawndale, Roseland, and South Shore. The cities of Cicero, Decatur, East St. Louis, Maywood, and Rockford also will participate.

The initiative awarded funding to one community-based organization in each targeted community to lead and coordinate victim and violence reduction activities. Community partners will develop and implement violence prevention and youth development strategies, using existing state and community services and supports.

The local groups will be supported by a coalition of state agencies that will work together to ensure coordination of state resources.

Map 17 depicts the sites of juvenile justice system initiatives in Illinois in 2005.

Map 17
Juvenile justice system initiatives in Illinois, 2005



Notes

¹⁷ Sheldon, Randall G., *Detention Diversion Advocacy: An Evaluation*, Juvenile Justice Bulletin, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, September 1999, NCJ 171155: 2.

¹⁸ Senbatta, Ghenno, and Darryl L. Jinkerson, *Redeploy Illinois, Macon County Pilot Site Impact and Implementation Evaluation Report*, Research Report, December 2005: 1-73.

¹⁹ Senbatta, Ghenno, and Darryl L. Jinkerson, *Redeploy Illinois, 2nd Judicial Circuit Pilot Site Impact and Implementation Evaluation Report*, Research Report, December 2005: 1-68.

²⁰ Armstrong, Gaylene, S., Todd A. Armstrong, and Vince J. Webb, *An Evaluation of Redeploy Illinois –St. Clair County and Peoria County*, Research Report, January 2006: 31-36.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 41-47.

²² Rust, Bill, *Juvenile Jailhouse Rocked: Reforming Detention in Chicago, Portland, and Sacramento*, Advocacy: Documenting Programs that Work for Kids and Families, Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Fall/Winter 1999.