

Vera

ENDING GIRLS' INCARCERATION IN CALIFORNIA
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Ending Girls' Incarceration

Vera's Ending Girls' Incarceration (EGI) Initiative

EGI aims to zero out girls' incarceration across the county's youth legal systems.

Getting to zero is ambitious but achievable:

On a given day, most states have fewer than 150 young people in girls' long-term placement facilities—many have fewer than 50.

Meanwhile, the eight states that lock up the most girls account for more than 50 percent of girls' incarceration nationally.

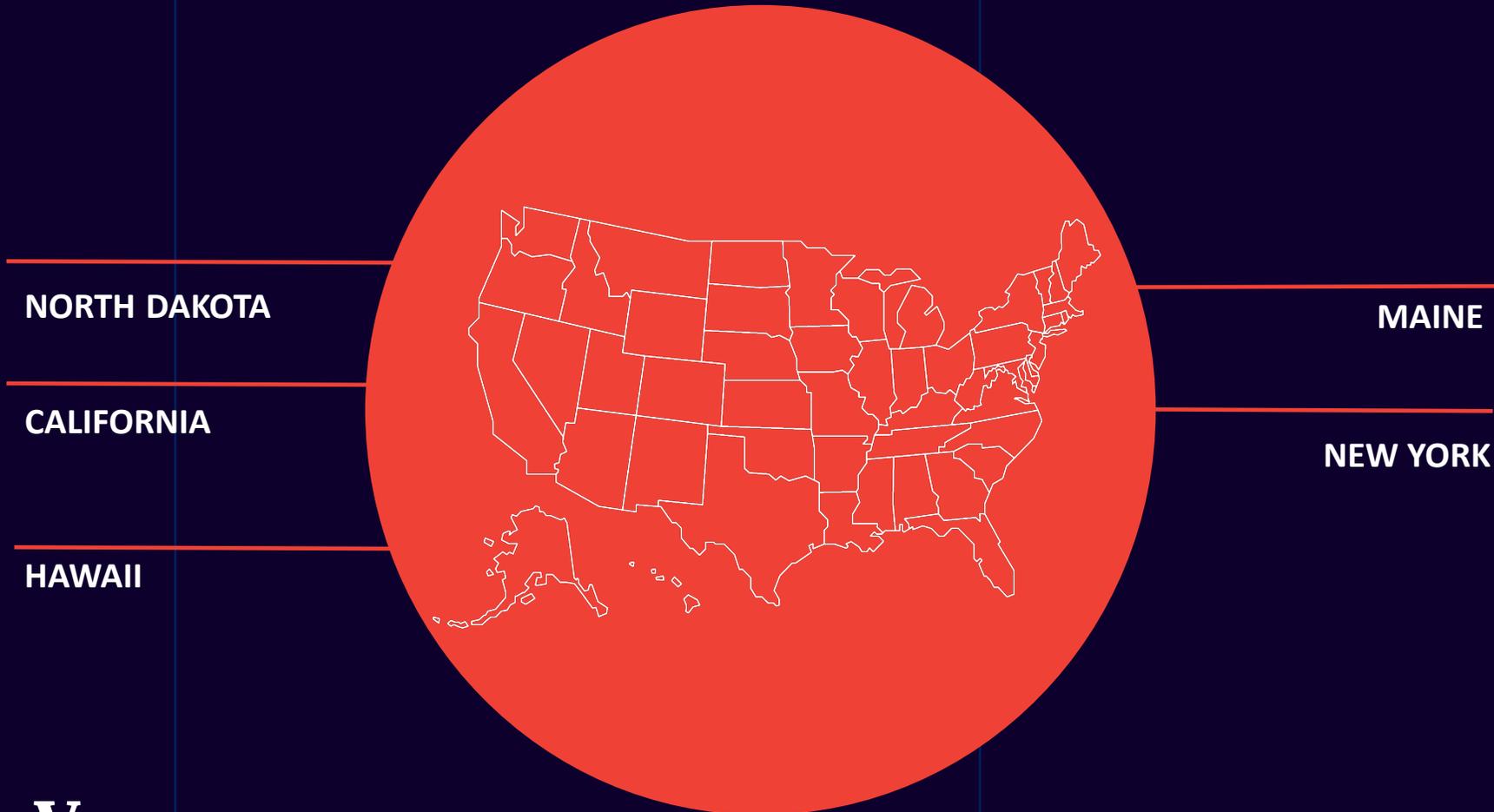
There are

24,000

girls' detention admissions
nationwide each year.

That's down by more than 50% since 2017.

EGI Partner Jurisdictions



NYC: 70% drop in annual girls' detention admits; Two years of 2 or fewer girls in placement at once.

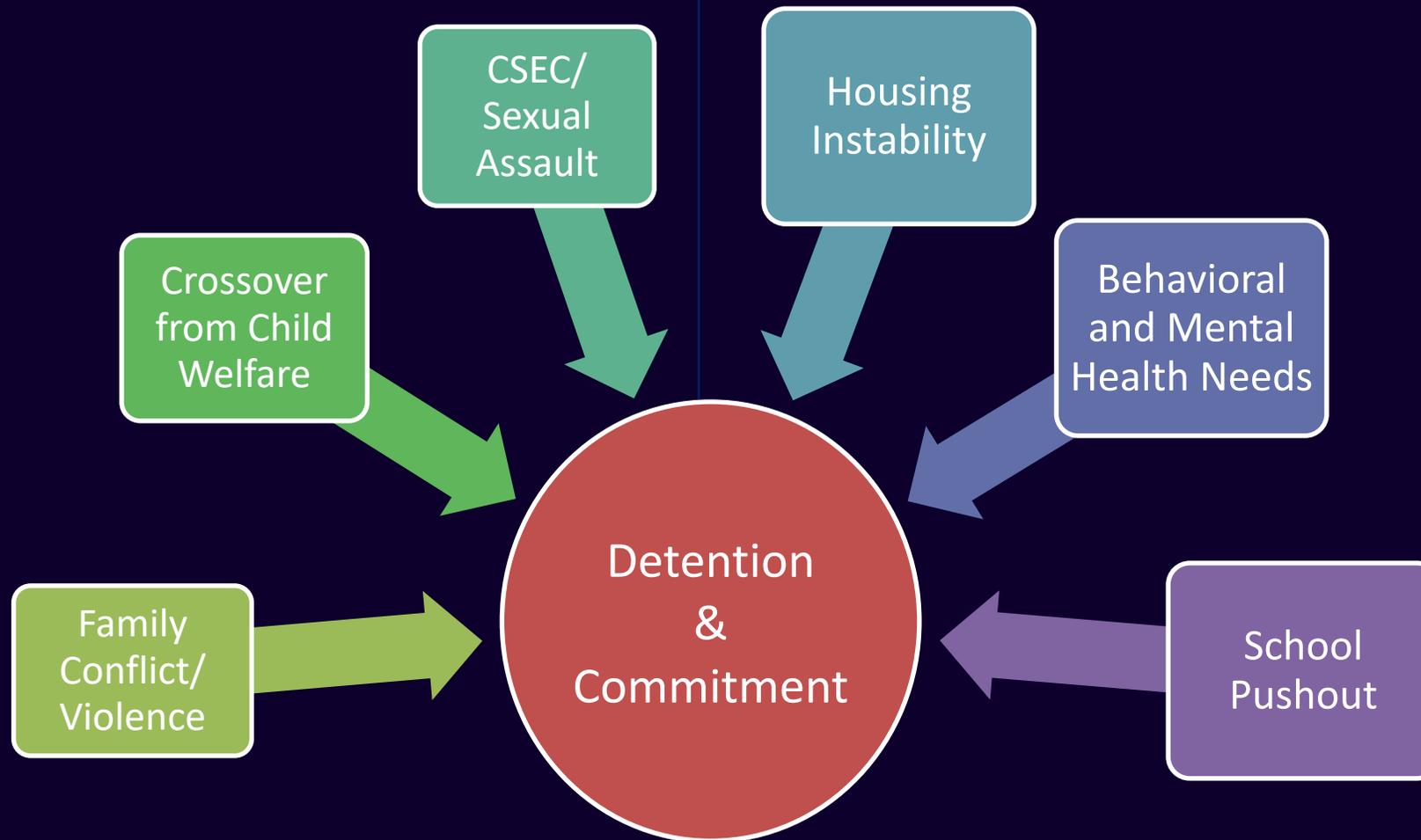
Santa Clara County (CA): Over 60% drop in annual girls' detention admits; 1+ year with no girls in secure placement.

Hawaii: Zero girls at only correctional facility for the first time in history

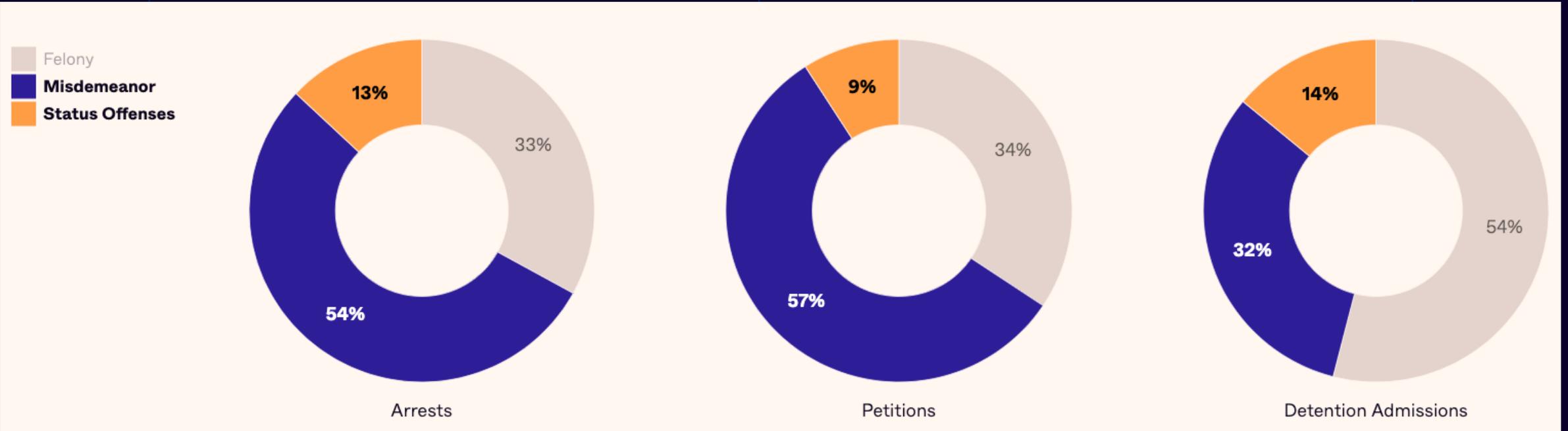


The majority are **detained for offenses that pose no risk to public safety**, that are rooted in experiences of trauma, abuse, race, and gender discrimination.

Common experiences and context for girls' system involvement



Girls in California are commonly arrested and detained on lower-level charges



Source: Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (MACR) database, 2021. Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS) database, 2021.

In 2021, there were

1,400

girls' detention admissions in California.

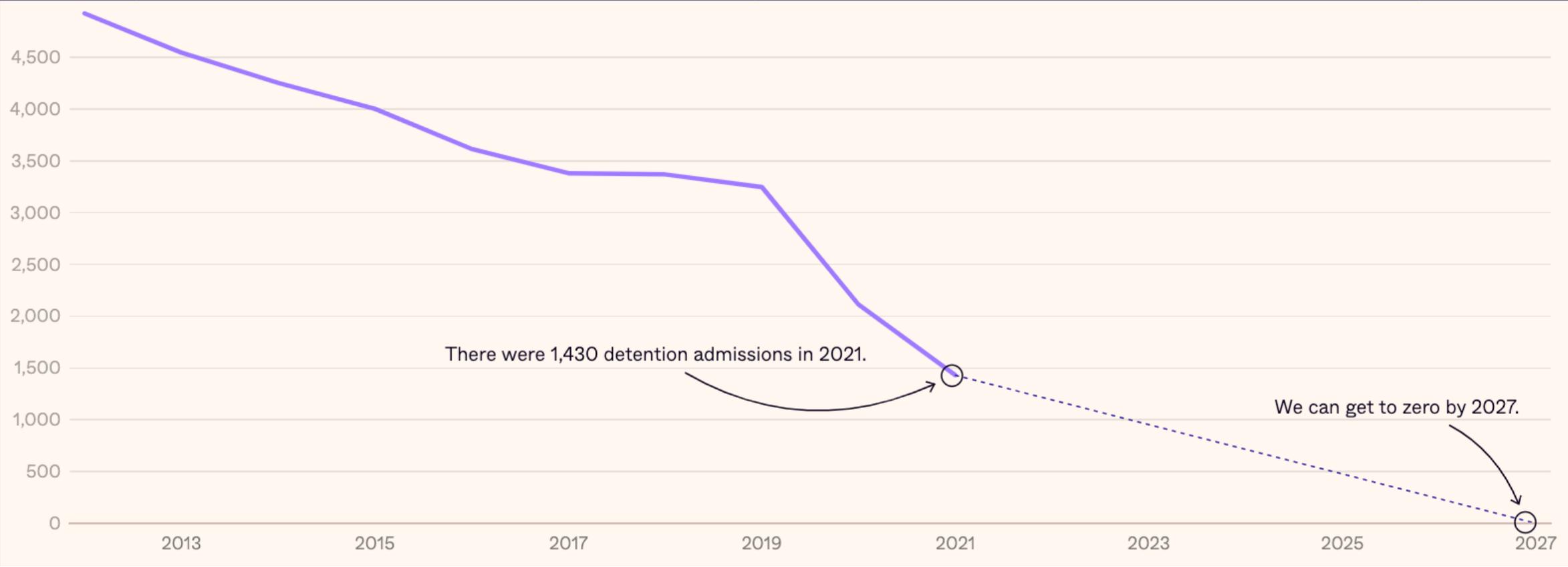
76%

are Black
and Latina

51%

Identify as
LGBQ/TGNC

California can eliminate girls' incarceration within the next five years



Source: Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS) database, 2021.

Ending Girls' Incarceration in CA (EGI-CA) Action Network

Participating Counties

Imperial

Los Angeles

Sacramento

San Diego

Support from Vera

- Training from Vera and other content matter experts on best practices and models.
- Peer-to-peer learning from Action Network sites and champions from other jurisdictions
- Vera-led diagnostics – collecting and synthesizing qualitative and quantitative information to inform planning
- 1:1 planning with Vera and partners.
- Support in building out a local collaborative process that centers girls and gender-expansive youth.

Support from OYCR

- Funding to support probation department's participation in the network.
- Support in understanding available statewide funding streams.
- Opportunity for additional funding for CBOs and gov't agencies to support implementation plans for 2 years.
- Continued technical assistance beyond year one of the network.

Components of County Diagnostic

Stakeholder Conversations

Gather the perspectives of leadership and staff across juvenile justice agencies, relevant child-serving agencies (such as child welfare), providers, advocates, community-based organizations, and directly impacted young people.

Data Sharing and Analysis

May include information on probation referrals, probation outcomes, detentions, court case outcomes, commitments, and current populations in probation facilities. All data is evaluated with a gender and racial equity lens, and findings are shared publicly.

Policy Review

Based on what we learn through conversations and data, we work with agency leadership to identify and examine relevant policies and how they may be changed to disrupt girls' pathways to incarceration and/or promote their diversion to the community.

Casefile Review

May help to provide a deeper understanding of what is happening in your juvenile justice system.

Vera's Technical Assistance Process

Transparency & Collaboration

Diagnostic Assessment: In partnership with community and government partners, map girls' pathways into and through the juvenile legal system—including pathways from child welfare, education, behavioral health, and other systems.

Strategic Planning: Using diagnostic findings, facilitate meetings with government leaders, community stakeholders, and directly impacted young people to develop tailored policy, practice, and programmatic solutions.

Implementation and Continued Planning: Implement solutions and collectively monitor progress to ensure that reforms remain aligned with county-wide shared vision.

Ending girls' incarceration by advancing freedom

1

Enacting policies and practices that restrict legal system involvement to the small proportion of cases that pose an imminent public safety risk.

2

Stop the criminalization of girls and gender expansive youth by heavily investing in community-based resources that ensure young people's rights are fulfilled and that any challenges are met with increased, wrap-around support rather than punishment.

YOUNG WOMEN'S FREEDOM CENTER

OVERVIEW

SINCE '93

For nearly 30 years the Young Women's Freedom Center has provided support, mentorship, training, employment and advocacy to systems involved young women of color in the Bay Area.



ABOUT US



Mission Statement

To empower and inspire young women and trans youth of all genders who have been involved with the juvenile justice system and/or the underground street economy to create positive change in their lives and communities.

Vision Statement

We envision a world in which all young women and trans youth of all genders have the support they need to recognize and eradicate all forms of oppression, to heal, and live self-determined lives.

HOW WE WORK

Increase

- Leadership, economic opportunities, and connections to community



Reduce

- Reliance on conditions, probation, court orders and intensive supervision



Increases

- Self-determination, self-sufficiency, and positive engagement



Reduces

- Reduce recidivism and system involvement

Strategies

- Healing, connection, and critical analysis
- Progressive leadership development
- Meaningful employment, Internships, and Economic Opportunities
- Personal exploration coupled with support, and expanded opportunities
- Holistic support
- Opportunities for agency and decision making
- Positive peer engagement
- Working with other girls and women

Strategies

- Peer based relationships with youth in community and while in system
- Self-determination and planning centering youth, family and advocates
- Systems based advocacy and navigation support
- Youth and family driven
- Detention alternatives based in the community
- Engage youth in what they want; job, training, support, etc.
- Partner with systems

Strategies

- Increase in positive decision making
- Defining goals for self
- Become increasingly involved in community
- Focus on personal development and healing
- Seek opportunities and solutions based on personal goals
- Builds authentic and supportive relationships
- Develops personal support structures and sense of community

Strategies

- Engaged in community for support to overcome barriers
- Opportunities to meet basic needs
- Expansive choices and support = less opportunities for violations and police contact
- Agency over life and hope for the future
- Advocates/ support network to advocate on behalf of young person

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



YWFC builds authentic relationships with young people as a gender specific, trauma informed space.

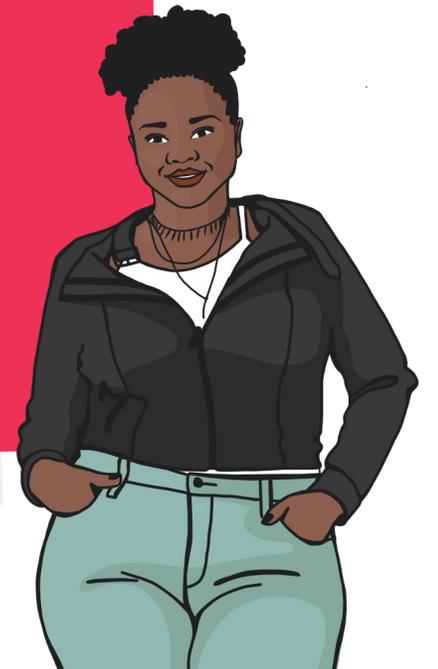
- **One-on-One Coaching and individualized advocacy**
- **Identifying and building a Support Team**
 - General mental health and spiritual wellness support, such as Therapeutic Thursdays
 - Specialized rehabilitation (support with sobriety/substance abuse, addressing sexual trauma etc)
- **Employment and job training**
- **Education goals support**
- **Cultural programming**

Beloved Youth Housing

Supporting the self-determination of young people, their families,
and communities through innovations in housing.

A Fiscally sponsored project of

YOUNG WOMEN'S
FREEDOM CENTER

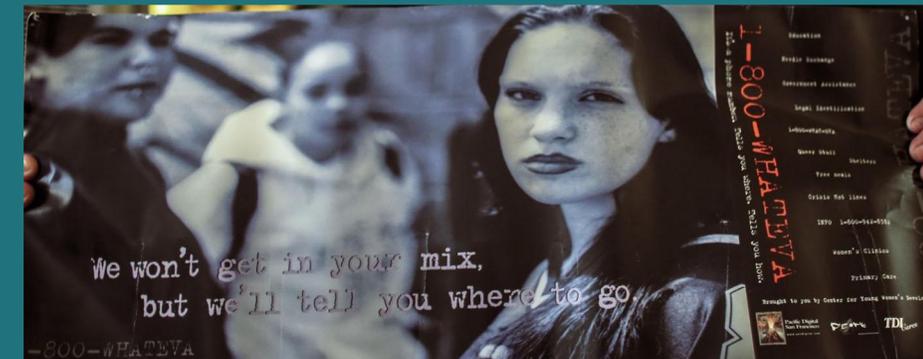


Building on 30 years of Practice

Since 1993, the Young Women's Freedom Center has been working with young women and trans youth of all genders that have experienced, homelessness, life on the streets, foster care, and the juvenile justice system.

Homelessness and housing instability has always been a core issue faced the populations YWFC works and employs. Economic and Housing Initiatives have included:

- Well-paid and meaningful employment to directly impacted young people supporting their self-determined choices
- Easy Access housing fund:
 - Between 1993 and 2004 YWFC had an emergency housing fund reserved for employed program participants. The fund was small, but would cut checks to either the program participant or landlord in order to secure emergency housing, rent, deposit, hotel, a payment to a family member or friend, or any other need defined by the participant
- Emergency hotel rooms
- 1-1 individualized planning and support to develop a plan and get advocacy/ legal support including interview prep to be accepted into various housing programs
- 1-800-WHATEVA peer researched information about how to navigate services and housing
- Outreach and education on the streets, courtrooms, and in the detention centers



Questions?

Thank you!