



Keeping Families Together

Overview of Family-Based Alternatives

What are family-based alternative (FBA) programs?

FBA programs are either diversion (pre/post-conviction) or early release from prison programs that allow parents or primary caregivers of youth under 18 to be in the community under supervision and connected with comprehensive services and programming.

Purpose

2.7 million children under the age of 18 with an incarcerated parent. Having an incarcerated parent is an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), that causes long-term harm to youth. FBAs allow for family unification and may affect generational healing.

Background

California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee, Oregon, and Washington have laws that allow for diverting primary caregivers from the criminal justice system. You can find more information at www.familybasedjusticecenter.org.



The U.S. Dept. of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provides grant funding to states, localities, and tribal nations to implement these programs. Under OJJDP funding, the Family-Based Justice Center was created to provide training and technical assistance to develop and expand FBAs.

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