

# PROVIDING EDUCATION INSIDE THE WALLS: A MICHIGAN PILOT



## MICHIGAN JUVENILE JUSTICE FACILITY SCHOOLS

- **Children's Village**, Oakland County
- **Pioneer Work & Learn Center**, Tuscola County
- **Youth Center School**, Kalamazoo County
- **Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center School**, Macomb County

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## 360 MODEL

- Identify the facilities' needs and assets
- Set goals and design program models
- Implement evidence-based strategies to respond to needs
- Research and evaluate programs

There is an inverse correlation between education and recidivism. Individuals who receive high-quality educational services tend to recidivate less.<sup>1</sup> Earning education credentials is associated with higher levels of employment and increased earnings. Education and employability skills are critical for youth to integrate into school, community, and the workforce and to build a life after incarceration.

Vocational training and job readiness supports are essential to preparing young people for future in-demand employment.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, expansion of education and workforce programs is critically needed for young people in juvenile justice facilities. Correctional systems, programs and education providers need support harnessing the collective capacity of partners in their communities and accessing resources that can bolster their efforts internally.



In 2021 FHI 360 began a collaborative project with the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education, to test a replicable 360 model (see sidebar) designed to enhance the career and technical educational program offerings for teachers within Michigan juvenile justice facilities and potentially juvenile facilities throughout the nation. FHI 360's technical assistance specialists in justice, education, workforce, community development, and research and evaluation, provided four-hours of comprehensive and responsive training and technical assistance to 34 teachers and direct service staff at four Michigan juvenile justice facility schools.

Ultimately, the goal of the pilot project is to improve career pathways for justice-involved youth by:

- helping justice and education agencies and program providers adopt and implement promising practices to access high-quality CTE programs
- increasing the opportunity for justice-involved young people to secure and maintain a high-skill, living-wage, and in-demand career.<sup>3</sup>

This pilot has demonstrated to the Michigan Department of Education the benefits of providing career and technical education to incarcerated youth. As we work to advance excellence in education and workforce systems, FHI 360 looks forward to opportunities to collaborate with justice and educational agencies and program providers interested in an innovative and equitable approach to reducing recidivism of young people by opening doors to college and careers through career and technical education.

<sup>1</sup> The National Center on Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Correctional Education Program, <http://www.edjj.org/focus/education/>

<sup>2</sup> Making the Right Turn: A Research Update on Improving Transition Outcomes Among Youth Involved in the Juvenile Corrections System. National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED585199.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Advance CTE, Making Good on the Promise: Improving Equity and Access to High-Quality CTE for Youth and Young Adults in the Justice System, <https://careertech.org/resource/improving-equity-access-high-quality-cte-youth-young-adults-justice-system>.

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## ABOUT FHI 360

FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions.

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