WHAT IS THE INVEST IN ME, CONNECTICUT CAMPAIGN?

VISION SESSIONS ➔ THE SEVEN THEMES OF SYSTEM CHANGE ➔ INVEST IN ME, CONNECTICUT

To learn more about the impacts of the juvenile justice system on youth, families, & communities and to identify solutions to reduce justice system involvement, our Justice Advisors host conversations, referred to as Vision Sessions, with impacted individuals and communities.

After more than a dozen Vision Sessions from 2017 to 2018, our Justice Advisors identified Seven Themes commonly experienced by youth impacted by the justice system. They identified these Seven Themes as the root causes of youth criminalization.

The Root Causes of Youth Criminalization
1. Economic insecurity
2. Housing insecurity
3. Trauma within communities
4. Lack of trust in systems that display abuses of authority
5. A need for more positive influences and credible messengers
6. Lack of hope
7. A need for equal opportunities

These themes reveal a stark reality most common in traditionally underserved communities and communities of color. These inequities mean communities of color and communities impacted by poverty do not get the same opportunities to thrive as wealthier, predominantly white communities.

We’ve used these themes to help build our next campaign: #InvestInMeCT

We realized that addressing the Seven Themes requires investment – of money, but also of time and care, into communities that have long been left out and left behind. We believe finding, funding, and implementing solutions to these commonly experienced inequities and injustices would dramatically reduce the number of system-involved youth.

By addressing the root causes of youth criminalization, the #InvestInMeCT campaign aims to build opportunity-rich communities where all youth and families can access the resources they need to succeed. That’s why we’re urging decision-makers to support in the futures of our state’s youth by investing in success instead of arrests.