



Department of

**Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services**

**Tennessee Advisory Commission on
Intergovernmental Relations Panel**

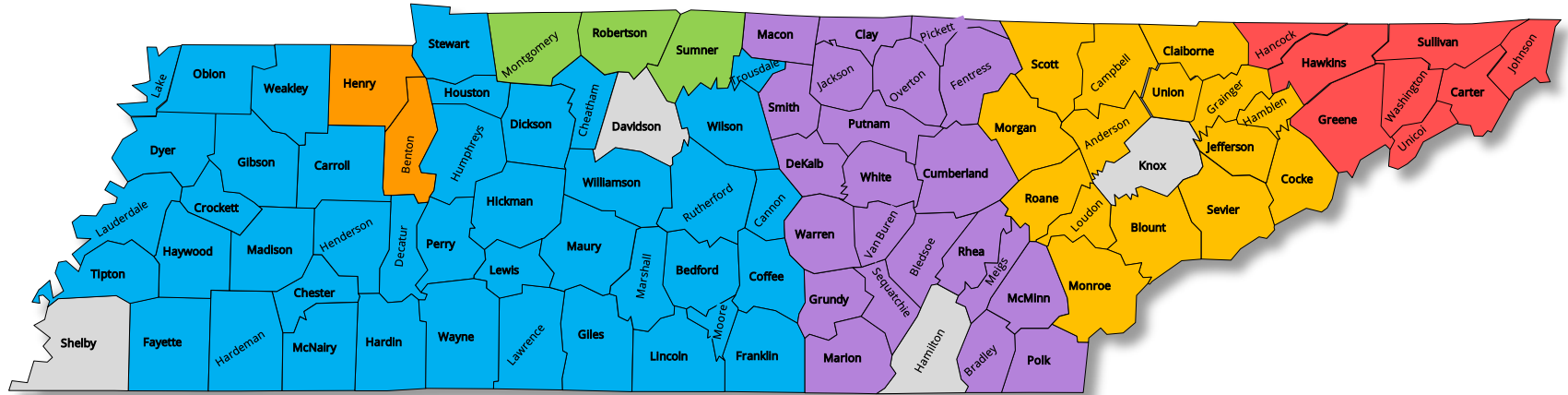
September 18, 2025

JJR – Program Funding and Partners

- **2018:** Juvenile Justice Reform Act establishes \$4.5 million in recurring funds in an effort to divert youth and families from further juvenile court and DCS involvement.
- **2023:** Based on program success and demand for services, Gov. Bill Lee and the TN General Assembly added \$1.3M in new funding
- The primary purpose of the JJR Grant is to expand community-based services and training to provide treatment options for juvenile courts to utilize across the state, specifically services and training that are evidence-based and outcomes-oriented.
- TDMHSAS collaborates with DCS, AOC, TCJFCJ, TCCY, juvenile court staff, and six grantee service providers to operate the Juvenile Justice Reform Local Diversion program.

Juvenile Justice Reform Local Diversion Grants

- Funds became available in FY19. TDMHSAS, in partnership with other stakeholders, developed and released an Announcement of Funds.
- After a competitive selection process, six (6) grantees were selected to deliver treatment options in 91 counties.
- Service delivery began in January 2019. Since that time, over 7,000 youth have been served.
- Services are available to youth regardless of payor/health insurance status.



 Carey Counseling Center, Inc.

 Tennessee Voices

 Youth Villages

 Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System

 McNabb Center

 Frontier Health

JJR – Local Diversion: Program Goals

- To **divert youth** in juvenile courts from further penetration into the juvenile justice system through the use of community-based services, rather than commitment to state custody, where treatment through community-based services better addresses the youth's needs.
- To **establish, expand, and strengthen partnerships** between juvenile courts, community behavioral health providers, child welfare, juvenile justice, education, youth and families, and other key stakeholders to maximize coordination in the diversion of youth from state custody.
- To **ensure resiliency, well-being, and overall connectedness** to the community for juvenile justice-involved youth.

JJR – Local Diversion: Target Population

- Youth who have been **referred to juvenile court** for a **delinquent charge**, including youth adjudicated for a delinquent offense and **at risk of commitment** to the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS).
- Youth who have **previously** been on **probation, pre-trial diversion, judicial diversion**, or involved in other pre-custodial programs or aftercare and have **re-offended** and are **at risk** of being placed in DCS custody, for which community-based services would better address their treatment needs.
- When and where appropriate, **youth deemed unruly or truant** can be served with JJR Grant services if the services are appropriate and will **prevent** the youth from being placed in state custody.

JJR – Local Diversion: Target Outcomes

- Reduction in annual rate of out-of-home placement
- Cost-savings
- Improved quality of life outcomes
- Reduction in recidivism

JJR FY25 Outcomes

At 6-Month Follow-Up, JJR Clients

99%

Remained In Home

7%

Recidivism Rate

Clients discharged in FY25 were evaluated on their
Changes in Daily Living Activity

+16% Coping Skills Scores

Accepts adult correction without undue arguing or temper outbursts and tolerates frustration.

+11% Communication Scores

Greets adults, listens, and expresses feelings, anger, and opinions effectively.

+10% Behavior Norms Scores

Controls expressions of anger and violent behavior, is law abiding, and responsible with school and community rules, and driving laws.