Kentucky data shows that children who complete a diversion program – meaning, their case was resolved outside of a formal court setting – are less likely to recidivate (1 in 5) compared to children whose cases are referred to formal court (1 in 3).

It can cost an average of $588 per day to incarcerate one child compared to approximately $75 per day for diversion.

Research also shows that children who complete these programs have a higher likelihood of completing high school, attending college, and earning more income in adulthood.

Detention alone does not improve public safety.

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The goal of diversion is to reduce further involvement in the court system by providing programs based on education, treatment and accountability.

A diversion agreement provides tools to manage behavioral issues, including prevention and education programs; service learning projects; community service; restitution; curfew; school attendance; counseling; and treatment.

By supporting the development of a robust continuum of interventions with a demonstrated track record of effectiveness – that could include anything from educational support to career and housing services to mentoring programs – we can ensure that children and their families are supported before or during any involvement with the juvenile justice system and provide them with tangible services to keep them on the right track.

**Blueprint for Kentucky’s Children Policy Solution:**

Expand investments so communities can build a continuum of care that supports youth and their families in addressing the root causes of delinquent behavior and prevent ongoing involvement with the juvenile justice system.

[kyyouth.org/blueprintky/](http://kyyouth.org/blueprintky/)