



# THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CAUCUS

YPC builds pathways for young people who have been directly impacted by systemic oppression to have genuine voice and power in decision making in Maine. We connect young people, agency partners, and policy makers to work together to create public systems that truly support and empower all young people.

# WE ARE BUILDING TOWARDS A MAINE WHERE...

*All young people* experience *supportive systems* that help them access positive relationships, resources, and opportunities to find wellness, experience success, feel a sense of belonging, and *thrive into adulthood.*

# 2023-24 GRANT UPDATES

## Justice Network

- Community Zooms every Thursday
- Peer support & leadership development

## Policy Summit

- Education around legislative process and advocacy
- Partnership with YLAT

## *How Change Happens* training series

- Community-building, education and skill development
- In partnership with YLJ and COA

# LEARNINGS FROM JUSTICE NETWORK YOUTH

*“After learning about who the JJAG is and what they do, what are the top things you want the JJAG group to know?”*

## **Experiences during incarceration**

- Relationships with staff
- Safety concerns
- Consequences of understaffing
- Inconsistent expectations
- Needs for structural support

## **Priorities for systems change**

- Increased state oversight of Long Creek
- Examining sentencing
- More investment in prevention

# A FEW PRIORITIES GOING FORWARD

## Help build out the JJAG Youth Council

- Work with JJAG Board to develop clear goals, structures, onboarding process, and support/mentorship model for Youth Council
- Goal of supporting a more engaged and sustainable Youth Council

## Continued youth development & opportunities for youth-adult dialogue

- Changemaking training series in two more locations
- Justice Network community space—growing the network
- Community dialogue hosted by youth leaders
- Social media space focused on policy explainers by and for youth