

Public Policy Center

Providing Nonpartisan Juvenile and Criminal Justice Policy Recommendations

TCJC provides specific suggestions for reform throughout each of our major project areas, as well as legislative actions and links to relevant bills, and our own comprehensive public education materials spanning all projects.

Internship Program

TCJC offers a dynamic and engaging internship program where students gain hands-on experience in areas related to criminal and juvenile justice policy in Texas. For more information about this program, please contact Leah Pinney at (512) 441-8123 ext. 114 or lpinney@criminaljusticecoalition.org.



Advocacy Training

TCJC offers comprehensive workshops and on-site training to advocacy groups throughout Texas. Policy advocacy is an effective way to create and shape change in one's community and throughout the state. For more information, please contact Ana Yáñez-Correa at (512) 441-8123 ext. 109 or acorrea@criminaljusticecoalition.org.



Since the founding of TCJC, we have worked diligently to form effective partnerships, achieve varied and numerous policy goals, and further our mission. We credit the success of our organization to the purposeful integration of our shared values into all aspects of our work. We value equality, collaboration, perseverance, integrity, and respect. These values contribute to the formation of our overarching policy goals and shape our daily interactions with community members, advocates, practitioners, agency leaders, and policy-makers. Learn more about our work and how you can become involved by visiting our website:

www.criminaljusticecoalition.org

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION - DONATE TODAY!

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

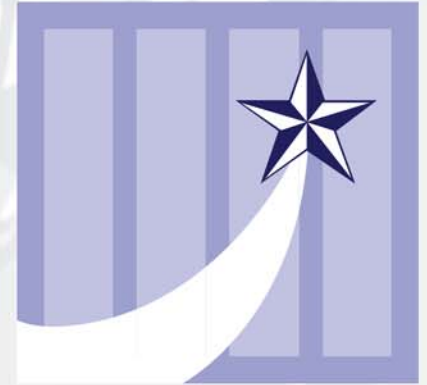
State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Your tax-deductible donation will support our research, public education, and outreach efforts. Give today by clicking on the DONATE NOW button found on our website or by sending a check or money order to:



Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
510 S. Congress Avenue, Suite 104
Austin, Texas 78704



TEXAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION

The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) is committed to identifying and advancing real solutions to the problems facing Texas' juvenile and criminal justice systems. We provide policy research and analysis, form effective partnerships, and educate key stakeholders to promote effective management, accountability, and best practices that increase public safety and preserve human and civil rights.



TCJC PROJECTS

Juvenile Justice Initiative

Creating Avenues to Success for Troubled Youth and Their Families

This project advocates for juvenile justice policy solutions that maximize opportunities for troubled youth to become productive, law-abiding adults. We promote increased resources for community-based alternatives to incarceration, treatment for substance abuse and mental health problems, juvenile drug courts, restorative justice practices, and pathways for successful re-entry.

TCJC sponsors the **Texas Families of Incarcerated Youth (TFIY)**, a network comprised of family members of youth who are or were incarcerated in the Texas Youth Commission (TYC). TFIY provides support and information to other families of system-involved youth, and it advocates as a unified voice for systemic change to improve Texas' juvenile justice practices.

Public Safety Project

Advocating for Fair, Effective Police Practices that Improve the Safety of Our Communities

This project engages in research and provides public education materials that address best practices in law enforcement. We seek to equip community members and law enforcement agencies with the tools to work together to implement effective, public safety-focused, value-driven police services.

TCJC promotes the adoption of model programs that use risk-reduction strategies to identify and address individuals' criminal behavior. In order to effectively meet Texas' long-term public safety needs, it is crucial to provide individuals with the opportunity to access federal and community-based social services and support systems so they can break the cycle and remain on the right path.

The Fair Defense Project

Ensuring a Just and Accountable Judicial System by Protecting the Right to Counsel

This project supports the efforts of the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense in upholding the constitutional requirements for indigent defense, and it works to promote systemic change to ensure that indigent defendants are informed of their right to request counsel and are granted timely appointment of counsel that serves their best interests.

A quality defense creates a balanced judicial system, increases fairness and integrity in sentencing, and is the last opportunity to prevent wrongful convictions. Through community advocacy and key partnerships, TCJC encourages counties to implement independent indigent defense systems that ensure voracity of the appointment process and provide defendants access to quality representation. We support county efforts that facilitate opportunities for the release of low-risk defendants in an effort to reduce costly jail overcrowding and collateral hardships to defendants and their families awaiting trial. Furthermore, we advocate for increased state resources, in parity with prosecutorial resources, so that defendants may have access to a fair trial.

Solutions for Sentencing & Incarceration

Providing Proven and Cost-Effective Answers that Address Texas' Over-Reliance on Incarceration

This project advocates for criminal justice policy solutions that decrease costly jail and prison overcrowding, strengthen communities, increase public safety, and save taxpayers money. We promote alternatives to incarceration and other practices that strengthen accountability and efficiency within the criminal justice system.

Through educational outreach at the county and state levels, TCJC promotes efficient probation and parole strategies, increased resources for community-based diversion programs, treatment options for substance abuse and mental health problems, and policies that address poor conditions of confinement, as well as other strategies that reduce the number of individuals in confinement.

Tools for Re-Entry

Advocating for Policies that Enable the Formerly Incarcerated to Live Responsibly

This project identifies and works to reduce barriers to re-entry for formerly incarcerated individuals. Our goal is to connect people who have been incarcerated with available educational training opportunities, housing, job opportunities, voting information, and other information necessary to successfully re-enter Texas communities. TCJC also seeks to increase support and resources for employers, landlords, and service providers taking part in localized re-entry initiatives throughout Texas, and we monitor the implementation of policies that address these important community issues.

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

TCJC is committed to providing resources and conducting research on vital criminal justice issues that go beyond our project areas in order to continually refresh the knowledge base of practitioners and the public and fuel our educational efforts. Towards that end, we have established the following resources:

Tools for Texas Inmates & Their Families

Providing Resources and Information Relevant to the Needs of Texas' Incarcerated Population and Their Families

TCJC provides fact sheets and other educational materials on policy changes in corrections and criminal procedure, as well as guidance on issues relating to criminal defense, claims of innocence, conditions of confinement, and various other topics.

Tools for Practitioners

Featuring Effective Juvenile and Criminal Justice Programs and Practices

TCJC highlights evidence-based best practices that could be duplicated throughout the state, while also providing other resource materials for individuals working in our juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, such as substance abuse and mental health treatment providers, members of law enforcement, attorneys and judges, probation and parole practitioners, and others.