

# PROBATION TRANSFORMATION YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2015, **Pierce County Juvenile Court** was one of only two counties in the nation to receive a Probation Transformation grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Transformation grant is a unique opportunity to rethink the way probation departments partner with families and communities to support positive youth development. The effort includes multiple partners: families and youth, judges, prosecutors, probation staff, detention staff, court administrators, University of Washington researchers and the local family support organization, A Common Voice. In 2016, even more community agencies will join the effort as programs currently in planning stages are launched.

## Increasing Youth Success with Developmentally-Appropriate Programs

**New programs** were carefully planned and developed, to be piloted in early 2016.

### Opportunity-based Probation

Utilizing research on teen brain development to motivate youth with goal-oriented rewards and strength-centered community activities.

### Youth and Family Team Model

To provide family-driven care and extra support to youth with multiple needs.

### Coordination of Services

A community-based program to educate families and youth about local resources and prevent youth with minor offenses from coming back to the court.

## Engaging with the Community

**Over 60 youth** ranked attractive community involvement options with a Probation Rewards Survey, and top choices are being incorporated into the Opportunity-based Probation practice.

**Over 100 parents** and caregivers completed Family Surveys about court services and made valuable suggestions for improvements.

A new **Family Council** for the juvenile court was launched, which is one of the first in the country. The Council is an advisory group of parents and young adults who will guide program and policy changes.

## Creating a System with Race Equity

The court began detention reform and striving to reduce disparities in 2003. In 2015, the foundation's grant provided the ability to create a **Deep End System Assessment**. The assessment will examine the court's decision-making and probation practices to increase race equity.

## Supporting Families Through the Court Process

A Common Voice provided onsite parent-peer support in the court lobby to over **350 families** awaiting hearings.



"Doorz to Brighter Future"  
by Adam, age 15