



## **Vision Sessions with the Justice Advisors of the Connecticut Justice Alliance**

### **Who is the Connecticut Justice Alliance?**

The Connecticut Justice Alliance, [formerly known as The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance](#), is a statewide public policy & advocacy organization whose mission is to end the criminalization of children in Connecticut. CTJA works to keep kids out of the juvenile legal system & advocates for fair treatment if they do enter it.

### **Who are the Justice Advisors?**

The Justice Advisors are a group of young leaders working to amplify the voices of their communities across Connecticut to ensure policy & budget decisions reflect their experiences & needs.

### **What is a vision session?**

A vision session is a one to two hour time Justice Advisors spend listening to the voices of youth, families, & communities to hear about their experiences, strengths, challenges, & recommendations.

### **What is the purpose of a vision session?**

The purpose of a vision session is to gather input & opinions from those in or impacted by the juvenile legal system so that their expertise can guide the priorities & work of the Alliance & the decisions of policy-makers at the local & state level. This year we are focusing vision sessions around the issues we believe lead to the criminalization of young people in Connecticut.

### **Who can participate in a vision session?**

We are currently looking to speak to anyone who has an opinion on the matter. We are happy to work with teenagers, young adults, & those who have years of wisdom under their belts.

### **What happens to the information that you share with us?**

After a vision session has been completed, we discuss the overall themes of the session, write up notes, & send them back to your group to ensure our take-aways accurately reflect what was said & meant. We might ask clarifying questions. Unless agreed upon beforehand, no names or other identifying factors will be included in the write-up.

The goal of the Justice Advisors is to take the information gathered across many vision sessions & use it to create an overall list of suggestions & requests that reflect how the community wants to see its local & state leaders interact with their young people. We will then come up with action steps to see those recommendations become reality.

### **Will we ever see you again?**

Our goal is to develop a relationship with groups who invite us in for a vision session. We will make sure you see any talking points we develop after your session & work with you to keep your group involved as much or as little as you'd like. If you or your group wants to take action around recommendations we'd love to include you.

### **Who else is present during a vision session?**

Oftentimes during a vision session, the 'adult leader' of that group may be present. If the group wishes to remain completely anonymous in responses, the leader may be asked to leave the room. The Justice Advisors themselves will be present to facilitate the session and a CTJA staff person may also attend to take notes and observe as well as answer any questions.

### **Who benefits from the vision sessions?**

Everyone! Your community, legislators, teachers in your schools, family, & most importantly, young people. Sharing ideas & thoughts about your personal experiences can have a direct influence on young people as well as policies & practices created at the local or state level. The things that you share within the group can also help advocacy groups, like the Connecticut Justice Alliance, know what to advocate for & who to partner with to do so. (That partner may even be you or your group!)

### **Can I get a vision session scheduled in my community or with my group?**

Please contact Jordyn Wilson at [Jordyn@ctja.org](mailto:Jordyn@ctja.org) & she will work to set up a vision session at a time that works for you and your group.