

Support and Expand Redeploy Illinois to Cut Recidivism and Costs

Effective community-based interventions are essential if we are to turn the lives of troubled youth around. **Redeploy Illinois** is a proven strategy to use fiscal incentives to encourage counties to use a small portion of the state dollars currently spent on expensive corrections beds to build local continuums of care and accountability for youth in the local juvenile justice system.

In the past six years, the Redeploy Illinois program has diverted more than 880 youth from state juvenile prisons, allowing the state to avoid more than \$40 million in added incarceration costs and increasing the likelihood those juvenile offenders will change their behaviors.

In recent years, state funding has stayed steady at about \$2.4 million per year. The funding has been enough to establish Redeploy Illinois in 28 counties and provide planning grants to a handful of other interested counties. From Cairo to Chicago, additional counties are prepared to commit to sending fewer juveniles to expensive state prisons in exchange for state help in providing counseling and other diversion services locally.

Gov. Quinn has proposed an increase in the Redeploy Illinois appropriation in the Illinois Department of Human Services for FY 2014 to \$4.9 million to allow the program to reach more counties and divert more youth from prison -- resulting in improved public safety and increased savings for the state of Illinois. We urge the General Assembly to adopt this increase in the final budget.

Highlights:

- **Small investment – big return:** In 2010 Illinois had 1,330 young people in juvenile correctional facilities. Today, the state juvenile prison population is down to about 850. Much of this progress is due to Redeploy Illinois. Closing two juvenile prisons would not have been possible without the population reduction caused in part by the success of Redeploy Illinois.
- **Evaluation shows success:** Preliminary results of a recidivism study indicate that reoffending by Redeploy youth is less than half that of non-Redeploy youth. Even youth who enrolled in but failed Redeploy had lower reincarceration rates than youth who did not participate.
- **Outcome driven – funding based on achieving at least a 25 percent reduction in commitments to juvenile prisons:** Since 2006, counties participating in Redeploy Illinois achieved a 51 percent reduction in average number of youth sent annually to Dept. of Juvenile Justice, far exceeding the goal of a 25 percent reduction.



