The Youth Justice Coalition works to build a movement led by system-impacted youth, families and formerly and currently incarcerated people to challenge Los Angeles’, California’s and the nation’s addiction to incarceration, and to dismantle the injustice of race, gender and class inequality in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. The organization uses direct action organizing, advocacy, political education, research, transformative justice and activist arts to build community power and bring about change.

**KEY JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA**

- Los Angeles County represents 27% of the state’s population, but 40% of the state’s prison population
- Despite more than 50% drop in youth arrest, detention and incarceration, Los Angeles County law enforcement budgets have continued to grow, with LA County Probation increasing from $500 million in 2007 to nearly $850 million in 2016. It costs: 1. $247,236 a year to incarcerate one youth in an LA County probation camp; 2. $281,327 each year in an LA County juvenile hall; 3. $2,115 per arrest and 4. $3,394 for each day in court
- More than 17,000 Los Angeles youth a year who have never had court or probation contact are under “voluntary” probation and/or District Attorney supervision under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 236, with more than 80% referred for academic, school performance or truancy reasons.

**PARTNERS**

Children’s Defense Fund–California
Anti-Recidivism Coalition
Urban Peace Institute

**STRATEGIES TO BUILD POWER**

Coalition Building
Youth and Community Leadership Development
Platform Development
Direct Action Organizing
Monitoring and Advocacy
Research and Data
Policy Analysis, Development and Implementation

**POLICY ISSUES**

Challenge and radically transform Los Angeles County’s juvenile injustice system focusing on the Department of Probation. Goals include:

1. Shifting county spending on youth arrest, court, detention and incarceration to community-based youth development
2. Building county oversight and decision-making mechanisms regarding system-impacted youth, including establishing youth and family power and influence; building a strong Probation Oversight Commission; and ensuring transparency, fairness and community decision making in the distribution of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Funds
3. Reducing and preventing probation and other law enforcement contact with youth, including eliminating Probation’s and District Attorney’s contact with “WIC 236” youth; establishing and expanding community-based diversion; and closing youth detention and incarceration facilities

**CONTACT YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION**

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