

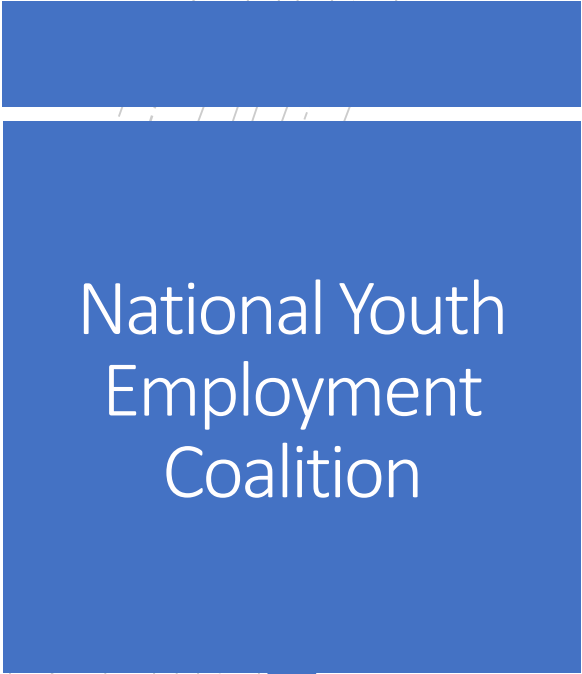
Opportunities in WIOA and Solutions on the Ground

JDAI Inter-Site Conference

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**NATIONAL
YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
COALITION**

The logo for the National Youth Employment Coalition is a blue speech bubble shape. It consists of a smaller blue rectangle at the top, and a larger blue shape below it that tapers to a point at the bottom, resembling a speech bubble. The text "National Youth Employment Coalition" is written in white, sans-serif font inside the larger shape.

National Youth Employment Coalition

- **Builds capacity on professional and organizational levels**
- **Collects and shares best practices**
- **A unique line of communication between the field and policymakers**
- **Aggregator and curator of proven, emerging, and promising practices**
- **Learn more at www.nyec.org**

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): Overview

- Main federal authorizing legislation for workforce development and job training, passed in 2014
- Relevant programs/services:
 - WIOA Youth Services
 - YouthBuild
 - Job Corps
 - Reentry Employment Opportunity
 - Adult education
 - One-stop centers (American Job Centers)
- Administered by state and local workforce development boards
- Approximately \$3 billion in relevant annual funding

WIOA: Opportunities

- Priority for hardest-to-serve young people
- Most Youth Services funding → OSY
- Justice-involved young people are automatically eligible
- 14 required elements including:
 - Paid and unpaid work experience and occupational skills training
 - Supportive services such as transportation, child care, mentoring, and counseling
- See *CSG On Track* report for Best practices checklist

WIOA:
Historic
Challenges →
Camden
Project

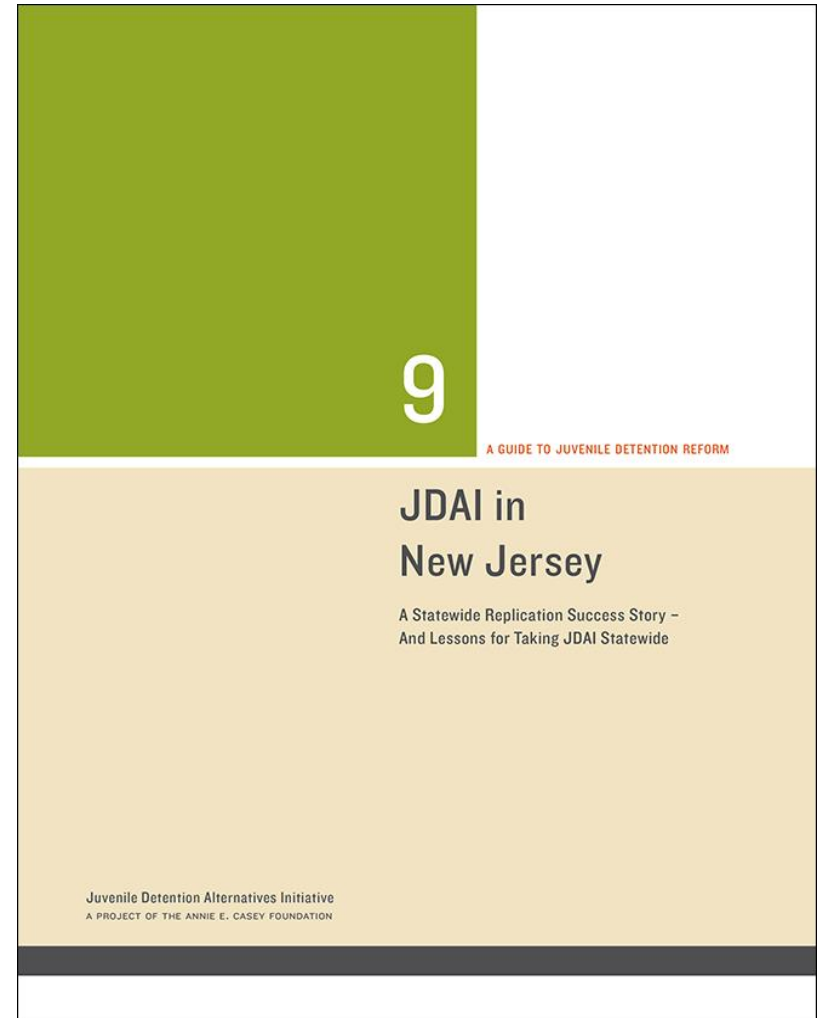
- WIOA performance measures can encourage “creaming”
- Funding too low to provide needed supports
- Lack of agency connections
- NYEC partnered with Youth Advocacy Programs, Inc. to take a deeper look at barriers and opportunities in Camden Co., a JDAI Deep End Site, including federal, state, and local leaders from juvenile justice and workforce systems

The background features a series of concentric, overlapping circles in light gray and white, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A large, solid blue speech bubble is centered on the page, containing the title text.

Camden County: What We've Heard

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)®

- New Jersey is the national model for state-scale implementation of JDAI.
- By 2017, all 21 counties had adopted JDAI, making New Jersey the first large, locally-administered state to reach this milestone.
- Since adopting JDAI, New Jersey counties have **reduced juvenile detention by 70%**, with **youth of color accounting for 90% of the drop**.



Strengths

- Core of good providers
- Smaller case loads for POs
- One-Stop staff now at JPO every two weeks for three hours
- Key non-workforce programs identified that could support workforce participation:
 - that help families: MST
 - that help kids: Mentors



Challenges and Opportunities

- **Challenges**
 - Limited staff dedicated to youth at the One Stop (2 youth case workers)
 - Lack of consistent referral system
- **Opportunities**
 - JDMT Meetings: Opportunity for CCWDB to attend and connect youth to resources, facilitate access
 - Encourage workforce providers to send liaisons to attend sentencing hearings
 - Need for better tracking system



Nonstructural Challenges: Complex and Simple

- **Transportation**
- **Awareness of existing programs**
- **Issues related to young people: readiness for work, literacy, remedial, motivation**
- **Issues related to young people and their families: survival**
- **Confidentiality: revealing probation status to employers**
- **Accessing documentation needed for work**
- **Youth obligations to the courts, court hearings, and PO meetings that disrupt programming**
- **Youth not admitted back to school upon adjudication or confinement**
- **Obtaining identification**

Thank you!



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