

# Lamoille Valley Community Justice Project

A Program of

Lamoille County Court Diversion Restorative Justice Programs, Inc.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is CJP?** The Community Justice Project is a prevention program for children of incarcerated parents. The primary program goal is to prevent children from repeating the cycle of corrections involvement as young adults.

**How does CJP work to improve outcomes for kids of incarcerated parents?**

Research shows that children who have *strong and stable family connections, do well in school, and are connected with their communities* are more likely to be successful as adults. CJP uses a case management model to help children and families achieve their family, school, and community goals.

**Who is eligible for CJP Services?** Children ages pre-birth to 12 who have a parent, step-parent or guardian who has been or is currently incarcerated.

**What do the Family Support Specialists do?** CJP Family Support Specialists serve children and their parents or guardians through home visits and in school or community settings.

- **Family Support**

- Assist families in developing meaningful goals
- Refer families to appropriate services, including economic assistance, health resources, and parenting support
- Support the development of family strengths and traditions
- Identify and encourage the development of children's' individuals assets
- Instruct parents in all aspects of child safety
- Help children to access physical, dental, and mental health care services by identifying and eliminating barriers to care
- Assist parents and guardians in taking charge of their children's health

- When appropriate, help children to sustain and develop relationships with the incarcerated parent
- **School Success**
  - Encourage children to access services related to academic and social success
  - Help parents to learn more about their children's challenges and successes in school
  - Participate in team meetings and make connections between school services and the family goals
  - Model ways for parents to participate as informed, effective partners in their children's education
  - Help children to form effective relationships with peers and adults
- **Community Connections**
  - Match each child with an adult mentor
  - Address barriers to participation in asset building activities such as sports or camp
  - Plan and facilitate group events geared toward the needs of children in the program (examples: flag football, summer reading program, girls' group)
  - Assist children in giving back to their communities (example—walking the dogs at the animal local shelter, harvesting vegetables at to donate to food shelves)
- **Who are the Family Support Specialists?** The program is staffed by a skilled interdisciplinary team, including Cathy Hughes, RN; Jude Mathison, BSW; and P.J. Long, MA, LCMHC
- **How do I make a referral to CJP?** For a copy of the CJP referral form, contact

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