



FUNDING RAISE THE AGE IMPLEMENTATION

Since RTA was passed in 2017 as part of the state budget, there has been a **\$250M annual appropriation to support state and local costs associated with the reform.**

This appropriation was intended to devote significant resources to counties, through annual plans reviewed and approved by the State, to **stand up services and programs for 16- and 17-year-olds whose cases go through the family court and the Youth Part** of the adult criminal court system. Unlike most other youth justice funding, the State dollars provide 100% reimbursement to counties (rather than requiring local cost-sharing), which signals how important the program and services pieces were to RTA implementation.

As has been widely reported, New York State never delivered on its promise to fund community-based alternatives to incarceration and reentry programs for young people. As of March 2024, it's been reported that **less than a third of the \$1.5 billion appropriated for the Raise the Age law's implementation has been spent.** New York City, which accounts for half of the state's youth justice system population, **has received zero State funding.**

A review of RTA spending plans for the top 10 counties (in terms of juvenile arrests other than NYC) conducted by the Coalition showed that most of the funding has gone for detention, placement, and law enforcement. In these counties, less than 20% of funds approved - sometimes as little as 10% - were for community based programs.

We have short-changed RTA and failed to invest in the programs and services evidence shows actually work for kids and produce real community safety.

Evidence shows that community-based programs and services for young people who have contact with police is the surest way to promote community safety. This year's **state budget must include more pathways for unspent state dollars to reach counties and community based organizations**, including adopting the Youth Justice Innovation Fund (S.643/A.8491).

Every county must have a youth justice continuum of services that includes prevention, early intervention, and alternatives to detention, placement and incarceration.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please contact:

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1 Those 10 counties include: Albany, Broome, Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Suffolk and Westchester. They were the most recent plans approved in 2023 and 2024.

2 These calculations are based on categorical approved spending for "Probation Staffing", "Detention", "LDSS" Raise the Age placement, and "Other" spending associated with detention and police costs.