

Strengthening Pathways for Success Through Community Support for All Young People



In 2021, the Washington State Legislature funded a decision package paving the way for Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) to provide community-based reentry services to all young people releasing from residential care. Community Support for All Young People ensures youth releasing to the community are connected to vital resources necessary for their successful reentry, self-sufficiency, and independence.

Using the Risk, Needs, Responsivity approach, designed to determine priority treatment and intervention, individual needs, and appropriate services, ensures resources are accessible at the time of transition (**Juvenile Rehabilitation Integrated Treatment Model May 2020**¹). As young people move through the agency's continuum of care, JR will continue to assess their needs to ensure they are connected to accurate and relevant community-based services when they release.

Community Support for All is accessible to young people releasing to the community from residential care and least restrictive alternatives. These services are available through **Parole Aftercare**,² Community Transition Services, or Community Assisted Reentry. Young people releasing to supervision under Juvenile Probation or the Department of Corrections (DOC) are not eligible for these services.

Parole Aftercare Supervision

JR Parole Aftercare is an important step in successful community reentry for the young people who qualify for this service. Also grounded in the Risks, Needs, and Responsivity approach, Parole Aftercare works with young people, their families, and natural supports to increase motivation and engagement in community-based services to meet their needs during their parole obligation.

Community Assisted Reentry (CAR)

Approximately 50% of young people release from residential care without a parole obligation. Before the new legislation, these individuals were released to the community without dedicated support. Under Community Support for All, these young people can voluntarily receive critical community-based services necessary for their successful transition through Community Assisted Reentry (CAR). Formerly identified as "No Parole," CAR provides up to 12 months of services based on youth needs. Connection to these services will, ideally, occur prior to a young person's release to the community, while the 12 months of services will start the day they release from their JR sentence.

Community Transition Services (CTS)*

The 2021 Legislative Session also resourced the **Community Transition Services (CTS)**³ program. CTS is designed to provide a less restrictive alternative to **community facility**⁴ placement and allows young people to complete their residential sentence in their own homes. This program is supported by case management, electronic monitoring, and, most importantly, therapeutic community-based services and interventions. CTS will support the reentry and reunification of young people with their families and natural supports while they build independence in their own environment.

Eligible young people can complete up to 18 months of their remaining sentence in this program. Upon completing their residential sentences, young people will transition to either Parole Aftercare or Community Assisted Reentry to further support their reentry needs.

** Implementation of CTS is pending development and implementation of new risk and needs assessment.*



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Planning and Preparation

JR strives to prepare young people to become productive members of their community. Matching young people to culturally relevant supports and interventions using a Risk, Need, and Responsivity approach is a key part of how this can be achieved.

Addressing treatment needs is an essential component of preparing youth to successfully navigate and take advantage of other preparation and planning resources and activities that foster success. These include bringing young people and their families together in **Reentry Team Meetings**⁵ to identify desired goals, resources, and interventions needed to develop a Reentry Plan. Keeping young people and their families in the center, reentry team members include counselors and community-based partners to support youth in each of the reentry areas outlined (see box to the right).

Reentry Areas to Support Successful Transition

- Housing Supports
- Family Support
- Behavioral Health/Physical Health/Substance Use Treatment
- Education
- Employment/Vocation
- Legal Advocacy
- Wellness/Peer Supports/Mentoring
- Safety/Violence Prevention



Reentry and Transition Planning

Reentry⁶ planning begins upon admission to JR. This includes a series of assessments to determine treatment, medical needs, education, and essential rehabilitation and reentry services. JR uses additional assessment tools to determine release, parole eligibility, and transition to a less restrictive community facility alternative.

Release and transition planning is initiated within the first 30 days of admission and continues throughout an individual's stay. Ongoing assessment informs us of the community-based supports needed to match the goals and targets identified in their reentry plans. Reentry plans are built to emphasize the young person's voice while outlining the steps needed to achieve reentry and transition goals.

1 **Juvenile Rehabilitation Integrated Treatment Model May 2020:**
<https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/jr-itm2020.pdf>

2 **Parole Aftercare:**
https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/JR_0025.pdf

3 **Community Transition Services:**
https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/JR_0038.pdf

4 **Community Facility:**
<https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/juvenile-rehabilitation/residential-facilities>

5 **Reentry Team Meetings:**
https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/JR_0024.pdf

6 **Reentry:**
https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/JR_0019.pdf

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