



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS INITIATIVE



## 2019 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### WHO WE ARE

The **CT Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative (CTCIP)** aims to improve the quality of supports for children with incarcerated parents through research, public policy and practice, personnel development, community engagement, public awareness and education.

CTCIP operates out of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) located at Central CT State University in downtown New Britain, CT.



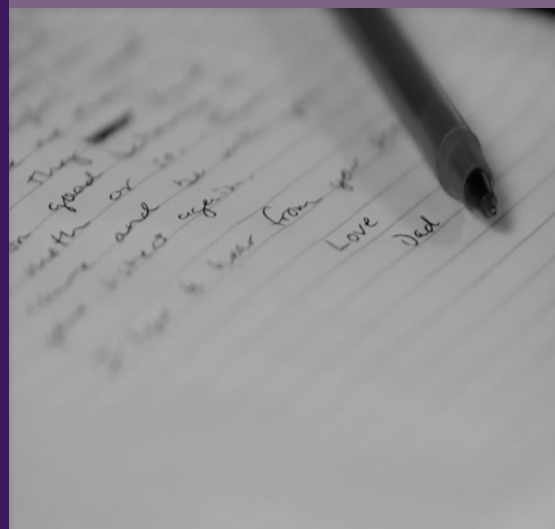
### WHAT WE DO

CTCIP is Connecticut's primary resource center for information on and for children affected by familial incarceration. We serve as the state's think-tank for policy and practice recommendations involving and impacting CIP.



### WHAT WE DID

Testified	Joined
Supported	Nominated
Co-Chaired	Awarded
Advised	Collaborated
Organized	Evaluated
Advised	Trained



# MADE

## A DIFFERENCE FOR CONNECTICUT CIP & THEIR FAMILIES



**TESTIFIED** in support of 2019 state legislation to mitigate the potential negative consequences of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) on CIP in state foster care. Enacted in 1997, ASFA aims to prevent children from spending lengthy time in foster care. The law requires child welfare agencies to file a for termination of parental rights (TPR) if a child has been in foster care for any 15 of the most recent 22 months and also provides a federal reimbursement per child to move more children to permanent adoptions.

With the nationwide average length of incarceration in state prisons being 34 months, incarcerated parents are disproportionality experiencing TPR even if they have never been accused of abuse or neglect and have a relationship with their child. Unfortunately, the 2019 state legislation did not pass but we will **CONTINUE TO WORK** with the CT General Assembly, CT Division of Public Defender Services, CT Department of Children and Families, CT Sentencing Commission, community organizations and advocates, as well as those directly impacted, on this issue.

**SUPPORTED** cost-free telecommunications for children and loved ones of incarcerated persons to promote child health and wellbeing, healthy parent-child relationships, assist in recidivism reduction, as well as increase public and prison safety. We spread public awareness through a press conference at the Legislative Office Building with state legislators and advocates, a nationally-aired NPR interview, and meetings with legislators and agency heads.

**CO-CHAired** the Family Connections Reentry workgroup of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and the Urban Institute *Family Connections* pilot program with CT Department of Correction. The project aims to identify and implement practices that better support families as they anticipate and navigate the reentry of an incarcerated parent from Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution to reduce the likelihood of recidivism and strengthen family relationships. The workgroup specifically focuses on ways to include caregivers and children into reentry planning and programming.

**ADVISED** and **CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK** to an incarcerated fathers' group at Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center that are working to refine and formalize the first parenting program for incarcerated fathers created by incarcerated fathers that we are aware of.

**1 in 14 U.S  
children  
have had a  
parent who  
lived with  
them go to  
jail or  
prison.**



**INVITED TO BE A KEY PARTNER** with CT Department of Children and Families and CT Department of Correction in applying for a 3-year federal grant offered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which we were awarded. The grant will provide funds to **CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM** that will provide better supports for children with open DCF case and a father reentering from Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution.

**INVITED TO JOIN** the Department of Social Services (DSS)' CT Fatherhood Initiative Strategic Plan Domain 4 Committee, *Men Involved in the Criminal Justice System Supported in Being Responsible Fathers*.

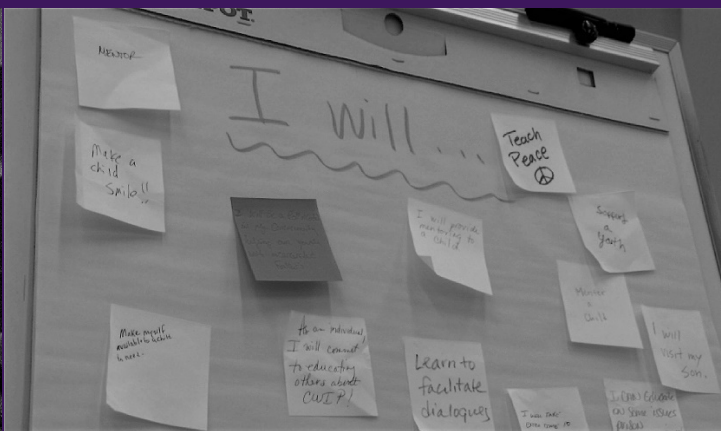
**NOMINATED** and **AWARDED** a community nonprofit grant through the TJX Foundation of TJX Companies, Inc., which aims to provide access to opportunities outside of school that enable school success in pre-K-12. In partnership with CTDOC's Reentry Services Unit, these funds will be used to purchase new toys and games for the visiting and waiting rooms at Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution's Reintegration Center.

**COLLABORATED** with the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated (NRCCFI), the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, and Ronin Davis to conduct a national survey to identify statewide CIP-specific practices and policies. The results will be compiled in a report to provide legislators and policy makers implementation guidelines. The report will highlight overarching lessons learned by states that have adopted initiatives with recommendations for states considering similar efforts.

**EVALUATED** Connecting through Literacy: Incarcerated parents, their Children, and Caregivers (CLICC), a Connecticut-based non-profit program that provides literacy-based mentorship for incarcerated parents and their children.

**TRAINED** ACES Middlesex County Early Head Start Home Visiting Program personnel on CIP-related issues as part of their professional training development.





## WHAT WE HOPE TO DO

We will continue the very important work of identifying, developing and implementing policies, services and resources for children affected by familial incarceration. We will continue to collaborate with our state and national partners to expand the scope of resources and services.

We will further provide awareness and outreach across the state in order to de-stigmatize the issue and to provide better support and networks for CIP and families.

We will gain additional understanding of the CIP population in our state, nation and across the world, as well as the specific service-needs of CIP through research, evaluation and outreach.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**FOLLOW US** on social media to stay updated on our work.

**ASSIST** a child dealing with parental incarceration by visiting our kid-friendly, CIP-specific website.

**CONTACT** us anytime.

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