



CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS INITIATIVE



2020 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 the University of Connecticut in downtown Hartford, CT.

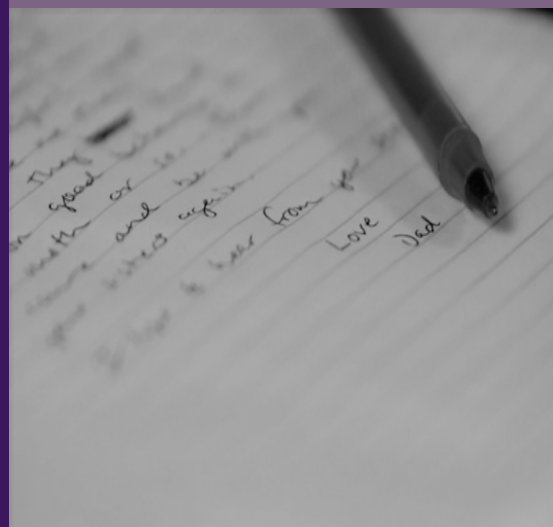
WHAT WE DO

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 and their families.



WHAT WE DID

SPOKE	COLLABORATED
HOSTED	NAVIGATED
SCREENED	ASSISTED
CREATED	PARTNERED
GIFTED	PROVIDED
APPEARED	SERVED



MADE

a difference for Connecticut children & families impacted by incarceration.

SPOKE and led at a press conference at the Legislative Office Building about the ongoing conversation of cost-free telecommunications for children and loved ones of incarcerated persons. These calls promote child health and wellbeing, healthy parent-child relationships, assist in recidivism reduction, and increase public and prison safety. Due to COVID, though, the legislative session did not continue; however, incarcerated persons were given 8 free calls a month because of visits being canceled.



HOSTED a free film screening at Central CT State University for our original documentary - Halfway Home: A Father's Story - which follows a Connecticut father recently released on parole and his journey to reconnect with his children and family in Hartford. The screening was attended by 150+ people and was followed by a **FACILITATED** panel discussion with impacted CIP, previously incarcerated parents, and agency heads from CT Department of Correction, CT Parole, and halfway home contractors.

SCREENED Halfway Home: A Father's Story at CT Department of Correction's main office for US#1 District superintendent and teachers from prisons across the state since they have access to and relationships with incarcerated persons in ways that other staff most often do not.

Continued to **CO-CHAIR** the Family Connections Reentry work-group for the *Family Connections* pilot program with CT Department of Correction, which aims to identify and implement practices that better support families as they anticipate and navigate the reentry of an incarcerated parent. This consisted of **CREATING** a specific *Reentry Notebook for Children and Families*, training of DOC employees in reintegration centers for best practices and behaviors, and reviewing our FAQ booklet with CT Department of Correction input.



GIFTED and **PARTICIPATED** in the remodeling of the Family Visit Area at Willard Cybulski Correctional Institution with our funds received by TJX Companies. New toys, books, wall art, tables, chairs, activities - both indoor and outdoor - were purchased and revealed at a large groundbreaking ceremony with CT Department of Correction, CT Office of Early Childhood and CTCIP.

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

COLLABORATED with CT Department of Correction, Council of State Governments, U.S. Senator Murphy's office, the CT Reentry Collaborative, and the Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus to try to remedy the ongoing difficulty of obtaining birth certificates for Puerto Rico-born incarcerated persons prior to their release, per state law. This prevents individuals from obtaining the most basic of needs in the community, including shelter, food and health care. There currently is not a process in Puerto Rico and work will need to continue to permanently remedy.

NAVIGATED systems and **ASSISTED** families, parents, children, and the public with resources to address specific issues and concerns related to CIP.

PARTNERED with students of Yale Law School's Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic (CJAC) as they develop a white paper on the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act and its disproportionate negative impact on CIP in our state and nation.

PROVIDED scholarships for 5 undergraduate and graduate students at Central CT State University who have been impacted by familial incarceration. CIP Scholars receive \$1,500.00 for up to 6 semesters.

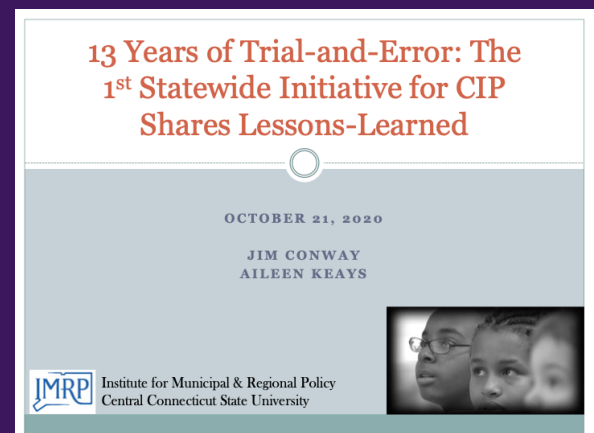


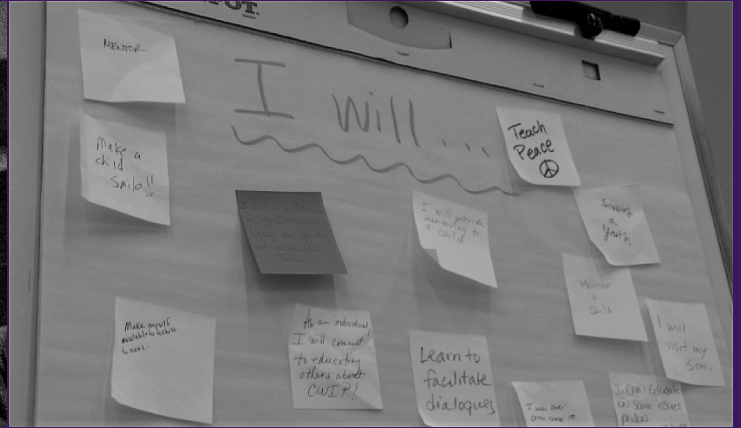
APPEARED on BBC news to talk about the impact of parental incarceration on a child and practices in the United States in comparison to the United Kingdom.

SERVED as a panelist at the CT Department of Children and Families' "DADS MATTER TOO" Annual Conference

PRESENTED 13 years of lessons learned and guiding principles to best assist CIP at the 2020 Arizona Center for Well Being virtual conference titled "Supportive Programming, Practices and Policies".

VOCALIZED the importance and hardships of parenting from afar, including halfway homes, in national news.





WHAT WE HOPE TO DO

CTCIP will continue the very important work of identifying, developing and implementing policies, services and resources for children, families and parents affected by 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 familial incarceration and to provide better support 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.

CONTRIBUTE to the CIP Scholarship fund via donation.

CONTACT us anytime.

www.ctcip.org

ctcip@uconn.edu

Twitter: [@CTCIPInitiative](https://twitter.com/CTCIPInitiative)

Facebook: [@CTCIPInitiative](https://facebook.com/CTCIPInitiative)

912-200-3856

