



## CIP INITIATIVE'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**I. Practices should be designed specifically with CIP needs in mind**

**II. Include CIP and their families in the process of program development, implementation, and evaluation**

**III. The relationship between the child and the incarcerated parent should be supported**

**IV. Programs should reach children and families to get "self-referrals"**

**V. Stigma and isolation associated with incarceration should be reduced**

**VI. Emphasis on connections, collaborations and coordination among agencies and community partners**

**VII. Evaluation and accurate data are critical for identifying evidence-supported practices**

## 2021-2022 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### WHO WE ARE

The Children with Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Initiative aims to improve the quality of supports for children with incarcerated parents by using the various data and knowledge it gains to inform public policy and practice.

The CIP Initiative operates out of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP), located at the University of Connecticut's School of Public Policy.

### WHAT WE DO

The CIP Initiative 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 children with incarcerated parents.

### WHAT WE DID

**Awarded  
Advocated  
Collaborated  
Testified  
Presented  
Partnered**

**Supported  
Co-chaired  
Invested  
Gifted  
Provided  
Authored**



# IMPACT

MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR CONNECTICUT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION.

## Awarded

\$13,500 in **scholarships** to six university students who have experienced the incarceration of a close family member. Scholars received \$1,500 each semester they were eligible to reward their academic achievements and support their goals of a degree in higher education.



## Gifted

A \$50,000 **playground** to be used during social visits at York Correctional Institution for decades to come. Providing a playground for Connecticut's only state female correctional facility is expected to realize a multitude of benefits for generations of families, and corrections personnel, for decades to come.

## Invested

\$62,000 in **community programs** to provide direct services to children with incarcerated parents and the children's remaining caregiver throughout the state.



## PARTNERED

with CT Department of Children and Families, CT Department of Correction for a 3-year federal grant offered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to support families. Through this collaboration, CTCIP will work together with DCF and DOC to bring awareness and educational based resources to create effective relationships with families of those affected by incarceration. CTCIP will facilitate these educational based trainings and ongoing technical assistance throughout the duration of the project.

## Developed

A "**Prison COVID-19 Related Visiting Policies in the U.S.**" chart to provide a synopsis of websites, guidelines, and visiting information from each state's Department of Corrections (DOC).





# Community Engagement

Co-sponsored the Children of Color Organization, Inc's 10th Annual Children of Incarcerated Parents Holiday Celebration.



*“On my wish list, what I really want for Christmas honestly is for my whole family to be together. And that’s...my gift is happening right now. I’m happy about it.”*

Kamar A., 10-year-old

[Read more on NBC Connecticut.](#)



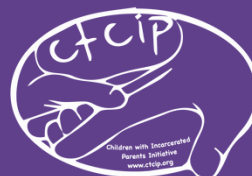
**COLLABORATED** with Osborne Association to discuss vital information and resources for children with incarcerated loved ones. CTCIP contributed to developing the theme for See Us Support Us month of October and other initiatives to spread awareness.

**COLLABORATED** and helped to provide youth centered resources to create a 'Youth Resources Kit.'

**CO-CHAIR** The Department of Social Services (DSS)' CT Fatherhood Initiative Strategic Plan Domain 4 Commitment: Men Involved in the Criminal Justice System Supported in Being Responsible Fathers.

**PRESENTED** at the the popular Arizona State University Center for Child Well-being's 4th Annual Children of Incarcerated Parents National Conference, "Leading the Future: Young People as Partners for Change." During our presentation, we screened our original documentary, "Halfway Home: A Father's Story," before the international audience. Following the film, a panel we convened discussed the impact parental incarceration has had on them and the accomplishments they achieved as a result.

**PRESENTED** at the Connecticut Department of Children and Families' 7th Annual Dads Matter, Too! Conference, "Engaging Men: Moving Men from Risk to Resource". We convened, and moderated, a panel with formerly and currently incarcerated fathers.



## CTCIP IN THE MEDIA

Issued a statement regarding children impacted by tragedy in Bristol in the CT Mirror.

NBC Connecticut Interview announcing playground at York Correctional.

"Seven out of Ten? Not Even Close", a publication of the CTCIP, was a big topic of conversation during the Children of Prisoners Europe annual conference in Portugal.

Aileen Keays joined the IMRP on a fact-finding mission to Norway to explore their correctional service system.

The CIP Initiative co-sponsored a holiday celebration for children in Hartford impacted by parental incarceration.



# ADVOCACY

Aileen Keays, Director of CTCIP, TESTIFIED in support of legislations impacting children impacted by parental incarceration in the state.

## RAISED H.B. 5001

TESTIFIED in support of Raised House Bill 5001, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH with a request to consider including specific provisions to support children with incarcerated parents.

## RAISED S.B. 459 & H.B. 5390

TESTIFIED in support of Senate Bill 459, AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION FOR CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT, THE USE OF ISOLATED CONFINEMENT, SECLUSION, RESTRAINTS, STRIP SEARCHES, SOCIAL CONTACTS FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS, TRANSPARENCY FOR CONDITIONS OF INCARCERATION AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICER TRAINING, and House Bill 5390, AN ACT REPEALING STATUTORY PROVISIONS THAT IMPOSE LIABILITY ON AN INDIVIDUAL FOR REPAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL WAS INCARCERATED.

## FREE PHONE CALL BILL

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.

### CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS: A BILL OF RIGHTS

I. I have the right to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest.

II. I have the right to be heard when decisions are made about me

III. I have the right to be considered when decisions are made about my parent.

IV. I have the right to be well cared for in my parent's absence.

V. I have the right to speak with, see and touch my parent.

VI. I have the right to support as I struggle with my parent's incarceration.

VII. I have the right not to be judged, blamed or labeled because of my parent's incarceration.

VIII. I have the right to a lifelong relationship with my parent.

\*Published by San Francisco CIP Partnership



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959-200-3856

Help us support students impacted by parental incarceration by giving to the Children with Incarcerated Parents Scholarship during UConn Gives on March 8-9, 2023.



DONATE



## WHAT WE HOPE TO DO

CTCIP 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

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

**GIVE** to the CIP Initiative Fund to provide support for scholarships and programming for students impacted by familial incarceration.

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

**CONTACT** us anytime.

