

Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation: Key Outcomes

Hennepin County's Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCCR) provides culturally specific, trauma-informed programs for youth involved in the criminal/legal system. These community-based services work in partnership with youth and their families to address underlying factors that contributed to youth's justice involvement (e.g., past or current trauma, economic inequalities, racism) and prevent youth from dropping out of school or engaging in further criminal activity.

Youth and caregivers build resilience and learn new skills



I did not know there was such a thing about childhood trauma. I feel like I graduated from school. I never knew there was a thing like that.^b

I've gotten better. I know how to handle myself through situations and problems. I know how to keep myself in a calm place to make me feel comfortable.^b

I used to have memories that pop in my head and put me in a bad spot. Now I know. I read a book and listen to music to help me take my mind off it.^b



^a Youth who participated in The Link.

^b Youth who participated in Nia/Ujima

Youth and caregivers are hopeful for their future and make better decisions



are better able to make decisions to reach their goals ^a



learned how to make healthy decisions ^a



are better able to think about consequences before making decisions ^a



to 100% feel more hopeful about the future ^{ab}



Helped me get back on my feet from almost nothing. ^a

Before the program, I'm not going to lie; when I'm stressed, I turn to weed, but since the program, I don't. When I am stressed, I talk about it. I have a therapist now. ^b

Youth and caregivers build healthier relationships



improved their ability to solve conflicts ^a



learned what healthy relationships look like ^a



improved their communication skills ^a

I was the yelling parent. But they gave us different ways to strategize and to sit down and come up with plans with our children... so that we're both not so frustrated. ^b

I'm better at coping. Before, I would isolate when something stressful happens or just think about it. Now, I talk about it with others. I am good with my coping skills now. ^b

Youth and caregivers feel more connected to their racial and cultural identities



explored positive aspects of their racial identity ^b



explored how their racial or cultural identity impacts their life ^b



feel more connected to their racial identity ^b



^a Youth who participated in The Link.

^b Youth who participated in Nia/Ujima

Youth and caregivers enjoyed the program

100%

Liked the program ^{ab}

100%

would recommend
the program ^a

100%

felt comfortable sharing
their thoughts with staff ^{ab}

100%

had positive relationships
with staff ^{ab}

Great program.

[I'm] actually going to change. ^a

Everything about it is perfect. [It's a]
place to reflect and learn new tips. ^a

I would recommend this program because
they helped me pursue things that I don't think
I would have been able to do on my own. ^a

^a Youth who participated in The Link.

^b Youth who participated in Nia/Ujima

Youth voices



I was behind on rent, not making the amount of money that I wanted to. We really hammered those out, got caught up on rent, got a new job. We were even able to get rid of a relationship that wasn't healthy for myself. With [staff] helping, it was mainly easier to pick them out one-by-one instead of all of them at once. Having someone to listen to me. That things happen and you can't just dwell on it. You have to move forward, move past it, instead of doing nothing about it.

[Without The Link], I would probably be a lot further behind. Probably wouldn't have an apartment, not have a job. I wouldn't be able to comprehend how to do both. It put a lot of stress at ease. My money management is a lot better. I have a better credit score. I don't have an eviction on my record. There are plenty of things to be grateful for that I might not have had if I hadn't signed up. Learning how to live as an adult.

Methods

The Link

Between 2024-2025, 34 youth participating in The Link's programming completed the survey, and two youth shared in-depth, personal stories during an interview with Wilder staff.

Nia and Ujima

Between 2022 and 2025, 37 youth and families completed an interview, and 32 youth and families completed the survey.

[Read previous DOCCR reports by Wilder Research.](#)