

# STEPPINGUP

A National Initiative Reducing  
Overincarceration of People with Mental  
Illnesses

## Kansas Juvenile Justice Stepping Up Project Overview

July 16, 2024



# Speakers:

- **Megan Davidson**, Program Director, Behavioral Health, *CSG Justice Center*
- **Stephanie Ueberall**, Deputy Program Director, Corrections & Reentry, *CSG Justice Center*
- **Clay McCarter**, Director of Special Projects, *Kansas Department of Corrections*
- **Brenda Soto**, Director of Medicaid and Children's Mental Health, *Kansas Department of Children and Families*
- **Destini Gillian**, Justice Involved Services Coordinator, *Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services*

# Agenda:



What is Stepping Up?

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History and Evolution of the Kansas Stepping Up TA Center

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Next Steps: Juvenile Justice Stepping Up

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Discussion / Questions

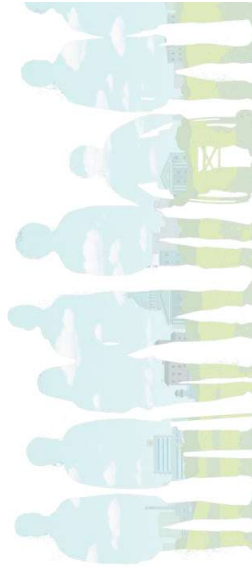
# STEPPINGUP Initiative

Stepping Up is a national initiative identifying, addressing, and reducing the overincarceration of people with mental illnesses in jails.



**Justice Center**  
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

#StepUp4MentalHealth  
[www.StepUpTogether.org](http://www.StepUpTogether.org)



STEPPINGUP

# Factors Leading to the Creation of Stepping Up



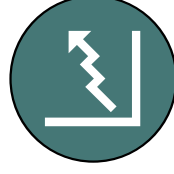
Disproportionately higher rates of arrest



Longer stays in jail



Limited access to health care



Higher recidivism rates



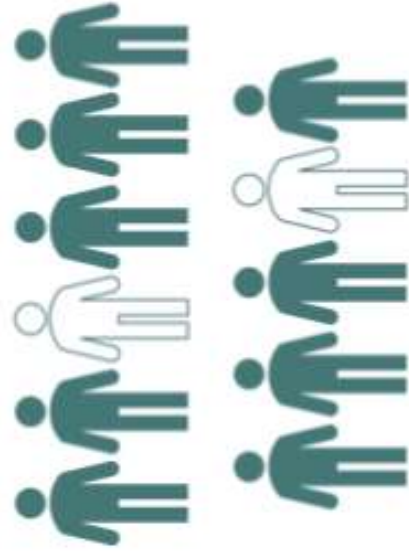
Low utilization of evidence-based practices



More criminogenic risk factors

# National Estimates of This Crisis

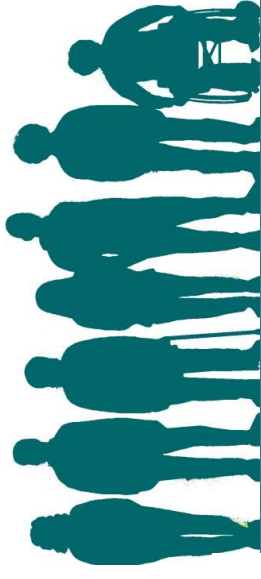
Of the **11 MILLION** bookings to jails annually...about **2 MILLION** involve people with serious mental illnesses (SMI)



Source: H. J. Steadman, F. Osher, P. C. Robbins, B. Case, and S. Samuels, "Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness Among Jail Inmates," *Psychiatric Services* 6, no. 60 (2009): 761–765.

# STEPPINGUP

## 9 Years and Counting



More than **580** counties across **45** states have joined Stepping Up to reduce the prevalence of mental illnesses in jails

A map of the United States where individual counties are shaded in various colors including teal, olive green, and white, representing different levels of Stepping Up implementation.

**48%** of Americans live in a Stepping Up county

An icon consisting of four stylized human figures arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each figure is represented by a dark teal circle for the head and a white circle for the torso.

Communities are reducing their jail populations through cross-system alternative crisis responses, diversion, and more equitable access to services

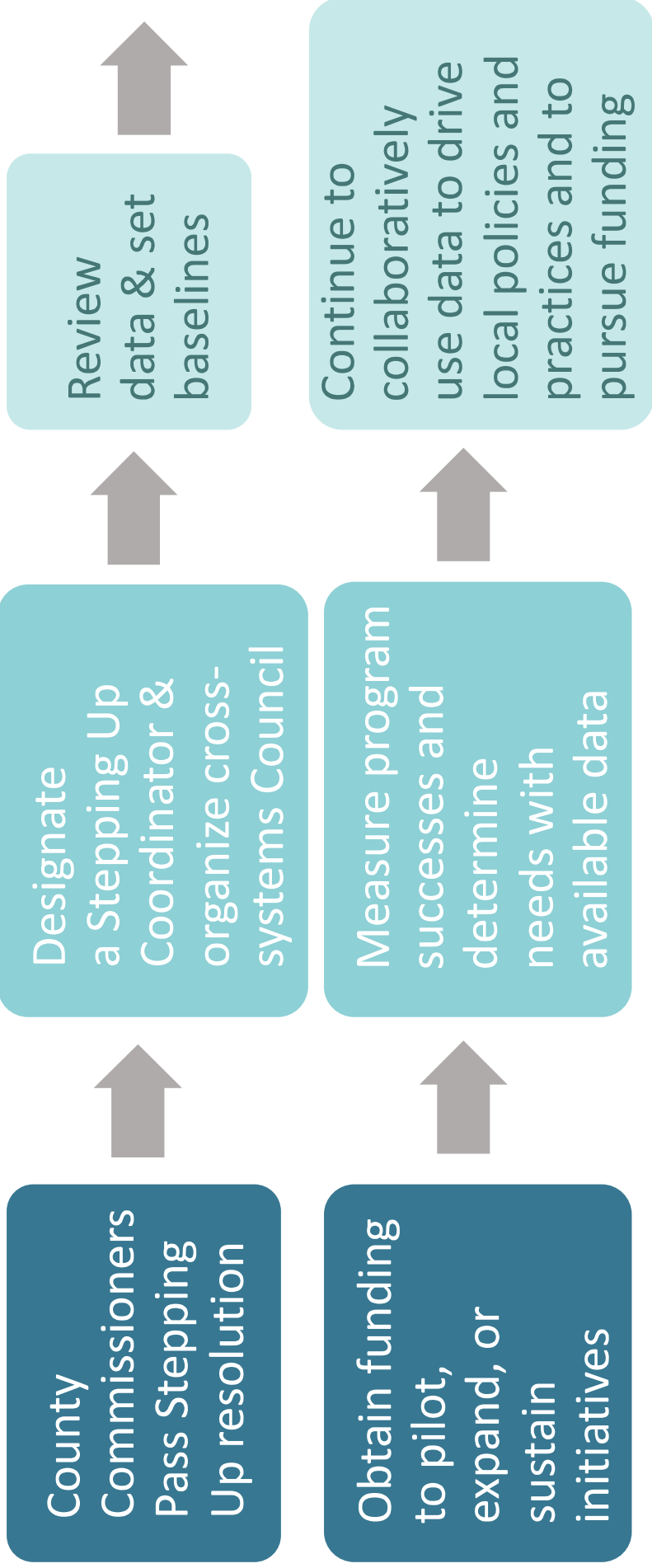
**40+** Innovator Counties are blazing the trail in data collection

A simple bar chart with three vertical bars of increasing height from left to right, colored in shades of teal and blue.

**5** states have launched statewide Stepping Up initiatives

A map of the United States with five states highlighted in a dark blue color, representing the states that have launched statewide Stepping Up initiatives.

# General Recipe for Success with Stepping Up







# Stepping Up in Kansas

Kansas is the **FIFTH** state in the nation to launch a statewide **Stepping Up** initiative, and the **SECOND** to launch a statewide **Stepping Up TA Center**.

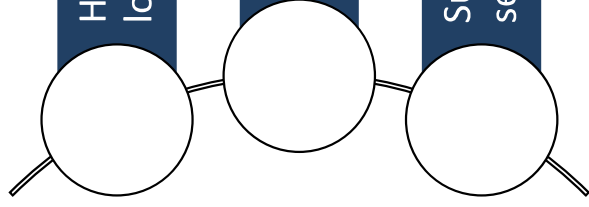
# History and Evolution of the Kansas TA Center

A legislative post-audit study on mental health services in KS jails identified a primary area of concern as the lack of necessary services, especially in rural areas.

In response, KDADS partnered with the CSG Justice Center to establish the **Kansas Stepping Up Technical Assistance (TA) Center** in 2020 to support communities.

# What Is a Stepping Up TA Center?

Through a Stepping Up TA Center, CSG Justice Center professionals provide tailored and individualized guidance so counties can use accurate data to guide their policies and practice by:



Helping communities **identify** and **address** the behavioral health needs of individuals encountering local justice systems

**Building capacity** to collect and utilize key data indicators to drive decision-making

Supporting cross-system collaboration to **strategically reduce** the overincarceration of people with serious behavioral health needs

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Dedicated staff point of contact based in Kansas (training, 1:1 TA, webinars)

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Peer connections with sites across Kansas and nationally

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Access to national experts and resources on best practices

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Guidance on the high-impact strategies and policies that achieve lasting results

# Work of the Kansas Stepping Up TA Center

# Stepping Up Kansas: By the Numbers

98 Counties

Have participated in TA Center activities

37 Counties

Have engaged with the TA center

22 Counties

Have passed SU Resolutions



9

*Innovator Counties:*

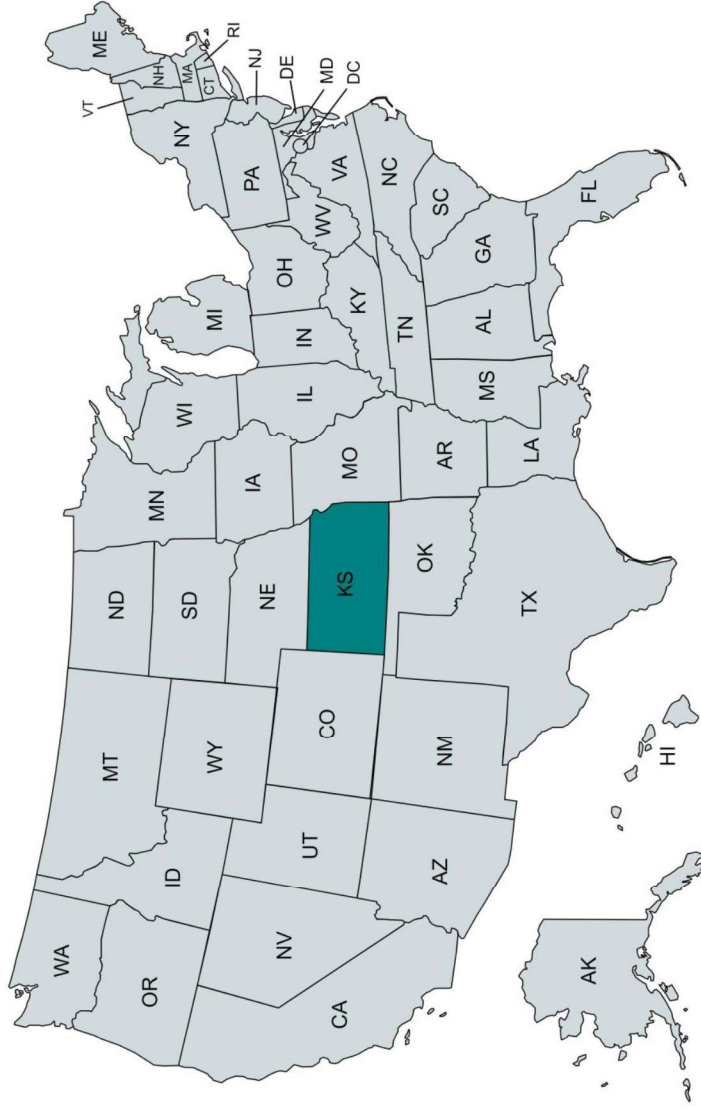
- *Barton, Douglas, Johnson, Lyon, Morris, Reno, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Osage*



# Next Steps: Stepping Up for Juvenile Justice

- State leaders are interested in **building upon the success** of the services provided for adults through the **Kansas Stepping Up TA Center**.
- Utilizing **cross-system expertise**, state and county leaders will examine how **youth** with behavioral health needs are experiencing the JJ system.
- The CSG Justice Center will assist Kansas leaders with developing a **detailed action plan** for further improvement of policy, standards, and practices related to behavioral health and the juvenile justice system **AND launch the KS JJ TA Center**.

Kansas is the **FIRST** state in the nation to launch a statewide **Stepping Up** initiative for youth.



## Overarching Goal:

- Identify, implement, and expand best practices centered on improving community-based services, cross system collaboration, the efficient use of resources, and outcomes for youth with behavioral health needs who experience the juvenile justice system

## Objectives:

1. *Adjust* and *implement* the Stepping Up model for the youth context.
2. *Assess* and *align* the state's policies, practices, and resource allocation decisions with evidence-based policies and practices.



# Phased Approach to the Work

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## Phase 1 (Year 1: 2024)

- Build the infrastructure
- Conduct a state-level landscape analysis

## Phase 2 (Year 2: 2025)

- Present findings and recommendations & build consensus of core strategies
- Develop Statewide Action Plan
- Implement JJ Stepping Up pilot

## Phase 3 (Year 3: 2026)

- Continue to implement JJ Stepping Up
- Focus on expansion, sustainability planning, and progress monitoring

# Phase 1: Build the Infrastructure

Happening Now

## Conduct a State-Level Landscape Analysis

- Review statutes and court rules with particular attention to the funding, authority, and oversight of youth crisis centers.
- Statewide landscape analysis on the availability of community-based behavioral health services for youth involved in the justice system across various system points, including alternatives to detention.

## Form the Statewide Task Force & JJSU Workgroup

- The Statewide Task Force is a group of state-level stakeholders who will develop a roadmap and workplan for the JJ Stepping Up framework.
- The JJ SU Workgroup will support the development and implementation of JJ Stepping Up in Kansas.

## Conduct Listening Sessions with Key Stakeholders

- To learn more about challenges and barriers to mobilizing crisis center funding and serving youth involved in the justice system who have behavioral health needs effectively
- To identify opportunities for improvement.

**The State Task Force will oversee the assessment and represents a diverse array of leaders committed to improving public safety and youth outcomes.**

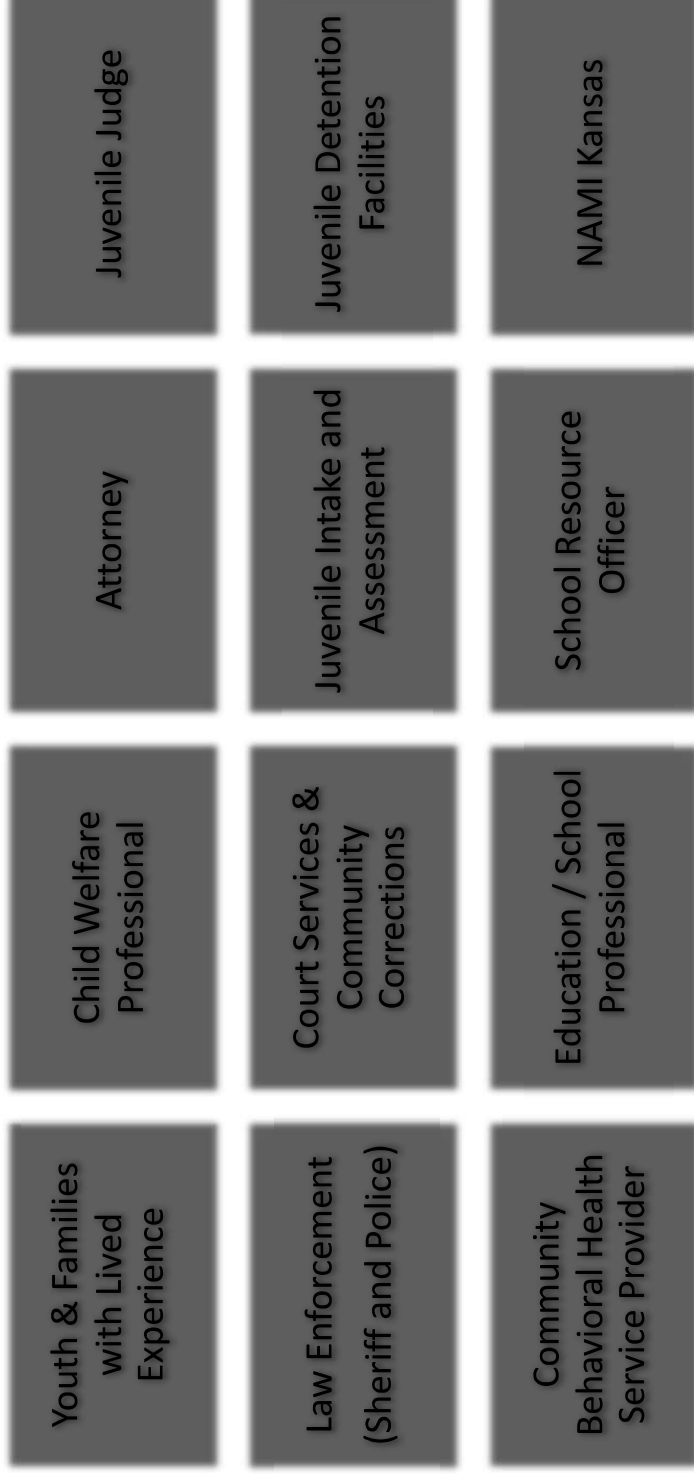
<b>Clay McCarter</b> , Director of Special Projects, KDOC	<b>Jeff Butrick</b> , Director of Community-Based Services, KDOC	<b>Gary Henault</b> , Director of Children's and Prevention Services, KDADS	<b>Destini Gillian</b> , Justice Involved Services Coordinator, KDADS	<b>Brenda Soto</b> , Director of Medicaid and Children's Mental Health, DCF	<b>Ashley Brown</b> , Crossover Youth Policy and Practice Coordinator, DCF	<b>Hon. Delia M. York</b> , Wyandotte County District Court Judge
<b>Rep. Stephen Owens</b>	<b>Rep. Angela Martinez</b>	<b>Rep. Brenda Landwehr</b>	<b>Rep. Susan Concannon</b>	<b>Sen. Molly Baumgardner</b>	<b>Sen. Ethan Corson</b>	<b>Don Hymer</b> , Chief ADA, Juvenile Division, Johnson County; Chair of JJOC
<b>Sheriff Bill Carr</b> , Ford County	<b>Trish Backman</b> , School Mental Health Coordinator, KSDE	<b>Dr. Sherrie Vaughn</b> , Executive Director, NAMI Kansas	<b>Mike Fonkert</b> , Deputy Director, Kansas Appleseed	<b>Angela McHardie</b> , Director, Shawnee County Juvenile Detention Center	<b>Dustin Browning</b> , Director, 4th Judicial District Community Corrections	<b>Ann Sagan</b> , Director of Special Projects, Kansas State Board of Indigents' Defense Services
<b>Jennifer Zirkle</b> , Intake Supervisor, NWKS Juvenile Service	<b>Andrea Diaz Buezo</b> , ACMHCK, Special Projects Coordinator	<b>Marquetta Atkins</b> , Executive Director, Progeny	<b>Amy Raymond</b> , Chief of Trial Court Services, Office of Judicial Administration	<b>Zach Vincent</b> , Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs, Governor's Office	<b>TBD</b> , DHE Medicaid	

# Juvenile Justice Stepping Up (JJSU) Workgroup

**The JJSU Workgroup is a diverse group of individuals from across the state who will assist us with:**

- ✓ Adapting and implementing the Stepping Up model for the juvenile justice system
- ✓ Developing a youth-centered framework
- ✓ Creating key metrics to track performance
- ✓ Designing localized solutions in collaboration with counties

**The JJSU includes local and state stakeholders representing behavioral health, juvenile justice, and child welfare organizations.**



## Planned Listening Sessions:

Date	Targeted Group
July 17, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.	Juvenile Intake and Assessment Services
July 17, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.	Community Supervision - Line Staff Professionals
July 17, 2024 – 3:00 p.m.	Community Supervision - Supervisors and Directors/Chiefs
July 22, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.	Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex Professionals
July 23, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.	Juvenile Detention Centers Professionals
July 23, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.	Behavioral Health Professionals (CMHC/CCBHC, Youth Mobile Crisis, 988, Family First, Functional Family Therapy, MST, Seeking Safety, Family Resource Center, IDD, Families Together Programs)
July 24, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.	Law Enforcement Professionals (City Police, Sheriffs/Deputies, SROs, KHP)
July 24, 2024 – 3:00 p.m.	Child & Youth Advocates
July 25, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.	Child Welfare Professionals (DCF, Foster Care Agencies, MCOs)
July 26, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.	Youth Placement Providers
July 29, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.	Community Leaders (County/City Commissioners & Managers, State Representatives/Senators)

## Planned Listening Sessions:

Date	Targeted Group
July 31, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.	<b>Courts</b> (Judges, County/District Attorneys, Defense Counsel, Court Administrators)
August 1, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.	<b>Education/School Administrators</b> (Public and private schools, Principals, Superintendents, Board of Education Members)
August 1, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.	<b>Lived Experience Youth &amp; Families</b>
August 9, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.	<b>Education/School Direct Service Staff</b> (Teachers, Counselors, Social Workers, Behavioral/Education Liaisons)

### Listening Sessions are confidential and require registration to attend.

For more information on the listening sessions or learn how to register, contact **Audra Goldsmith at [agoldsmith@csg.org](mailto:agoldsmith@csg.org)**.

# Phase 2: Develop Action Plan & Pilot JJ SU Framework

October 2024–September 2025

## Develop Statewide Action Plan

- Identify consensus-based policy, practice, and funding recommendations for improvement for the legislative 2025 session.
- Manage the development & implementation of action plans to correspond with recommendations.
- Build consensus of core strategies.

## JJ Stepping Up Pilot Implementation

- Disseminate Stepping Up JJ guidance and resources.
- Support pilot sites with JJ SU implementation through site visits, peer learning, 1:1 TA, and training.
- Support sites with setting baseline measures and establishing processes for ongoing data collection.



# Phase 3: Expansion, Sustainability & Progress

October 2025–September 2026



# Anticipated Impact of the Proposed Work

Enhanced collaboration across systems of care for young people in KS

Leverage and enhance existing Juvenile Justice and Behavioral Health infrastructure

Data-driven policymaking and resource allocation

Ongoing and sustained support for communities in their efforts to keep young people out of detention, increase the utilization of alternatives to detention, and enhance the timely connection of youth to necessary services

# Questions / Discussion

# Kansas JJ Stepping Up Technical Assistance Center

Megan Davidson, [mdavidson@csg.org](mailto:mdavidson@csg.org)

Stephanie Ueberall, [sueberall@csg.org](mailto:sueberall@csg.org)

Audra Goldsmith, [agoldsmith@csg.org](mailto:agoldsmith@csg.org)

[www.stepuptogether.org/ta/kansas](http://www.stepuptogether.org/ta/kansas)



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