

# 40th Annual InterCourt Conference



Session 3E:  
Summit/Trumbull Counties  
Reform and Transformation:  
The Juvenile Detention  
Alternative Initiative and its  
Impact

Presenters: *Lisa Disabato-Moore*  
& *Renae Hosoi*

March 14, 2024  
3:15 - 4:45 p.m.



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO  
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

# Reform and Transformation

*Intercourt Conference, March 2024*



What is your reason for  
being here?

## No two are the same

- ▶ Ohio jurisdictions are led by local rule
- ▶ Ohio's HOME RULE powers are "self-executing and do not require implementation by statute or by adoption of a Charter".
- ▶ Home Rule Amendment to Ohio Constitution vest with municipalities the power to legislate on issues of most concern to that locality.

## Amendment XVIII of the OH Constitution

- ▶ Any municipality may frame and adopt or amend a charter for its government any may, subject to the provisions of section 3 of Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitutions, exercise thereunder all powers of local self-government.

## Trumbull County Family Court

- ▶ Two Judges
- ▶ 6 Magistrates
- ▶ 5.7 Mil. Operating budget  
*County State Federal funding*
- ▶ Employees: Approximately 63 total
  - ▶ Open and close around 5,300 cases a year
  - ▶ Court handles both Juvenile and Domestic cases



## Trumbull County Demographics

- ▶ Twelfth largest county in the state by populous. 198,627
- ▶ Median income for households \$53,220
- ▶ Poverty rate 16.2%
- ▶ Largest racial or ethnic group: White (87.8) followed by Black (8.9%) and two or more races (2.5%)
- ▶ Persons under the age of 18 make up 20.4% of the population
- ▶ High School graduate or higher 89.0%



(April 2023 U.S. Census Bureau)

## Summit County Juvenile Court

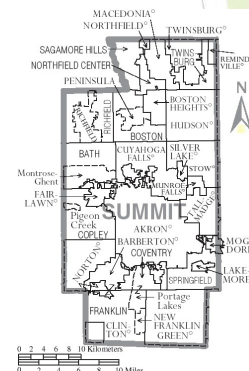
- ▶ Single Judge Jurisdiction
- ▶ 13 Magistrates
- ▶ \$16.5 mil operating budget
  - ▶ *County State Federal funding*
- ▶ Employees: Approximately 181 total
  - ▶ *Courtside & Detention staff*



- ▶ *Judge Teodosio took the bench in January 2003.*
- ▶ *Summit County Judges are elected to 6-year terms.*
- ▶ *Summit County Judges run for their seat/not on a rotation.*

## Summit County Demographics

- ▶ Fourth largest county in the state by populous. 540,4286 residents
- ▶ Median income for households \$45,380
- ▶ Poverty rate 15.4%
- ▶ Median age 41.1 years
- ▶ Largest racial or ethnic group: White (77.1%) followed by Black (15.3%) and Asian (4.5%)
- ▶ Persons under the age of 18 make up 20.5% of the population
- ▶ High School graduate or higher 92.5%



(April 2023 U.S. Census Bureau)

# SUCCESSFUL JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM



**Objective: Reform the Justice System using data to drive the work and evidence-based practices to support it**

- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Data driven decision making
- ▶ Objective admissions
- ▶ Alternatives to detention
- ▶ Case Processing
- ▶ Probation/Special populations
- ▶ Conditions of confinement/Detention
- ▶ Reducing racial & ethnic disparities

## JDAI ~ WHO



1948

Jim and his siblings establish the Annie E. Casey Foundation to honor their mother. They start by supporting a camp for disadvantaged kids near their Seattle home.

## JDAI ~ WHAT

### ► JDAI IS:

- A process
- A way of doing business
- A philosophy
- Driven by data
- Supported by evidence
- Getting results

### ► JDAI IS NOT:

- Advocating for the release of all youth from secure detention
- Promoting the lack of accountability of youth
- Negatively impacting public safety
- A deterrent to Restorative Justice or victim restitution
- Only about detention

# JDAI ~ WHERE

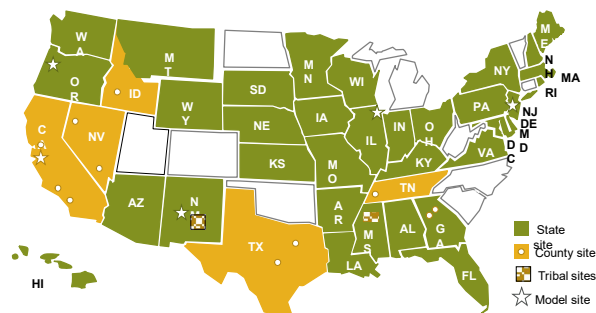
## In the beginning

- ▶ Inception in 4 “Model sites: 1993
- ▶ Cook County, Chicago
- ▶ Multnomah County, Portland
- ▶ Santa Cruz County, California
- ▶ Bernalillo County, New Mexico

## Current

- ▶ Over 300 jurisdictions
- ▶ 39 states

JDAI is active in approximately 300 counties, spanning 39 states plus, two tribes and the District of Columbia



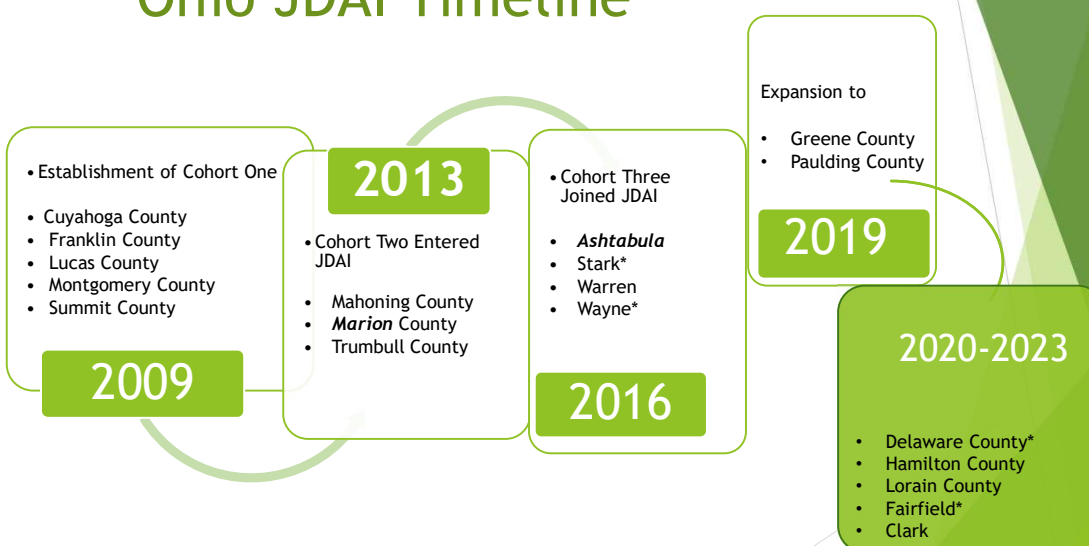


# JDAI ~ WHEN

- ▶ Annie E Casey arrives in Ohio
- ▶ Who is Annie E Casey and why Juvenile Justice
- ▶ *Ohio Department of Youth Services* reaches out to the biggest 6 counties
  - ▶ (today that is 839 of the 1,874 beds) 45%

2009 5 of the 6 commit to the JDAI journey

## Ohio JDAI Timeline



## Ohio JDAI Site Map



## JDAI ~ WHY

It is better  
for kids

## Early Work Targeted Populations

### ► Pre-Adjudication

- Who are the children in the secured detention?
- Are they a threat to public safety?
- Are we holding the “right” kids?
- If they were in the adult system, would they be held?

FRONT END

### ► Post-Adjudication

- Kids at the highest risk of being removed from their homes
- Kids at risk of removal AFTER adjudication
- Is there a community alternative to removing the youth from their home?

DEEP END

## DETENTION



- ~ Youth who are held in detention are more than three times as likely to subsequently be found guilty and incarcerated than similar peers
- ~ After release, incarcerated youth are more likely to drop out of school and use drugs & alcohol

Juvenile Delinquency Court Assessment (2003); LeBlanc, (1991), "Unlocking Learning" in *Correctional Facilities*, Washington, D.C. Substance use, abuse, and dependence among youths who have been in jail or a detention center: The NSDUH report, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, (2004); America's Promise report on national rates of high school dropouts: [www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23889321/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23889321/); Tremblay, R.E., Gatti, U., & Vitaro, F. (2009). *Iatrogenic Effect of Juvenile Justice*. The Journal of Child Psychology

## WHAT THE EVIDENCE HAS TUGHT US

Youth who are incarcerated are more likely to recidivate than those similarly situated who have been afforded community alternatives

Low risk (to reoffend) youth in secure settings, exposed to high-risk youth increase their risk level as a result of the exposure

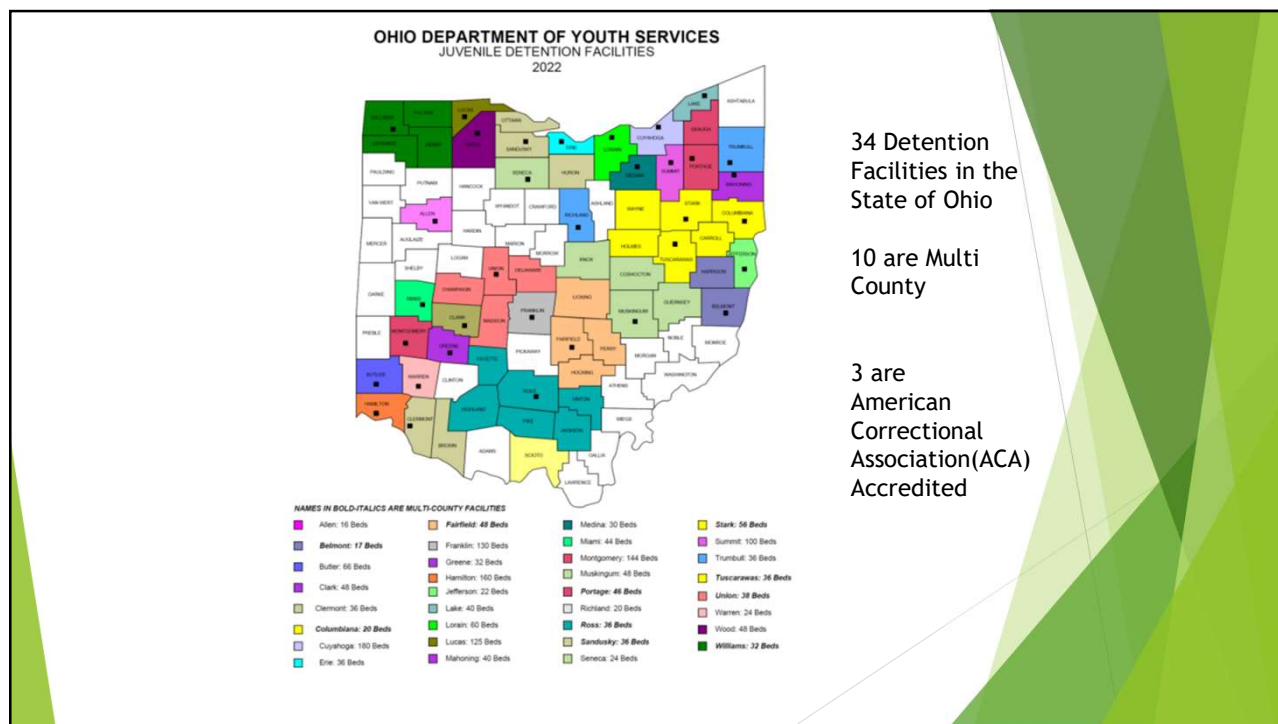
Youth exposed to juvenile detention are much more likely to be poor, mentally ill and/or lacking supervision

Empirical proof that interventions such as detention and out-of-home placements substantially increases the chance that these youth will be arrested as adults

## Detention is harmful and does not promote public safety

- ▶ Increases Recidivism and does not reduce crime.
- ▶ Pulls kids deeper into the system and slows the natural “aging out of delinquency” Alternatives are more effective at reducing recidivism and a fraction of the cost.
- ▶ Detention produces depression and makes mentally ill youth worse.
- ▶ Increases risk of self harm (communities have seen double to four times the rate of suicide for youth detained).
- ▶ Youth with special needs fail to return to school.
- ▶ Impedes later success in labor market.
- ▶ Not cost effective.
- ▶ Has increasingly locked up youth of color at disproportional rates.

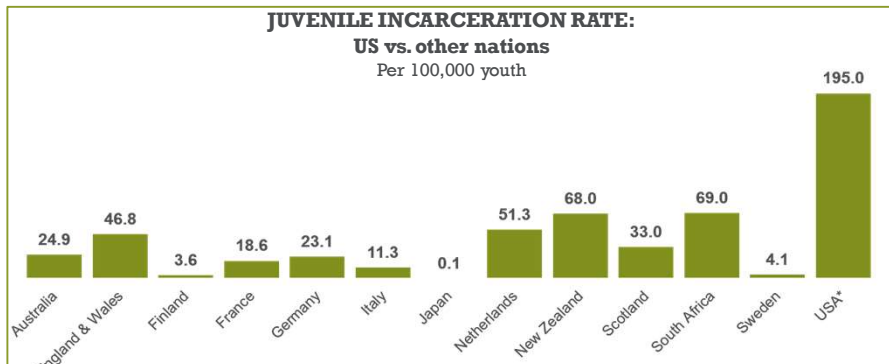




# HOWEVER

WE STILL INCARCERATE MORE  
PEOPLE, YOUTH AND ADULTS, THAN  
ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

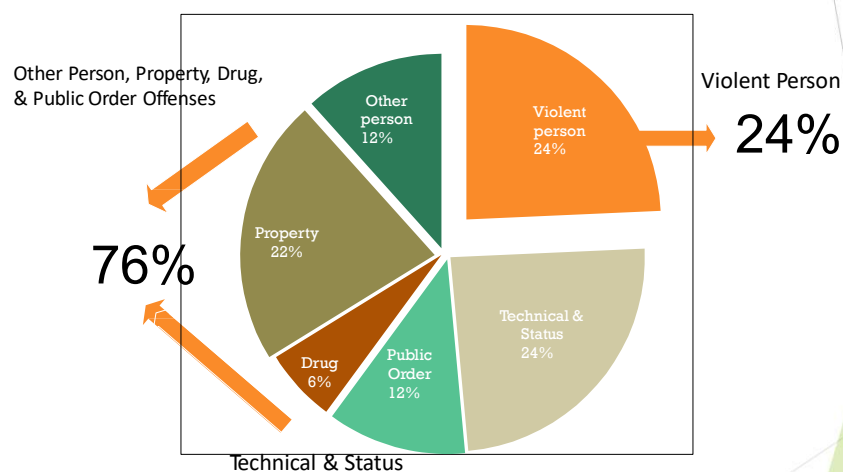
**EVEN AFTER RECENT REDUCTIONS, OUR USE OF INCARCERATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SETS US APART FROM OTHER NATIONS.**



**The mass confinement of children in the United States is a distinctively American practice, unmatched in any other Western democracy**

SOURCE: Hazel, Neal, Cross-National Comparison of Youth Justice (London: Youth Justice Board, 2008).  
\*Note that the USA rate is updated to reflect the most recent national data, while other rates are based on the 2008 study

**MOST DETAINED YOUTH DO NOT POSE A SERIOUS PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT\***



\*Violent person include homicide, violent sexual assault, robbery and Ag. Assault. Other Person includes simple assault. Property crimes include burglary, theft, auto theft, arson.  
Source: Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzzanchera, C. (2013). "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." Available: <http://www.ojdpop.gov/statistics/cjrcrp/>

## DETENTION REFORM

### ▶ “FRONT END”

- ▶ WHY ARE SO MANY KIDS NATION-WIDE SITTING IN SECURE DETENTION BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED OF AN OFFENSE
- ▶ Removing kids who are not a threat to public safety
- ▶ Not holding kids who have made an adult angry
- ▶ Not holding kids who have broken a rule
- ▶ Reductions in technical violations which result in detention stays

## Purpose of Detention

**Purpose of Detention: To insure public safety & insure youth appear in court**

- ▶ Not to be used as punishment
- ▶ Not to be used to “teach a lesson”
- ▶ Not to be used b/c a child made an adult angry
- ▶ Not to be used in place of parenting



## Ohio Results

- ▶ **78% REDUCTION** in the NUMBER OF YOUTH COMMITTED TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES.
- ▶ ODYS Admis FY 2009 = 1579 FY2019 = 343



## Results Continued

- ▶ Summit County experienced a **78% REDUCTION** in the NUMBER OF YOUTH OF ADMITTED INTO ITS JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY from 2009 to 2023. (1565/338)
- ▶ Trumbull County experienced a **46% REDUCTION** in the NUMBER OF YOUTH ADMITTED INTO ITS SECURE DETENTION FACILITY from 2013 to 2023 . (447/242)



- ▶ Baseline year for JDAI



## Results

- ▶ *Trumbull and Summit have experienced a significant drop in delinquency filings as well*

- ▶ Summit: DL filings 2009 = 4319 2023 = 1224 ▼ 72%
- ▶ Trumbull: DL filings 2013 = 779 2023 = 476 ▼ 39%

- ▶ JDAI Counties initially experience a **DROP** in the AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY in juvenile detention facilities,

### **HOWEVER**

*Average Length Of Stay has increased over time because...*



## Post-Adjudication/ DEEP END

- ▶ 2012 FOCUS TURNED TO YOUTH AT HIGHEST RISK TO NOT GO HOME
  - ▶ OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS FOR REASONS STEMING FROM A DELINQUENCY ISSUE
  - ▶ KIDS GOING TO PRISON
  - ▶ KIDS GOING TO PLACEMENT
  - ▶ KIDS NOT GOING HOME
- ▶ 13 DEEP END SITES SUPPORTED BY AECF IN THE COUNTRY
  - ▶ STARTED WITH 6
    - ▶ Bernalillo Co., New MEXICE
    - ▶ Jefferson Parish, Louisiana
    - ▶ Lucas County, Ohio
    - ▶ Marion County, Indiana
    - ▶ St. Louis, Missouri
    - ▶ Washoe County, Nevada
  - ▶ Later expanded to 13 sites
    - ▶ Added Franklin and Summit

## JDAI Expansion Work

- ▶ Probation Transformation
- ▶ 21 Probation Transformation sites supported by AECF in the COUNTRY
- ▶ 9 in the State of OHIO
- ▶ Summit
- ▶ Lucas
- ▶ Franklin
- ▶ Greene
- ▶ Lorain
- ▶ Montgomery
- ▶ Stark
- ▶ Fairfield
- ▶ Cuyahoga
- ▶ Diversion/Front End
- ▶ Attempting to circumvent contact with the juvenile justice formal processing pipeline

## PROBATION TRANSFORMATION



## Father of Probation



John Augustus

1785 - 1859

Boston, Massachusetts

Successful boot-maker

1841 attended police court to bail out a “common drunkard”

Followed by an 18 year career volunteer probation officer

## Purpose of Probation

- ▶ Re-defined roles. No longer compliance driven.
  - ▶ Case managers or LEO's???
- ▶ Looking at risk to the community and strengths and building upon what is working for the family
- ▶ Individualized case plans
- ▶ Youth driven case plans
- ▶ Use of incentives
- ▶ Asking what instead of why

## PROBATION TRANSFORMATION TWO KEY PILLARS

#1

- ▶ Reduce the number of youth on probation by diverting a great share from the system altogether.

#2.

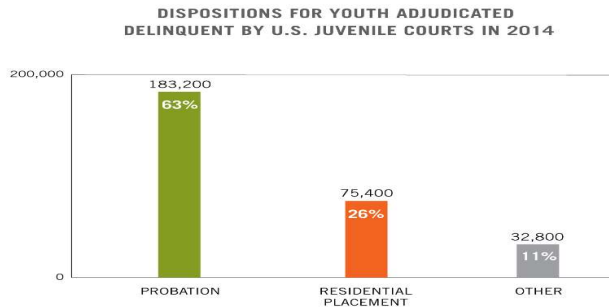
- ▶ Re-invent probation into a more strategic, effective intervention for the smaller number of youth who will remain on probation caseloads.

**To fulfill this role and be effective what skills should the 21<sup>st</sup> century probation staff possess.....**

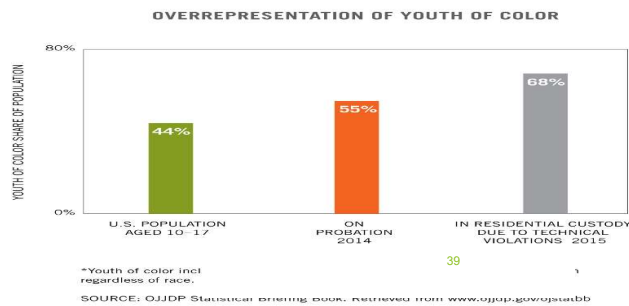
- ▶ Coaching lens
- ▶ Role model
- ▶ Mentor
- ▶ Rehabilitative methodology
- ▶ Incentive driven

## Why Probation Transformation?

- The most common disposition, the reach extends to youth never found guilty of a crime:
  - In 2014, approximately 200,000 non-adjudicated youth were supervised on probation caseloads
- Gateway to placement: nearly 25% of youth in placement are there for breaking probation rules
- Perpetuates racial disparities
- Lags behind what we know about youth development



SOURCE: Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: 1985-2015. Retrieved from [www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs](http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs)



[www.AECF.ORG](http://www.AECF.ORG)

**TRANSFORMING  
JUVENILE  
PROBATION  
A VISION  
FOR GETTING  
IT RIGHT**

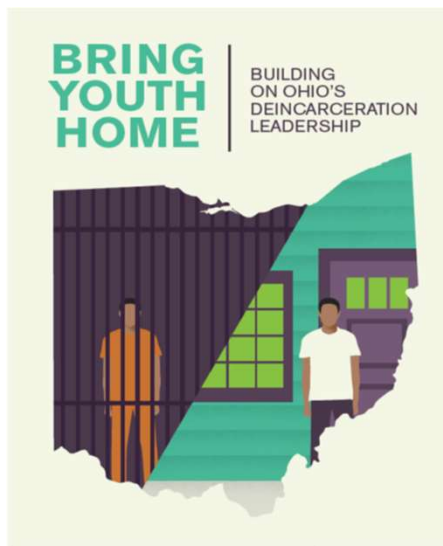


## Decriminalization of Kids in Ohio

► Juvenile  
Justice  
Coalition

[www.jjohio.org](http://www.jjohio.org)

[info@jj0hio.org](mailto:info@jj0hio.org)



## Why JDAI and Why Now

- It's the right thing to do
- Its best for youth
- Its better for staff and our own well being
- It saves the community money
- Its evidence based
- It puts the right youth at the right time in the right place
- Its supports from front end to back end
- It promotes long term sustainable change
- We know better! Now we have to DO BETTER
- It works!

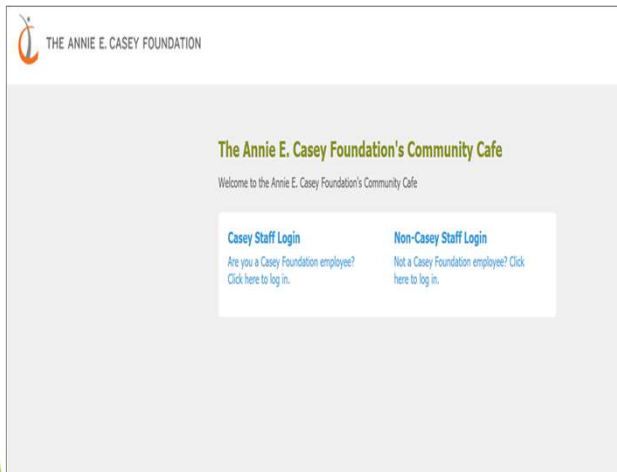
# JDAIConnect.org



**This is a marathon not a sprint**

- ▶ Culture Change
- ▶ Not always the most popular approach

Jdaiconnect.org



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

**The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Community Cafe**

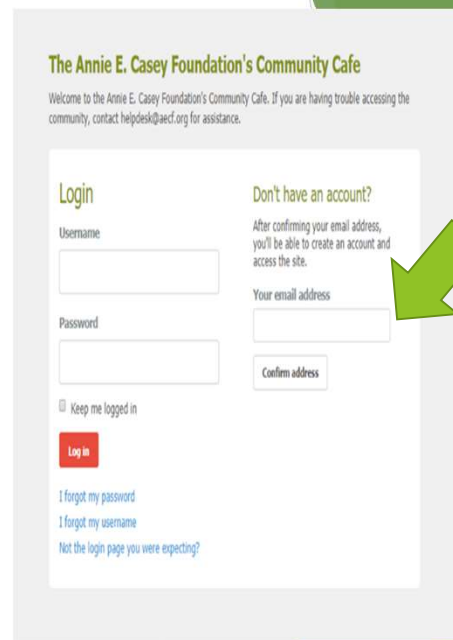
Welcome to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Community Cafe

**Casey Staff Login**

Are you a Casey Foundation employee? Click here to log in.

**Non-Casey Staff Login**

Not a Casey Foundation employee? Click here to log in.



**The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Community Cafe**

Welcome to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Community Cafe. If you are having trouble accessing the community, contact [helpdesk@aecf.org](mailto:helpdesk@aecf.org) for assistance.

**Login**

Username

Password

☐ Keep me logged in

**Login**

[I forgot my password](#)  
[I forgot my username](#)  
[Not the login page you were expecting?](#)

**Don't have an account?**

After confirming your email address, you'll be able to create an account and access the site.

Your email address

**Confirm address**

**Most Importantly....**

**No negative  
impact on public  
safety**



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