

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****SB2863**

Introduced 1/16/2026, by Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

New Act

Creates the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Juvenile Justice Reentry Program Act. Creates a data partnership among the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, the Illinois State Police, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, and the Department of Juvenile Justice to annually gather the following information on the population of youth served by the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center: (1) the total number of youth served during the reporting period; (2) the recidivism rate among those youth within 6 and 12 months post-release; (3) the age range and gender breakdown of those youth, with a focus on males between 13 and 20 years of age; (4) the demographic and geographic data (race, ethnicity, and home zip codes) of those youth; and (5) the primary re-offense categories and conditions of release for those youth. Provides that the Program shall equip families with the skills, resources, and mindset to support their child's reentry. Provides that the Program shall include: (1) social worker-led home readiness assessments; (2) at-home care specialists assigned to each youth or family for 90 to 180 days; and (3) trauma-informed parenting workshops and culturally competent counseling. Provides that the Program shall provides youth released from the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center with: (1) stable, affirming housing options and near-peer support; (2) partnered transitional housing units (non-carceral); (3) resident advisor mentors between 21 to 30 years of age, with an emphasis on persons who were primarily involved in the justice system; and (4) nightly check-ins, group circles, and restorative justice practices. Provides that the Program shall equip families with the skills, resources, and mindset to support their children's reentry. Provides that the Program shall be voluntary and shall have the participation of 15 to 20 male youth between 14 to 18 years of age released from the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center within a 90-day period. Provides metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of the Program. Provides that reentry and aftercare grant funding shall be provided by the Department of Human Services.

LRB104 16291 RLC 29676 b

**A BILL FOR**

1 AN ACT concerning juveniles.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Cook  
5 County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Juvenile Justice  
6 Reentry Program Act.

7 Section 5. Legislative intent.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) a holistic, community-based reentry program for  
10 young men released from the Cook County Juvenile Temporary  
11 Detention Center is necessary to reduce recidivism by  
12 strengthening aftercare services through family  
13 reintegration, transitional housing, and economic  
14 opportunity pipelines, grounded in restorative justice,  
15 intergenerational mentorship, and youth empowerment;

16 (2) despite interventions, many young people released  
17 from the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center  
18 face recurring contact with the juvenile justice system  
19 due to limited support upon reentry; and

20 (3) key challenges include:

21 (A) lack of coordinated support for families;

22 (B) housing instability;

23 (C) barriers to economic self-sufficiency; and

1 (D) inadequate role models and near-peer  
2 mentorship.

3 (b) To remedy these problems, it is the intent of the  
4 General Assembly to create the Cook County Juvenile Temporary  
5 Detention Center Juvenile Justice Reentry Program. The General  
6 Assembly recognizes that reducing recidivism begins with  
7 community involvement. Through holistic aftercare that centers  
8 on family, housing, and opportunity, this State can transform  
9 the pathways of justice-involved youth in Cook County.

10 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

11 "Program" means the Cook County Juvenile Temporary  
12 Detention Center Juvenile Justice Reentry Program.

13 "Youth" means a person or persons released from the Cook  
14 County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.

15 Section 15. Data partnership. There is created a data  
16 partnership among the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention  
17 Center, the Illinois State Police, the Illinois Criminal  
18 Justice Information Authority, the Administrative Office of  
19 the Illinois Courts, and the Department of Juvenile Justice to  
20 annually gather the following information on the population of  
21 youth served by the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention  
22 Center:

23 (1) the total number of youth served during the  
24 reporting period;

1 (2) the recidivism rate among youth cited in paragraph  
2 (1) within 6 and 12 months post-release;

3 (3) the age range and gender breakdown of youth cited  
4 in paragraph (1), with a focus on males between 13 and 20  
5 years of age;

6 (4) the demographic and geographic data (race,  
7 ethnicity, and home zip codes) of youth cited in paragraph  
8 (1); and

9 (5) the primary re-offense categories and conditions  
10 of release for youth cited in paragraph (1).

11 Section 20. Family reintegration and home support. The  
12 Program shall equip families with the skills, resources, and  
13 mindset to support their child's reentry. The Program shall  
14 include:

15 (1) social worker-led home readiness assessments;

16 (2) at-home care specialists assigned to each youth or  
17 family for 90 to 180 days; and

18 (3) trauma-informed parenting workshops and culturally  
19 competent counseling.

20 Section 25. Transitional housing and mentorship. The  
21 Program shall provide youth with:

22 (1) stable, affirming housing options and near-peer  
23 support;

24 (2) partnered transitional housing units

1 (non-carceral);

2 (3) resident advisor mentors between 21 to 30 years of  
3 age, with an emphasis on persons who were primarily  
4 involved in the justice system; and

5 (4) nightly check-ins, group circles, and restorative  
6 justice practices.

7 Section 30. Economic opportunity. If agreed to by the  
8 partnership entity, the Program shall provide youth with:

9 (1) self-sufficiency skill development and workforce  
10 access;

11 (2) career exploration workshops during detention at  
12 the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center; and

13 (3) post-release cohort-based upskilling programs in 3  
14 tracks:

15 (A) trade skills, construction training, and  
16 education provided by organizations that provide  
17 vocational training to youth;

18 (B) entrepreneurship and business education by  
19 organizations that provide business opportunities to  
20 youth; and

21 (C) civic internships and policy fellowships by  
22 organizations and State and local officeholders and  
23 organizations that mentor youth.

24 Local churches, chief business officers, and service  
25 providers shall provide support for implementation of the

1 Program.

2 Section 35. Pilot phase of Program. The Program shall be  
3 voluntary and shall have the participation of 15 to 20 male  
4 youth between 14 to 18 years of age released from the Cook  
5 County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center within a 90-day  
6 period.

7 Section 40. Pilot phase timelines. The first quarter of  
8 operation of the Program shall consist of planning and  
9 recruitment. The second quarter of operation shall consist of  
10 the launch of the Program and securing housing units for the  
11 participants of the Program. The third and fourth quarters of  
12 the Program shall consist of evaluating, iterating, and  
13 scaling the Program. The Program evaluation shall measure: (i)  
14 6th and 12 month recidivism rates of participants in the  
15 Program; (ii) completion rates of participants in the Program;  
16 and (iii) employment or internship placements. The Program  
17 shall provide participants with participant and family  
18 satisfaction surveys after their completion of the Program.

19 Section 45. Funding. Reentry and aftercare grant funding  
20 shall be provided by the Department of Human Services.