



TIME DOLLAR YOUTH COURT FACT SHEET

HISTORY

- Time Dollar Youth Court (TDYC) is a diversion program authorized in 1996 the District of Columbia Superior Court and has grown into the largest youth court in the country
- TDYC provides alternative sentencing for first-time non-violent juvenile offenders referred by the Metropolitan Police Department, Metropolitan Police Department Transit Authority, District of Columbia Public Schools, and the Attorney General's Office Consent Decrees from all eight wards
- Youth are sentenced to performing jury duty on Youth Court, community service hours, written essays and verbal apologies
- TDYC provides wrap-around services including Life Skills Training Skills, mentoring, tutoring, youth development workshops
- TDYC provides referrals for family/individual counseling, substance abuse treatment and counseling, tutoring, and educational advocacy
- TDYC is the only diversion program for youth in the District of Columbia

STATISTICS

- Between 2004 – 2009, over 4,000 cases were referred to TDYC that were not truancy cases
- Between 2004 – 2009, truant youth only receiving citations accounted for an additional 2,000 referrals
- Annualized, TDYC has approximately 900 referrals per year; in 2008, TDYC had 976 referrals and heard 912 cases; from January 1, 2009 – August 31, 2009, 631 youths were referred to TDYC and 572 cases were heard
- The majority of referrals to TDYC are youth of color from wards 5, 6, 7, and 8
- As the sole diversion program in the District, TDYC is the only program that lowers disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system as mandated by federal law

RECIDIVISM

- Youth that participate in TDYC and successfully complete the program have a 5% recidivism rate after six months and a 9% recidivism rate after one year
- Since January 2003, all youth who were diverted to TDYC, whether successful or unsuccessful, only have an 11% re-arrest rate within one year, as compared to the recidivism rate of the District of Columbia, which was 25% in 2007

BUDGET & FUNDING

- TDYC receives in-kind support from the District of Columbia Superior Court in the form of office space and use of court rooms on Saturday mornings to hold Youth Court, the value of the in-kind contribution is estimated to be between \$80,000 - \$100,000
- According to a study done by the Urban Institute, affiliated with the U.S. Department of Justice, taxpayers save \$9,200 for each case diverted to a youth court
- TDYC operates at a cost of \$511.00 per child, saving the District over \$8,900,000
- TDYC saved the District \$5,700,000 between January 2009 – June 2009 when over 600 youths were referred to TDYC instead of the juvenile justice system while operating with a staff of 8 and the support of volunteers
- On August 17, 2009, the District of Columbia's Justice Grants Administration denied TDYC the core funding of \$450,000 for fiscal year 2010