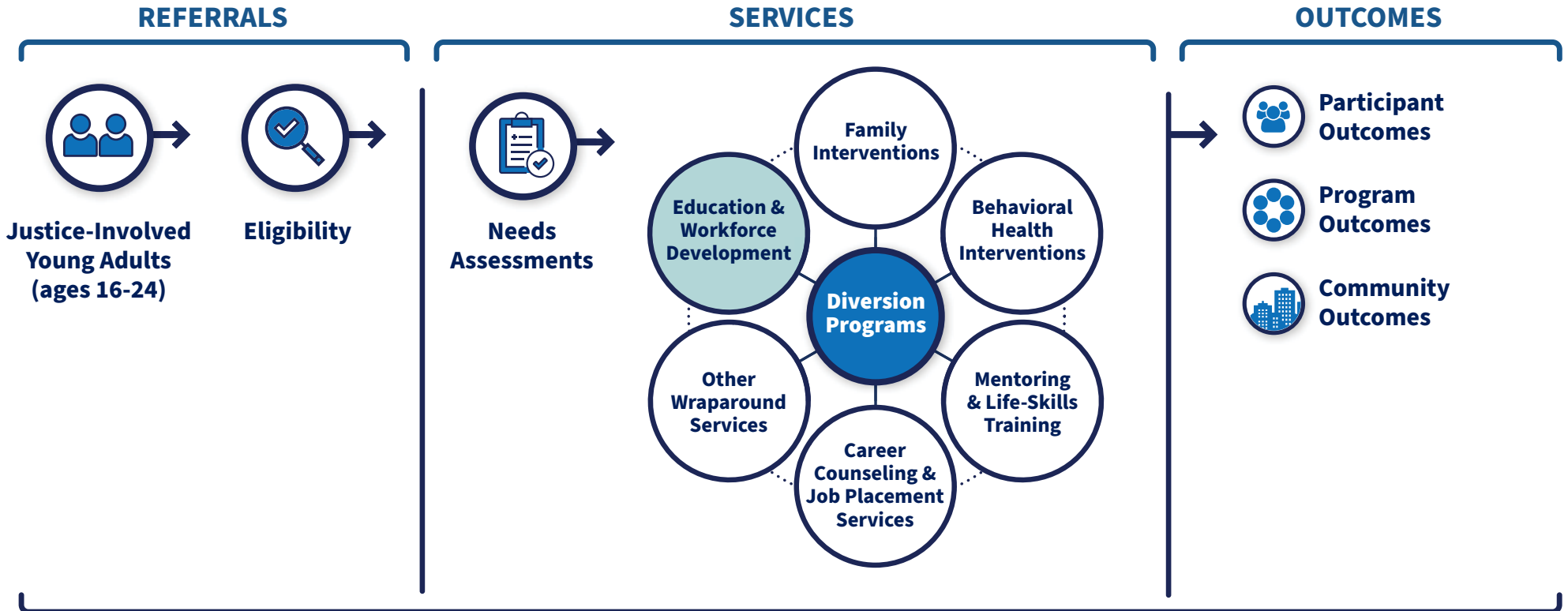


Young Adult Diversion Framework

The Young Adult Diversion Framework illustrates how special education, career and technical education, and other workforce development strategies can be offered as part of a diversion program.



Who

Diversion programs are often supported by multiple organizations, including education, workforce development, justice, and social service agencies.



What

Partners should leverage resources, ensure frontline staff are trained on the unique needs of young adults, and use data for program improvement.



How

Partners should establish partnership and data-sharing agreements; participant referral, intake, and case management protocols; and other supportive policies and practices.

REFERRALS



Justice-Involved Young Adults

The target population is justice-involved young adults (ages 16-24) who have been arrested but not yet adjudicated. It may also include young adults on parole or probation who are at risk of becoming involved in the adult corrections system.



Eligibility

Eligibility for referrals is typically determined at the law enforcement phase, pretrial/prosecution phase, or specialty court phase using screening criteria (e.g., age, lack of prior convictions, and offense) and validated risk assessments.

SERVICES



Needs Assessments

Programmatic decisions are made using validated assessments that measure a participant's needs.

Diversion Programs

Programs that redirect young adults, typically first-time offenders, from prosecution or incarceration to community-based programming, supervision, and supports.

• Education and Workforce Development

Includes special education, career and technical education, and other workforce development programs.

• Family Interventions

Includes family counseling, multisystemic therapy, functional family therapy, and other family-based interventions.

• Behavioral Health Interventions

Includes substance abuse and mental health interventions such as detox services, individual psychotherapy and counseling, and anger management.

• Mentoring and Life-Skills Training

Includes services that connect youth with peers or caring adults to provide positive support and programs that teach personal and interpersonal skills.

• Career Counseling and Job Placement Services

Includes services that prepare participants for employment and help them find jobs.

• Other Wraparound Services

Includes transportation, caregiver services, Medicaid assistance, aftercare planning, housing, legal advocacy, and other supports.

OUTCOMES



Participant Outcomes

- Credential attainment
- Living-wage employment
- Family and community reengagement
- Improved access to behavioral health services
- Diversion program completion and exit from the justice system



Program Outcomes

- A streamlined, multisystem approach to diversion
- Program persistence and completion
- Reduction in criminal behavior



Community Outcomes

- Reduced system costs
- Safer communities
- A skilled workforce
- Improved quality of life in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by crime and incarceration

About the Framework

The Framework aligns with foundational youth diversion models and resources, including the Juvenile Diversion Guidebook prepared by the Models for Change Juvenile Diversion Workgroup.