

# Youth Service Bureaus are a municipality's "coordinating entity for youth"

Every YSB is different and not all municipalities have one. Funding was allocated to DCF in the FY23 state budget to expand YSB coverage to all 169 towns, but this has not yet occurred.

United Services is the designated Youth Service Bureau (YSB) for six towns in northeastern Connecticut: Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Killingly, Plainfield and Sterling.

## USI'S YSB PROVIDES:

- Pro-social activities for youth (after school youth clubs)
- Serve as the "truancy hub" for school districts
- Juvenile Review Board (JRB), which is a system to divert youth from involvement in the Juvenile Justice System.
- Free trainings for parents and youth

Three towns in our coverage area **do not** have a designated YSB and **we are serving them by default without funding: Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland.**

Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards are **designed to catch children before they reach a crisis.** Our school districts rely on us to provide additional support for students to address the social and emotional needs that are beyond what can be met by the school.



**These programs have experienced a 155% increase in the last three years, and the acuity of the children we are seeing is significantly higher than it was before COVID.** We are continuing to see tremendous depression and anxiety in children, leading to chronic absenteeism, fighting and using substances at school in many cases.



These programs are drastically underfunded. The funder is the Department of Children and Families.

USI receives \$46,121 per year in state funding to serve 6\* towns, and we have been serving more than 190 youth per year for the last 3 years.

DCF funding will pay for 6 hours per week in staff time for Juvenile Review Board case management and program management activities (data collection, hearings, administration and reporting activities.)

However, JRB program activities are actually requiring a minimum of 9 hours per week in staff time currently. United Services is using foundation funding from The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to supplement program hours to meet the community need this year.