

## **Department for Children, Youth and Families**

### **Request for Budget Amendment to add a Juvenile Justice Services Coordinator Position**

National and State initiative are calling for reform of the juvenile justice system to move away from punitive approaches and toward more restorative approaches. However, the number of admissions to detention has been steadily rising over the past year with the highest percentage being Juvenile Delinquent Non-Raise the Age youth. Additionally, approximately 50% of these youth are admitted to secure detention.

The hiring of a full time Juvenile Justice Services Coordinator position allows us to specialize in and focus on the complex needs of youth in our communities. Utilizing a Juvenile Justice Services Coordinator to connect with community leaders and services will promote a more holistic approach to meeting the youth's social, emotional, educational and familial needs. Further, Albany County works collaboratively with the Albany County Probation Department and Albany County Family Court serving these youth and the addition of a Juvenile Justice Services Coordinator could alleviate pressures on existing personnel to ensure the most at-risk youth receive timely and individualized attention.