Advocates for Children and Youth is the coordinating partner of The Maryland Youth Justice Coalition (MYJC). MYJC is a group of passionate advocates and policy experts dedicated to creating a more fair and equitable youth criminal legal system where not only are youth given opportunities and options, but public safety is uplifted. MYJC aims to improve the lives of all system-impacted youth through legislative and policy advocacy. MYJC is made up of organizations, including representation from directly impacted and youthful individuals, who share an equitable vision for the future of the youth criminal legal system. We are dedicated to supporting evidence-based, culturally competent, and gender-responsive solutions that are vetted by directly impacted individuals and promote positive youth development and public safety.

The members include:
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Bridge Maryland, Inc.
- The Choice Program at UMBC
- Community Law in Action
- Human Rights for Kids
- Maryland Office of the Public Defender
- NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland

Our allies include:
- Maryland Catholic (t)

2021 MYJC Legislative Priorities

- **Regionalism:** Ending the practice of sending youth far from home and moving toward a community-based model where youth receive rehabilitative and restorative supports close to their neighborhoods.

- **Raise the Age:** Determining a floor for juvenile jurisdiction; stopping the automatic charge of youth as adults; stopping the placement of youth in adult facilities for any reason; updating mandatory minimum and life sentencing practices.

- **Close the Front Door to Detention:** Improving diversion and informal adjustment practices and memorializing the ways of how to reduce the youth detention population during COVID-19.

- **Probation and the Continuum of Care:** Stopping the use of indefinite probation.

- **School Resource Officers:** Stopping the school-to-prison pipeline by removing or limiting the role of schools resource officers in schools.

JOIN US

If you or your organization is interested in youth justice reform and/or joining MYJC, please contact our coordinator, Hannah Breakstone at hbreakstone@acy.org. For information about the policies and our positions, please contact Ashley DeVaughn at adevaughn@acy.org.