



# Court Resource Homes



## The Need

In South Dakota, young people are sometimes locked up in secure detention—not because they’re a danger to the community, but because there are no safe places for them to stay overnight, especially in rural areas. This often happens when a youth is at risk of running away or if there’s a victim in their home and they can’t safely return there.

In 2024, data from the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) showed that **139 youth were held in detention even though they didn’t need to be**, simply because there were no other options. This shows a serious gap in the system. Detention should be used only when necessary—otherwise, it can be harmful to youth and expensive for communities.

## Purpose of Court Resource Homes

Court Resource Homes (CRHs) offer a safe, short-term, pre-adjudication alternative to secure detention for justice-involved youth. These homes provide a supervised and supportive environment, allowing youth to remain in their community while awaiting court appearances or other interventions.

## Benefits of Court Resource Homes

### For Youth:

- Reduced risk of re-offending
- Improved educational outcomes
- Enhanced mental health and well-being
- Increased opportunities for success

### For Communities:

- Reduced crime rates
- Cost savings compared to detention
- Safer and healthier communities
- Improved outcomes for youth and families

## Proven Success

Court Resource Homes have been successfully implemented in numerous states, demonstrating positive outcomes for youth and communities. Studies have shown that CRHs:

- Reduce recidivism rates compared to detention.
- Improve school attendance and academic performance.
- Decrease rates of substance abuse and mental health issues.
- Provide a cost-effective alternative to detention.

## Impact on Communities

“As the Court Resource Home Coordinator, I’ve seen firsthand how the Codington County Court Resource Home provides a safe and supportive alternative to detention for youth in our community. Each of the five placements we’ve had so far has been successful. Every youth completed their stay, did not reoffend during their time in the home, and appeared for their scheduled court date. I believe this program offers young people a meaningful opportunity to stay connected to their community and avoid the negative impact of detention.”- **Louis Canfield-Diversion Director, Watertown Boys and Girls Club**

## Summary

Court Resource Homes offer a promising solution to reduce unnecessary secure detention of youth in South Dakota. By expanding the availability of CRHs, the state can provide more appropriate and effective interventions, leading to better outcomes for youth and a more efficient juvenile justice system.

For more information on this initiative, please contact **Annie.Brokenleg@ujs.state.sd.us**