

Youth attend 12 to 14 weeks of classes and six months of case management.

What is 180° Juvenile Diversion?

Waukesha County's new juvenile-diversion program gives youth the chance to turn their lives around, change direction and start over. It's a holistic nine-month program built on a foundation of:

- Family and community involvement
- Proven, research-based elements of juvenile-diversion programs around the country
- A network of city, county and regional partnerships

Who supports the program?

Located in the Waukesha County Administration Center, the program:

- Partners with a 15-member advisory board made up of members of the criminal justice community, local law enforcement, community organizations, colleges and universities, city and county government, and others.
- Is managed by an executive director and case managers.
- Receives referrals from the District Attorney's Office, Health and Human Services, State Public Defender, courts, police officers, lawyers and parents.

How does 180° Juvenile Diversion work?

- Designed for 14- to 20-year old youth who commit a first-time misdemeanor or low-level felony and decide to turn their lives around and start over on a new path.
- Structured around a widely used curriculum called "Creating Lasting Family Connections" (CLFC) taught by CLFC-certified volunteer community members or facilitators.

- Includes 12-14 weeks of classes – for youth and families in life skills such as communication, drug and alcohol avoidance, stress and anger management, nutrition/wellness and budgeting. Classes are held at UW-Waukesha two evenings a week, where students receive information on researching and finding a college, job skills and career development.



The most successful diversion programs involve parents and families. That's why we've structured classes to include youth and their parents or caregivers.

- Includes random drug testing, six months of case management (similar to probation) and 40 hours of community service.
- Upon completion (at the District Attorney's discretion) charges are reduced and/or dropped.
- In short, 180° gives teens the tools to understand the consequences of their actions, change their behavior and become responsible, self-sufficient, well-balanced adults.



Learning life skills, such as communication, anger and stress management is an important part of 180°. The program also emphasizes education, job skills and career development.

How does 180° Juvenile Diversion help the community?

A juvenile-diversion program like 180° saves taxpayers money by reducing the need for attorneys, court dates and judges, and by eliminating trials and jail time. It also:

- Builds a safety net around youth – using the strengths and skills of youth themselves, their parents and families, and the community at large
- Models healthy, positive methods of building self-esteem and respect for others through education, mentoring and community service
- Teaches teens how to avoid drugs and alcohol
- Emphasizes education and career development

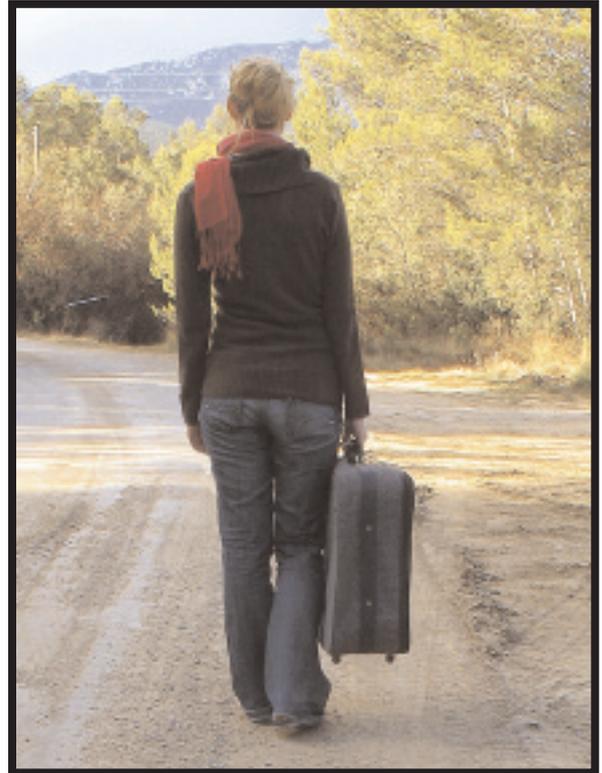
How do youth apply for 180° Juvenile Diversion?

The program is funded through donations, grants and enrollment fees. We seek to help all who are in need and offer a limited number of scholarships.

To refer a first-time offender, or to learn more, contact 180° Juvenile Diversion at 262/548-7780, e-mail: 180juvenilediversion@waukeshacounty.gov



Serving families of Waukesha County



Sometimes all it takes is a second chance to turn a life around.