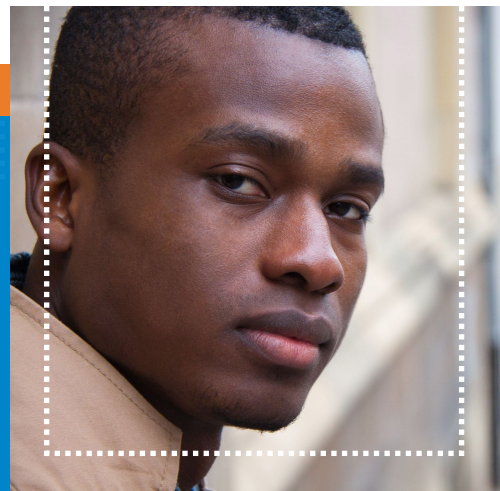


# SMART Team



**SMART TEAM, a program of the Justice Resource Institute, provides positive transitions for juvenile justice-involved, and traumatized youth, 13-21 years old. These youth are low-income, unstably housed, often gang-involved, and have high levels of exposure to community violence. The stress of these circumstances can trigger young people to engage in reactive behavior, such as weapons carrying, aggression, gang affiliation and other risk taking behavior that can increase their vulnerability.**

SMART Team's comprehensive services, expertise, networks, knowledge of how to navigate the justice system, and willingness to tackle the toughest cases have transformed the lives of many proven-risk youth.

SMART Team provides confidential mental health services, advocacy and case management to young people and their families who are impacted by the criminal and or juvenile justice systems. SMART Team has developed a specialized model of in-home therapy for proven-risk youth. SMART Team clinicians are master's level social workers and our bachelor level mentors help youth and families navigate complex systems. They engage justice-involved youth within neighborhoods where violence and crime is prevalent. They provide evidence-based trauma-informed, mental health treatment in the places where youth can be reached: their homes, schools, detention centers, DYS facilities, jails and prisons. The work of the SMART Team's staff of mental health professionals is informed by the latest research on trauma intervention. SMART Team interventions disrupt the pattern of social isolation and encourage healthy behaviors among proven-risk youth.

SMART Team's clinicians and mentors offers non-traditional flexible mental health services including; clinical case management, individual and family counseling, and therapeutic mentoring. Clinicians incorporate numerous approaches to inform treatment and support youth and families, including the principles of Positive Youth Development, Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Trauma Informed Care, and other modalities to achieve a safe, supportive environment for youth.

SMART Team's services to proven-risk youth can be a dramatically effective social investment. Their clinical approach mitigates the effects of trauma by rebuilding trust and relationships with family and community. This provides an opportunity for court-involved, and traumatized youth to change behavior, complete their education, and find and maintain a job. Our approach enables youth to realize their full potential through interventions and supports that are proven to reduce delinquent and criminal behavior, as well as the impacts and financial costs of incarceration.

**"The SMART Team is instrumental in supporting the effective transition of high risk youth back into the community. We're fortunate to have them as a partner in our work."**

**Peter Forbes**  
Commissioner  
Department of Youth Services



## AT A GLANCE

SMART Team, a program of JRI, was selected as a 2016 Social Innovator. The 2016 Boston Social Innovation Forum is working for social change across Greater Boston by helping organizations, such as SMART Team, gain visibility, expand networks, and strengthen impact.

## CONTACT

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