Impact Profile Summary

Organization Overview

Juvenile Intervention and Faith-based Follow-up's (JIFF) mission is to break the destructive cycle of juvenile crime through Christ-centered intervention. JIFF fights poverty by providing intervention alternatives to justice-involved youth in lieu of juvenile detention. These interventions aim to reduce recidivism, facilitate effective reentry, and help youth plan for the future. Working with over 300 justice-involved youth, JIFF disproportionately works with youth experiencing poverty and young men and women of color.

JIFF's work addresses a subset of the over 900 juveniles in Memphis who are admitted to a detention center on an annual basis. In Shelby County, 60 percent of the total delinquent complaints involved black male youth. Poverty is one of the biggest indicators of whether a child will interact with the juvenile justice system, as approximately half of Shelby County youth detained in 2016 and 2017 lived in households with poverty-level income or who relied solely on public assistance. In Memphis there were 671 major violent delinquent charges from January through September of 2019, compared to 423 in 2018.

Impact Results

An Impact Study Update measures the change in poverty-fighting effectiveness since the previous impact study. For each dimension, the effectiveness is determined based on the strength of available evidence compared to Slingshot Memphis' outcomes-driven methodology. Impact results provide an objective, consistent way to measure impact, track progress, and identify opportunities for growth. Below are the impact results for JIFF:

Dimension	Unclear	Weak	At Least Neutral	At Least Strong	Very Strong
Benefit-Cost Ratio	Insufficient evidence exists to confidently estimate benefits	Costs exceed estimated benefits	Estimated benefits and costs similar	Estimated benefits exceed costs	Estimated benefits substantially exceed costs
Systems-Level Change	Insufficient evidence to determine systems-level change	Evidence for the creation of systems-level change does not exist	Evidence for the creation of limited systems-level change	Evidence for the creation of moderate systems-level change	Evidence for the creation of significant systems-level change
Use of Best Practices	Indiscernible best practices or insufficient data on the practices	Few practices are effective and/or practices are inconsistently applied	Some practices are effective and/or inconsistently applied	Most practices are effective and consistently applied	Practices are most effective and consistently applied
Measurement Infrastructure	Required information is inaccessible	Limited measurement infrastructure and use of data to understand and improve impact	Basic measurement infrastructure and use of data to understand and improve impact	Acceptable measurement infrastructure and use of data to understand and improve impact	Robust measurement infrastructure and use of data to understand and improve impact

Benefit-Cost Ratio

At Least Strong

- JIFF creates an estimated $1.75 to $2.00 in poverty-fighting benefits for each dollar it spends, increasing from $1.50 to $1.75 since its previous impact study
- Primary benefits experienced by participants include increases in future income associated with higher high school graduation rates and avoiding juvenile detention and recidivism
- COVID-19 required adjustments that resulted in a 50 percent reduction in expenditures
- 25 percent less youth completed a program in 2020, leading to a reduction in total benefits but an increase in the average benefit per youth

Use of Best Practices

At Least Strong

- The mentoring program employs evidence-based best practices and extensive training
- Youth detention alternative programs are built on effective curricula and shaped by requirements from the Memphis & Shelby County Juvenile Court (M&SCJC)
- Case management is built on the now fully implemented Collaborative Problem Solving model, an evidence-based approach for working with youth who have challenging behaviors
- Feedback is obtained directly from youth to improve program outcomes and a robust staff performance improvement program exists

Systems-Level Change

At Least Strong

- Multiple partnerships exist that create additional poverty-fighting benefits for JIFF's youth
  - Partnership with the M&SCJC to mutually share participant, programs, and outcomes metrics, which facilitates data-driven decision-making
  - Collaboration with the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art to provide youth with art therapy led by a registered art therapist
  - Mentoring and fellowship partnership with the Memphis Epiphany Program to host JIFF youth on three-day weekend retreats
- Since the previous impact study, JIFF has joined the United Way's Driving the Dream initiative, which enables JIFF to refer clients and their families to other nonprofits for services

Measurement Infrastructure

At Least Strong

- Data collection practices, data quality, analytics staff, and the use of data in decision-making are the strongest components
- Data dictionaries exist for participant and program metrics with extensive data collected for each via robust collection tools
- Opportunities exist to expand outcomes metrics
- Several data storage systems are currently used but all data is being consolidated into IMS
- Descriptive and diagnostic analyses are performed and data and analyses are pervasive throughout decision-making processes
- Further transitions to digital data collection and online applications, enhanced data quality assurance practices, and additional analyses to support decision-making have been implemented since the previous impact study

Potential Opportunities for Growth

- Enhance the use of standard data dashboards and reporting mechanisms to communicate insights that support decision making
- Strengthen ongoing connection with program graduates
- Continue expanding the pool of mentors to increase program intensity and capacity
- Establish pathways with after-school programs to help graduates transition to other well-structured out-of-school-time activities

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↑ Higher impact result ↗ Some measurable improvement ↔ Limited change

↓ Lower impact result ↘ Some measurable regression

Slingshot Memphis