

Eliminate fees & fines for youth in Utah **S.B. 120**



Fees & fines are discriminatory

Black youth in Utah are **3.3** times more likely, and Native youth **4.3** times more likely, than White youth to pay fees and fines.



Poorer youth and families in rural areas bear the brunt of these costs.

Fees & fines are ineffective

Higher fees & fines increase the likelihood of future system contact for youth.

"Paying something hurts, but you don't learn."

"I started stealing because of [fines and fees]."

- Young person in Utah

Fees & fines hurt families

Fees & fines weaken family ties and undermine family reunification, worsening outcomes for system-involved young people.

**"My mom is still in debt because of me."
"We have had to take money from family savings to pay."**

- Young person in Utah

Fees & fines net little revenue

In FY 21, Utah collected \$134k in court-ordered juvenile fees & fines, compared to a total court budget of over \$45 million.



Utah stakeholders support eliminating juvenile fees & fines

- Salt Lake County District Attorney
- Liberties Institute of Utah
- Americans for Prosperity - Utah
- ACLU Utah
- Voices for Utah Children
- Utah Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys
- Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys

UT should join the 22 states that have ended juvenile fees & fines since 2017

Juvenile Fees & Fines: Funding Impacts of S.B. 120



How to eliminate fees and fines that harm young people without affecting critical programs

- ✗ **Fees & fines are discriminatory**, disproportionately affecting youth of color, particularly Black and Native American youth in Utah.
- ✗ **Fees & fines hurt families**, weakening relationships and causing tension between young people and their families.
- ✗ **Fees & fines are ineffective**, increasing the likelihood of future system contact.

What is the RESTA Fund?

The fund pays restitution to victims after a young person performs community service hours ordered by the court. RESTA is partially funded by juvenile fines.

What is the NJ Fund?

Nonjudicial (NJ) adjustments allow some young people to be diverted from the formal court process. NJ fines support the NJ Fund, which pays for diversion programs and subsidizes restitution work programs.

How can we preserve the RESTA and NJ Funds?

The RESTA and NJ Funds **need a stable source of funding** to replace the money currently paid by young people and their families.

For the RESTA Fund, stable funding will ensure that victims receive restitution and work programs remain sustainable. Now, the RESTA Fund fluctuates with the amount of court-ordered fines.

For the NJ Fund, stable funding will allow critical treatment and programming to continue, ultimately keeping young people out of the court system.

