Policy Matters Ohio

The Cost of Confinement for Ohio's Incarcerated Youth

The Problem

The State of Ohio allows courts to charge incarcerated children and their families for costs related to their care detention or placement in juvenile correctional facilities. These charges are sometimes called "Pay-to-Stay fees."

The Impact

Pay-to-Stay fees disproportionately impact families who can least afford to pay them: 64% of justice-involved youth come from families with low incomes. Pay-to-Stay fees make it even harder to afford food, rent, and utilities.

Because of systemic economic and legal disparities across race, Black youth experience poverty and incarceration more than their peers. Pay-to-stay fees exacerbate these disparities.

The Solution

Abolish all fees, including Pay-to-Stay for Ohio's youth correctional facilities

Prohibit the state and counties from charging cost-of-care, pay-to-stay, or any other fees to incarcerated children and parents.

Read the report