

Youth Fees and Fines Do Not Make Fiscal Sense in Kansas

Counties and judicial districts do not depend on youth fines and fees to fund courts

From 2022 – 2024 districts reported collecting an average of \$2,300 per local jurisdiction

On average counties had \$7 million in surplus grant funding for youth justice systems that could cover the small average amount of revenue made by youth fees and fines

Some counties in Kansas already do not collect youth fees and do not rely on youth fee collections to fund operations

24 States have abolished some or all youth fees and fines

5 Jurisdictions in Kansas do not charge youth fees and fines

Jurisdictions reported the practice was unnecessary and inappropriate since Kansas Dept. of Corrections grants already cover everything they would spend the fees on

Juvenile fees have low collection rates that only decrease with time

The money collected from youth fees and fines makes up a negligible amount (0.15%) of the state's \$222.2 million judicial branch budget.

- It can take years to collect fees from youth and families and often youth are simply unable to pay. In 2024 the entire state of Kansas assessed \$394,000 in fees and collected about \$345,000 in fees—much of which was from previous years.

Collections cost local jurisdictions money:

- Collections require the time of police, sheriffs, public defenders, detention facilities, probation and parole officers, DMV, state tax agencies, and court staff and can result in additional court costs if a hearing is required.