

# The Neighborhood Opportunity & Accountability Board (NOAB)

Youth Development and Diversion Program



**NICJR** ★  
National Institute for  
Criminal Justice Reform



# NICJR'S MISSION AND VISION



**Working to reduce violence and transform the juvenile and criminal justice systems**

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) works to reduce incarceration and violence, improve the outcomes of system-involved youth and adults, and increase the capacity and expertise of the organizations that serve these individuals.

# The NOAB Model

**The Neighborhood Opportunity and Accountability Board (NOAB)** is an innovative, community-driven youth diversion and development model that allows young people charged with offenses for which they would otherwise be detained in juvenile detention and adjudicated through the juvenile court to remain in the community.

Youth and their families referred to a NOAB program appear before a board of community leaders to develop a detailed support plan and are immediately connected to services and supports.

**The NOAB model offers a new approach to youth justice that focuses on restorative, rather than punitive practices; increases community involvement in decision-making; and invests resources in youth, families, and neighborhoods.**



# Youth Detention Has Negative Impacts

Most young people who become involved in the juvenile justice system come from neighborhoods with **concentrated poverty, substandard schools, and high rates of unemployment.** When young people exhibit behavior that is often reflective of the challenges of their environment, they are plucked out of their families and neighborhoods, sent to an ineffective juvenile facility for a long period of time, and then returned to their same resource-deprived community.

In many small neighborhoods with a high concentration of poverty and crime, there can easily be 20 youth in the juvenile justice system within a 15-square-block radius. Based on the average annual cost of detention noted above, every year **approximately \$9.8 million is spent on incarcerating youth in such a neighborhood, with little, if any, funds going into that community.**



# NOAB in Oakland, CA



# Oakland NOAB

---

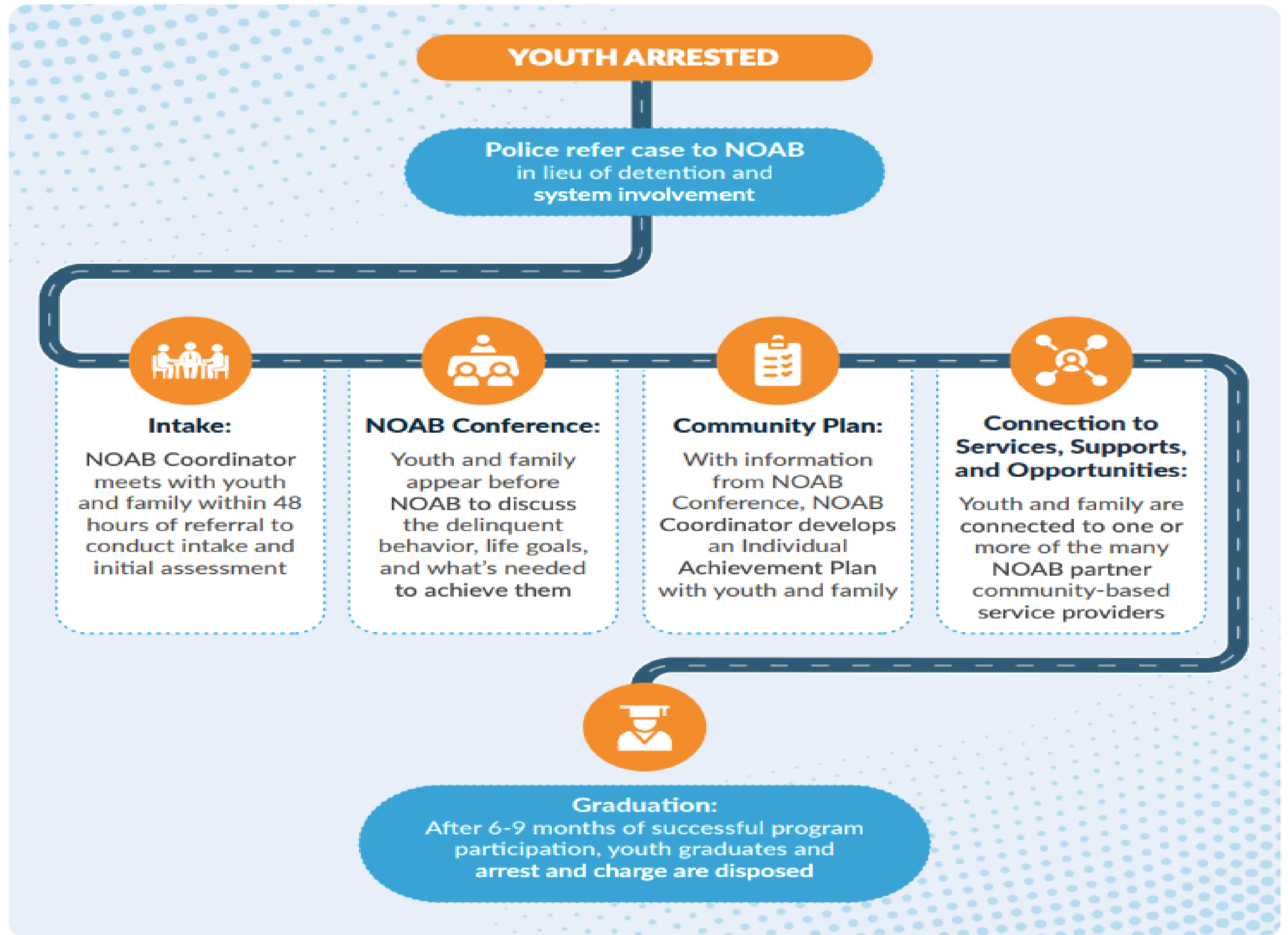
**NICJR launched the first NOAB program in Oakland in May of 2020**, after a multi-year planning process with the Oakland Police Department (OPD) and community stakeholders.

In its first two years of operation, the program received **58 referrals** from OPD at the point of arrest in lieu of system involvement, 40 of the youth had been arrested for felonies such as grand theft auto, burglary, and commercial burglary.

In total, **40 youth participated** in the NOAB process, **31 youth successfully completed the program**, and only **3 youth were rearrested** during this period.



# The NOAB Process



# Oakland NOAB Board



**Darren White**

Program Coordinator, My Brother's Keeper Alliance of the Obama Foundation; lifelong youth advocate



**John Jones III**

Director of Reentry and Violence Prevention Programs, Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency; formerly incarcerated



**Barbara Lafitte-Oluwole**

Program and Operations Manager, Faith in Action East Bay; community leader and mother of a victim of gun violence in Oakland



**Victor Flores**

Member, Oakland Latino Chamber of Commerce; former staff to Oakland City Councilman Loren Taylor; formerly incarcerated



**Rashidah Grinage**

Coordinator, Police Accountability Board



**Danny Mai**

Owner, Novatech (local Oakland business); Chair, Oakland Rotary Business Development Committee



**Daniela Medina**

Associate Director, UC Berkeley Underground Scholars Program

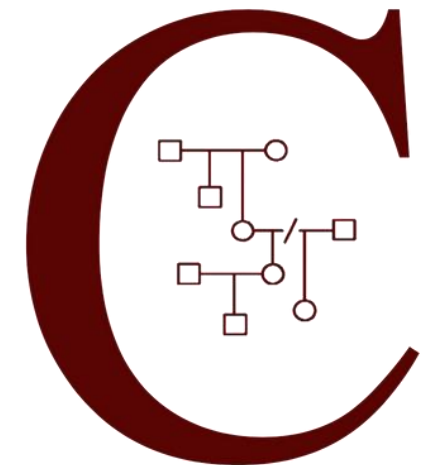




# Oakland NOAB Service Providers



An array of local community-based service providers partner with the Oakland NOAB program to engage youth and their families. Organizations providing services, supports, and opportunities include:



**Carl B. Metoyer  
Center for  
Family  
Counseling**