

MISSION

TO BE A RELENTLESS FORCE IN DISRUPTING INCARCERATION, POVERTY AND RACISM BY ENGAGING THE YOUNG ADULTS, POLICE, AND SYSTEMS AT THE CENTER OF URBAN VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS TO ADDRESS TRAUMA, FIND HOPE, AND DRIVE CHANGE.



WHO WE WORK WITH

14-to-24-year-old young women/mothers who are untrusting victims of trauma and urban violence.

- Involved with the criminal justice system
- Involved with the child welfare system
- Have low literacy and typically no HS degree/GED
- Have no formal or sustained employment history
- Involved in, impacted by, and/or instigating violence
- Have not succeeded in other parenting, youth, or job training programs

Adults in critical public systems that impact young women and mothers.

- Public safety leaders – police, probation, and corrections officers
- Judges and court systems
- Prosecutors and defense attorneys
- Child welfare agencies
- TANF administering agencies
- Early childhood service providers and agencies

TO WHAT END?

**Reduced negative systems involvement.
Sustained employment. Improved parenting.**

**Demonstrated policy and practice changes
for the highest-risk young women/mothers.**



	Massachusetts	Connecticut* (10/1/21 – 6/30/22)
# Served	257	41
Criminal Justice Involvement	39%	26%
Drug Involvement	61%	56%
Street/Gang Involved	47%	34%
No Employment History	90%	49%
No High School Diploma	91%	85%
History of Victimization	94%	73%
Housing Instability	81%	41%
DCF Involvement	56%	51%
Average of 4+ ACEs**	96%	73%
Children 0-5 with Developmental Concerns***	18%	33%



*Numbers underreported due to short length of time enrolled and assessments in-process

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (Measure of childhood trauma)

*** Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ:3)

The trauma experienced by Roca's Young Mothers puts them at greater risk for a myriad of risk factors and systemic challenges/barriers.



TRAUMA DISCONNECTS YOUNG MOTHERS FROM SYSTEMS AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO HELP STABILIZE THEM:

System	Program	Monthly Potential Benefits ¹
Food & Housing	Housing (EA, RAFT, HomeBASE)	\$785 - \$4,500 ²
	SNAP	\$355
	WIC	\$38
Health & Well-Being	MassHealth (Medicaid/CHIP)	\$618
	Early Childhood	Early Intervention
Child Welfare	TAFDC	\$459
Employment & Education	DUA	\$2,064
	High School Diploma/GED	\$708

\$61K+
lost annual benefits

TRAUMA INCREASES YOUNG MOTHERS' ENGAGEMENT WITH SYSTEMS AND PROGRAMS THAT MAY CREATE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES:

System	Program	Monthly Potential Costs ¹
Criminal Justice	Incarceration	\$4,957
	Probation	\$58 ³
Child Welfare	Foster Care	\$3,267

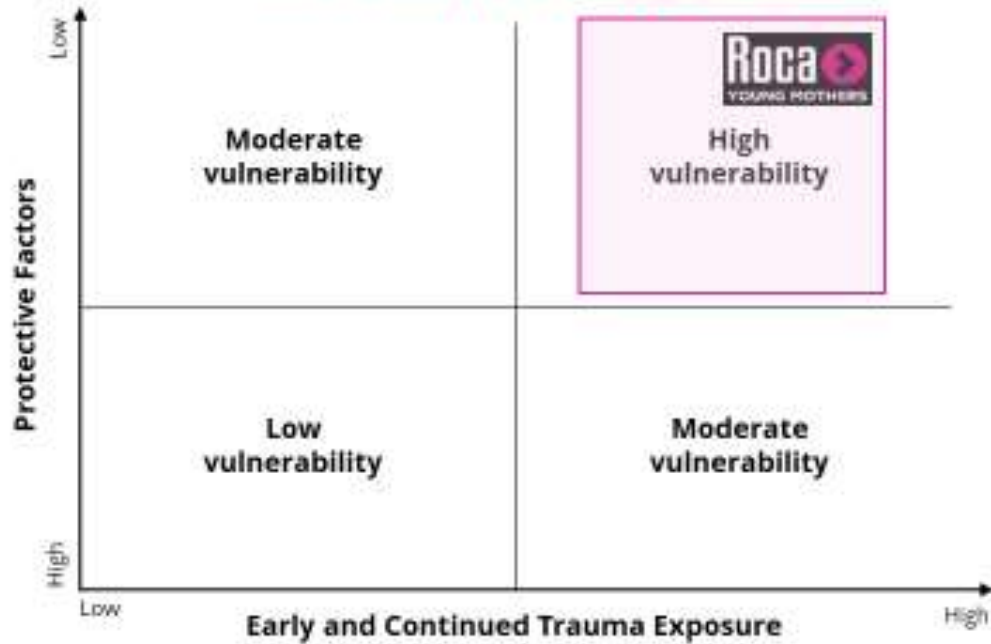
\$106K+
annual costs incurred

Roca helps Young Mothers engage with programs and navigate different systems to stabilize their lives and break cycles of trauma

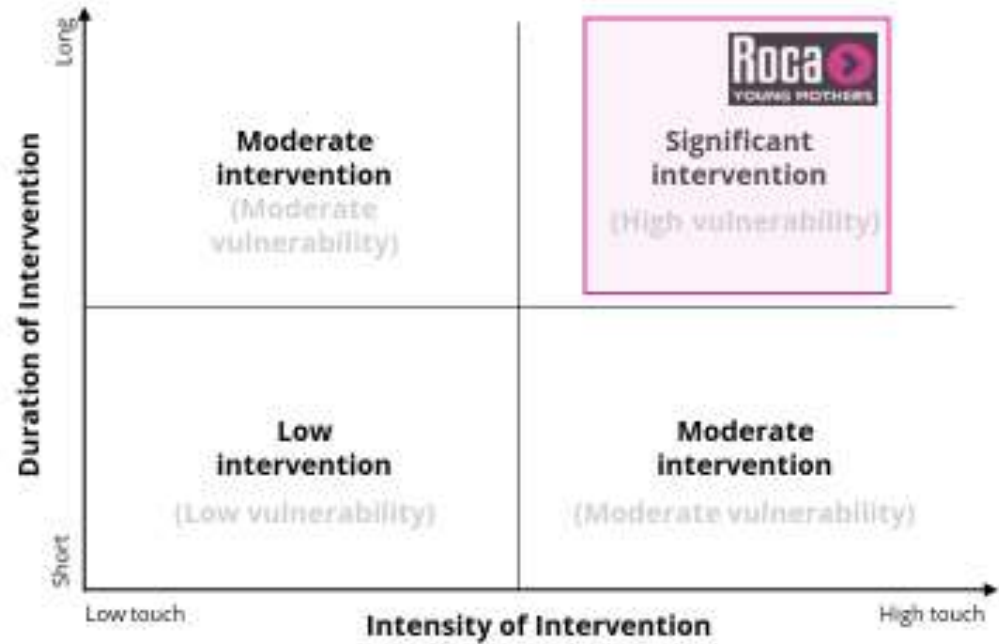


- HIGH-TOUCH, LONG-TERM, TRAUMA-INFORMED
- GETTING YOUNG MOTHERS TO THE STARTING LINE

IMPACT OF TRAUMA ON VULNERABILITY TO RISK FACTORS



LEVEL OF INTERVENTION NEEDED



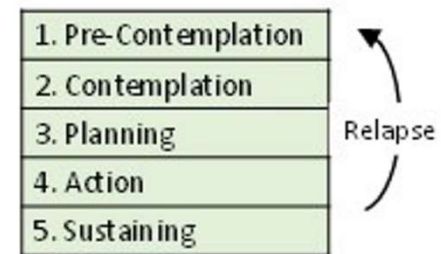
- How we do our work to support change with young people who have and continue to experience acute, chronic, & complex trauma is critical.
- That is why we ground **our approach** on what we know about **brain development**, the **impact of trauma on the brain**, our **cycles, patterns and habits**, and the **process of change**.
- Through our relationships and skill building programming, we focus on:



Creating Safety



Identify & Disrupt Unhelpful Cycles

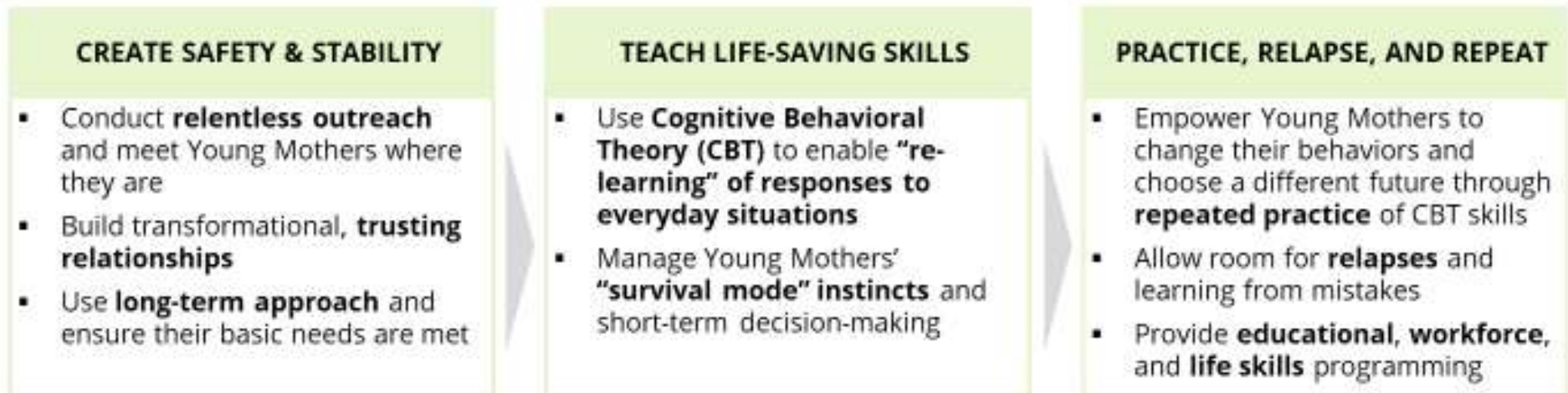


Planning for Incremental Change & Relapse



Roca's behavior-based intervention model spurs critical individual and systems change to support Roca's Young Mothers

INDIVIDUAL FOCUS



SYSTEMS FOCUS





CHANGE IS POSSIBLE FOR YOUNG WOMEN & MOTHERS

CURRENTLY SERVING

257

YOUNG MOTHERS
FROM 11 MASSACHUSETTS
COMMUNITIES

88%

RETAINED IN THE MODEL
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR*

98%

HAD NO NEW REARRESTS
AFTER THE FIRST TWO
YEARS

69%

MADE MEASURABLE
EMOTIONAL REGULATION
GAINS*



71%

IMPROVED MENTAL
HEALTH
(PTSD/DEPRESSION)

86%

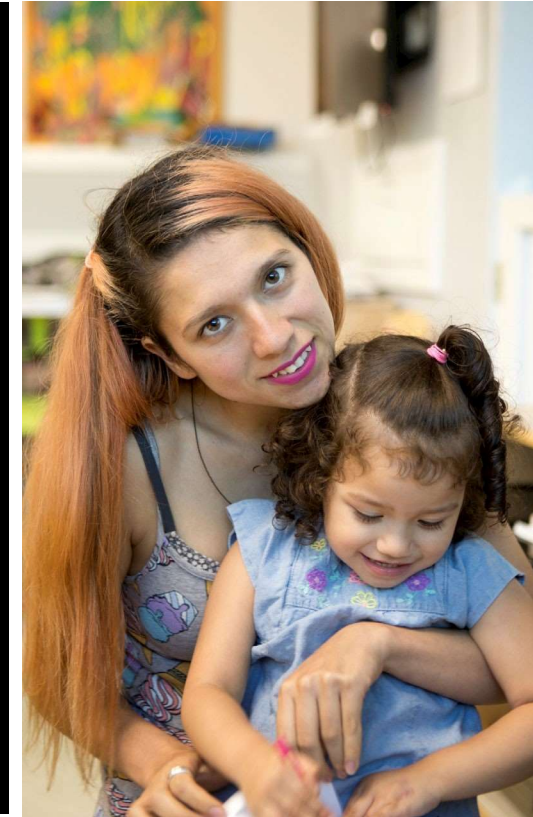
DELAYED SUBSEQUENT
PREGNANCIES (UNDER 24
YEARS OF AGE)*

72%

REDUCED
DRUGS/ALCOHOL USE*

86%

RETAINED EMPLOYMENT FOR
180 DAYS*



*Massachusetts, Fiscal 2022



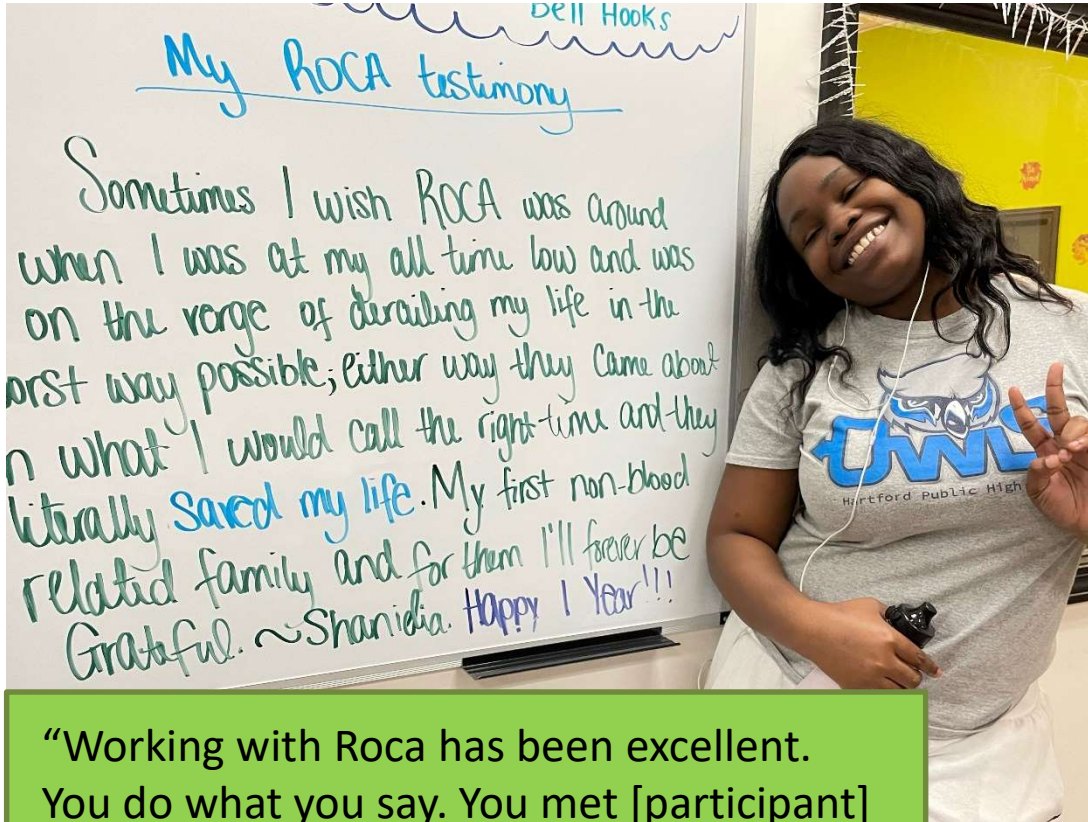
January 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

- Planning process to determine need and viability of expansion to Hartford, meeting with over 50 stakeholders

Key Findings

- Disproportionately high teen birth rate (34.9 vs 9.4 statewide)
- Most programs are for older moms
- More school-based arrests among women than men
- More women in diversion programs than men
- Programs are not designed for mothers in pre-contemplation
- Extensive trauma among women, especially mothers, and significant impact of/exposure to/involvement in violence as well as high levels of substance use
- Few if any 2Gen programs for mothers involved in the criminal justice system
- Lack of gender-specific programming for young women/mothers who are high-risk and highly traumatized
- No shortage of referrals





“Working with Roca has been excellent. You do what you say. You met [participant] where she was at and your relationship is so genuine. She counts her Youth Worker as an essential part of her support system.”

“Roca is her last resort. No other providers will work with her. “



For more information, please contact:

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- Teen pregnancy rates continue to rise among women of color in communities with high rates of urban violence, family poverty, and high-school dropout. However, teen pregnancy is not the problem, but the consequence of these factors.
- An increasing number of young mothers are involved in, impacted by, and/or instigating violence and are becoming formally involved in the criminal justice system.
- Roca's Young Mothers have a significantly higher rate of DCF involvement and child separation compared to other young parent programs, and Roca is the only known program that will work with young mothers who lose custody of their children.
- When we can address the trauma caused by a lifetime of victimization and violence and help young mothers begin to feel and be safe and to trust, then they can engage in other benefits, services, and programs for themselves and their children, and most importantly often keep or regain custody of their children.
 - CBT and Circles are the most effective programming, followed by Power Source Parenting

