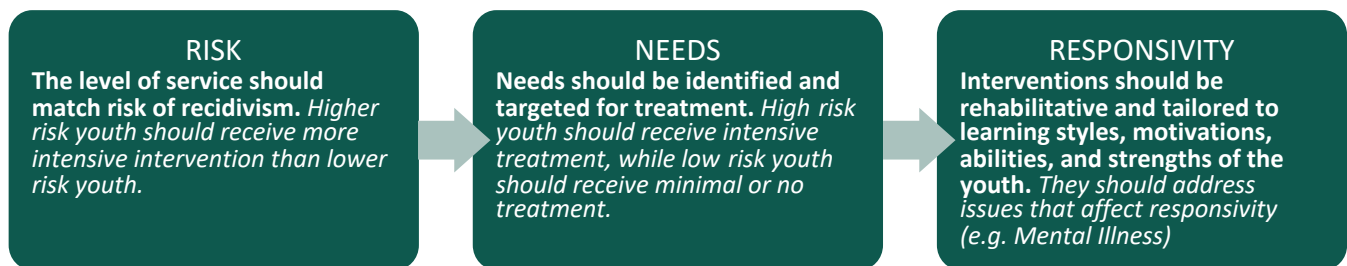


# The Risk-Needs-Responsivity approach

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Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) approach is an evidence-based intervention for youth who engage in delinquent behaviors. It is centered on the principle **that the risk factors and needs of the youth should determine the appropriate strategies for addressing the factors that underline the delinquent behavior**. The RNR approach focuses on rehabilitative interventions that target dynamic factors known to contribute to delinquent behavior. The approach is based on three key principles: risk, needs, and responsivity.

## Key principles of RNR:



Research has shown this approach to be effective at reducing recidivism among youth and increasing chances for success. It has also been proven to be **a cost-effective approach with a positive impact on public safety**.



## Determining a youth's level of risk

Research supports that **youth are less likely to re-enter the legal system if the level and type of services provided are proportional to their risk level**. A risk assessment is a tool used for assessing an individual's probability for re-entering the legal system.

Risk assessments **are validated through research and evaluation methods to ensure that they measure a broad range of risk factors** known to contribute to delinquent behavior. They also assess personal factors, family circumstances, and strengths that influence treatment success and reduced recidivism.

There are a variety of validated risk assessment tools currently in use by many state and local jurisdictions throughout the United States (e.g. *the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI)* and *the Youth Level of Service (YLS) assessment*).

## Dynamic vs. static risk factors

### Dynamic risk factors:

Factors that contribute to recidivism that are **amenable to change through appropriate interventions** and support

- Antisocial values/beliefs
- Impulsive behaviors
- Increased anger and defiance
- Lack of empathy/emotional regulation
- Anti-social peers
- Isolation from pro-social peers
- Poor school or work performance
- Substance use
- Family dysfunction (e.g. criminality, psychological problems, abuse/neglect)

### Static risk factors:

Factors that contribute to recidivism are **not amenable to change through treatment**

- Age
- Race
- Religion
- Prior court involvement
- Address and living environment
- Economic circumstances