

Juvenile Justice Advisory Council

Iowa Department of Human Rights
Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

The following are the five priority areas developed by the Iowa Juvenile Justice Advisory Council for their FFY2018-2021 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Formula Funds grant application. These priorities provide the underlying principles that the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council will apply towards the improvement of Iowa's juvenile justice system.

Priority One: Effective and Promising Practices

Goal 1: Adoption of evidence and research based juvenile justice practices statewide.

Objective 1

JJAC will alter its budget structure to emphasize funding services that are evidence and/or research-based.

Objective 2

Provide information to members of the court and related systems about evidence and research based practices and their effectiveness.

- Put links to clearinghouses containing lists of evidence-based services on CJJP website.
- Complete research project with JCS regarding evidence-based policy and practice. Distribute and add relevant pieces to CJJP website.

Objective 3

JCS will provide statewide, regularly updated inventory of the community-based services in use for delinquent youth in each judicial district as standard practice.

- Support this through the Juvenile Justice System Improvement grant process

Objective 4

CJJP will provide regularly updated inventory of out of home group care services, including the State Training School, in use for delinquent youth statewide.

- Populate with group care facilities that have been through the SPEP process.

Objective 5

Advocate for further research into evidence and research-based practices that specifically address gender, race/ethnicity, mental health, substance use and trauma in the juvenile justice system.

Goal 2: Collaborate with key juvenile justice entities to support innovative and promising practices that show the potential to develop a research/evidence base, particularly for marginalized populations.

Objective 1

Use of Decat Graduated Sanctions and other flexible funding sources on SPEP eligible service types that may not yet be fully evidence-based and then evaluate those services using the SPEP.

- JJAC consider ways to use its budget structure to encourage use of services that are innovative, promising and provide data and/or performance indicators that measure effectiveness.

Objective 2

Provide information to members of the court and related systems about innovative and promising practices.

- Explore what may be promising in the adult system for adaptation with youth.
- Create a report or otherwise formalize information about what innovations are happening and who is doing it.

Objective 3

Advocate for further research into innovative and promising practices that specifically address gender, race/ethnicity, mental health, substance use and trauma in the juvenile justice system.

Priority Two: Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Trauma

Goal 1: Raise awareness of the inter-relation between mental health, substance use, trauma and delinquency.

Objective 1

Connect professionals to related training using training and technical assistance funding through OJJDP.

- Make providers, like the State Training School and law enforcement, aware of this option.

Objective 2

Conduct a review of the available research on the inter-relation between mental health, substance use, trauma and delinquency.

Goal 2: Determine what pathways, if any, exist for collecting data on mental health, substance use and trauma among delinquent youth.

Objective 1

Re-examine the data that was gathered previously and determine the feasibility of replicating it.

Objective 2

Support the recommendation for mental health screening in juvenile justice coming from the national partners in the SMART grant process.

- Support efforts to use the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI), Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI), Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) or other similar tools.

Goal 3: Examine need for a sub-committee or other means for conducting this work.

Objective 1

Hold focus group meetings and seek input from with key constituencies around the state.

Priority Three: Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

Goal 1: Minimize system contact for low risk¹ youth of color by developing formal, statewide diversion opportunities through implementation of structures and policies at early juvenile justice system processing²

Objective 1

Provide oversight and document local community efforts to reduce DMC and encourage expansion of local efforts

- Seek OJJDP technical assistance for a small number of pilot sites to develop a standardized model for pre-charge diversion including, potential funding incentives.
- Provide membership, input, and seek feedback from Iowa's Juvenile Justice System Improvement (SMART) efforts, as well as take advantage of technical assistance from SMART national consultants.

Outcomes

1. Cost of diversion initiatives
 2. Dosage - # of youth completing diversion requirements
 3. Recidivism
 4. # of community partners (e.g. schools, law enforcement, DHS, providers) contributing to diversion efforts
- Provide regular data sets to local jurisdictions with high minority populations

Objective 2

Provide Oversight of Implementation of Detention Screening Tool (DST)

- Review, analyze, revalidate DST
- Assist with provision of DST training for JCS and juvenile detention facility staff

Objective 3

Research potential mental health/substance abuse/adverse childhood experience screening instruments

- Survey each judicial district to determine mental health/substance abuse placement for youth.
- Collect aggregate data from identified facilities (race/ethnicity and gender) to determine the representation of youth of color and girls in those settings.

Objective 4

Participate in efforts to validate the Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA), and to consider race/ethnicity as integral factors in the IDA.

- Receive presentation on IDA validation product from Washington State University researchers
- Review and provide feedback to Washington State researcher, the JJAC, and JCS, and other key system officials on the IDA validation product

Objective 5

Further DMC Efforts through support of key legislative initiatives.

- Support the recommendations (including legislative recommendations) contained in the IGJI report.
- Seek refinement and expansion of minority impact statement legislation to affect bills that impact minority over-representation.

¹ Low risk = Low risk on the Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA) or simple misdemeanor offense level.

² Early System Processing includes: school discipline, charge (or taking into custody), juvenile court services (JCS) referral, informal adjustment and other JCS diversion activities, detention, and detention alternatives

- Support the concept of prohibiting racial profiling to address disparate treatment of minorities in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Goal 2: Formalize Collaboration with Iowa Task Force for Young Women

Objective 1

Finalize key priorities for Black girls³

- Review/analyze data (school suspension, JCS, detention, deep end, etc.)
- Study research-causes for Black females' overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system.

Objective 2

Hold joint meeting between DMC Sub and ITFYW

- Determine specific areas/activities for the two groups to collaborate
- Staff and Subcommittee Chairs will actively coordinate efforts

Goal 3: Investigate Issues regarding Refugee and Immigrant Youth with the Intent of Eventually Informing and Educating JCO's and Judges

Objective 1

Identify key juvenile justice-system and other related resources for these populations

- Add key members to DMC Sub with knowledge of refugee and non-citizen youth.
- Seek data for refugee and immigrant youth
- Seek vehicles for support/advocacy for refugee and immigrant youth
- Access specific expertise from DHS' Bureau of Refugee Services
- Begin a process to learn and understand the diasporas of youth of color and related issues for immigration and migration and the affects in the juvenile justice system

Goal 4: Research and Affect Change for Deep-end Youth of Color eligible for State Training School Placement (STS) according to Iowa Code §232.52(2).

Objective 1

Utilize basic data format developed by ITFYW (and other data sets) to develop and write an action plan for boys of color eligible for placements at STS

- Collaborate with ITFYW for action plan development to include eligible girls of color.

Objective 2

Collaborate with work groups for Iowa's Juvenile Justice System Improvement and Juvenile Reentry Systems Efforts to institutionalize change that emphasizes STS youth of color.

- Access federal technical assistance, as required, to further efforts

Objective 3

Engage and learn from Polk County's Results Count initiative relating reducing the rates of placement for emancipated youth of color.

- Bring Results Count representative/s to present at DMC Sub Meeting
- Access related data from the initiative
- Learn from strategies –

1. foster care recruitment (families of color)
2. increased engagement of family and extended family
3. use of judicial influence, etc.

³ "Black girls" refers to a girl having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa or Caribbean countries.

Priority Four: Female Equity

Goal 1: Make the experiences and needs of girls who are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system (i.e. black, native and LGBT youth) central to the ongoing work of the ITFYW

Objective 1

Minimize juvenile justice and feeder system(s) contact for low risk girls of color, LGBTQ and gender non-conforming girls through systemic change.

- Partner with education groups like the DM Public School Community Conversation group.
- Provide information to school personnel about the connection between school experiences and delinquency for marginalized populations.

Objective 2

Promote and make available relevant training and technical assistance.

- Seek additional resources that are both gender and culturally responsive.
- Explore the possibility of creating some relevant training videos to be put on the CJJP website.

Objective 3

Explore and assess a variety of other systemic changes that may be both gender and culturally responsive.

- Partner with non-traditional supports.
- Create a workforce representative of the youth being engaged by that workforce.

Goal 2: Establishment of a specialized setting(s) for serious, violent and chronic offenders as well as systemic measures to reduce the need for such a setting as outlined in the recommendations of the Iowa Girls Justice Initiative report. *In addition to the recommendations outlined in the IGJI report –*

Objective 1

Develop a messaging and policy strategy.

- Develop a work group to create strategy.
- Map legislative and other champions.
- Create media/public informational materials.

Objective 2

Collaborate with key partners.

- Continue meetings with key DHS staff and explore ideas for funding of services that furthers recommendations for serious, violent and chronic offenders.
- Identify legislative champions and invite them to the Department of Human Rights legislative day and a TF meeting for educational purposes.

Objective 3

Monitor and provide ongoing assessment of how the change in out of home group care has impacted girls. Specifically, the new contracts in place from DHS which emphasize proximity to home over specialized treatment based on youth profile, risk and needs. Additionally, any impact of the federal Family First legislation.

- Annual update to the serious, violent and chronic offender data report.
- Make training/technical assistance available to providers serving girls in residential settings.

Objective 4

Monitor and provide ongoing assessment regarding the experience of Iowa girls involved in the juvenile justice system, particularly their experience in secure detention.

- Annual update to the Status of Females in the Juvenile Justice System data report.

Goal 3: Fill the gaps and improve the quality in the continuum of care for girls in both residential and community-based service settings with well-defined options that allow for differential responses based on culture, risk level, development and needs.

Objective 1

Identify gender and culturally responsive gaps along the continuum of services for girls involved in or at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system.

- Make use of information available from the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol.
- Support the creation and use of a Service Inventory for juvenile justice services.
- Determine how many of these services are female and culturally responsive.
- Factor in the rural/urban divide when mapping these services.

Objective 2

Address gender and culturally responsive gaps along the continuum of services for girls involved in or at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system.

- Make training and technical assistance available to professionals along the entire continuum regarding female and culturally responsive approaches as well as unique risk factors and trauma.
- Seek systemic changes that will allow low risk girls and their support systems to access services without the label of delinquent or a diagnosis being required.
- Determine creative solutions for services in rural areas that address the problem of insufficient numbers of youth to maintain services over time.
- Seek funding for services (see Goal 4)

Objective 3

Monitor and provide ongoing assessment of how the change in out of home group care has impacted girls as well as any impact of the federal Family First legislation the practical application of it develops.

- Explore possible research questions related to monitoring and assessing this change.

Goal 4: Dedicated state funds for equitable treatment of females in the JJ system.

Objective 1

Determine the costs associated with serving girls.

- Begin with the amount of funding available as a proportion of the current funds available for all juveniles.
- Make use of information available from the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol.
- Support the creation and use of a Service Inventory for juvenile justice services.
- What amount would meet all identified gaps in services.

Objective 2

Raise awareness about the lack of services for girls, the unintended consequences of this lack and garner support for dedicated funding.

- See Goal 2. Obj. A.

Objective 3

Explore additional funding streams and partnerships beyond state funding.

- Girl Scout programming (partnering, access to funding)
- 21st Century funding
- Federal and other grants

Priority Five: Compliance Monitoring of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Goal 1: Maintain Iowa's compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act's core requirements of Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, sight & sound separation, jail removal, and Disproportionate Minority Contact.

Objective 1

Continue to update and maintain Iowa's essential elements to an effective compliance monitoring system.

Objective 2

Continue to gather and analyze data from facilities identified in Iowa's compliance monitoring universe.

Objective 3

Continue on-site audits of identified facilities for data verification.

Objective 4

Provide analysis and evaluation support to Iowa's Disproportionate Minority Contact efforts; including analysis and evaluation of data by gender.