Overview of the DCTAT Data for Formula Grants

This memo provides an overview of the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) data for Formula Grants program grantees as collected through September 30, 2012.[1]

The Formula Grants Program supports State and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. Through this program, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provides funds directly to States, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia to help them implement comprehensive State juvenile justice plans based on detailed studies of needs in their jurisdictions. The Formula Grants Program is authorized under the JJDP Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.).

1. Examination of Program Information

1.1 Trend Analysis of Title V Data for All Reporting Periods

Across the reporting periods (October 2008–September 2012), grantees have input 224 sets of program data. For the most recent period, October 2011–September 2012, 56 grants were active, and data entry was completed by 55 grantees, for a compliance rate of 98% (Table 1). While some grantees spent their funds directly, others subawarded their funds to other agencies. As a result, data were reported for 1,107 subgrant awards. The numbers reported in Table 1 do not include subrecipients, who are included in all the following tables and figures in this data memo.

Table 1. Status of Grantee Reporting by Period

Data Reporting Periods	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Total
Oct. 2008–September 2009	0	2	54	56
Oct. 2009–September 2010	0	1	55	56
Oct. 2010–September 2011	0	2	54	56
Oct. 2011–September 2012	1	0	55	56
Total	**1**	**5**	**218**	**224**

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[1] The data reported to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Preventions (OJJDP) have undergone system-level validation and verification checks. In addition, OJJDP reviews the aggregate data findings and grantee-level data reports for obvious errors or inconsistencies. A formalized data validation and verification plan is being piloted and will be implemented in all programs during 2014.

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The Formula Grants Program consists of 35 program areas. Although the program areas may overlap in category, for the purposes of this data memo, they have been condensed into three larger categories: (1) Prevention Programs; (2) Intervention Programs; and (3) System Improvement. Table 2 presents a breakdown of the program areas by their respective categories.

Table 2. Purpose Areas Organized by Categories of Services

Prevention Programs	Intervention Programs	System Improvement
Child Abuse and Neglect	Aftercare/Reentry	Community Assessment
Children of Incarcerated Parents	Alternatives to Detention	Compliance Monitoring (State Level)
Delinquency Prevention	Court Services	Juvenile Justice System Improvement
Disproportionate Minority Contact (State and Subgrantee Level)	Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (State and Subgrantee Level)	State Advisory Group (SAG) Allocation
Gangs	Diversion	Youth Courts
Job Training	Gender-Specific Services	Strategic Community Action Planning (SCAP)
Mentoring	Graduated Sanctions	
Native American Programs	Gun Programs	
Rural Area Juvenile Programs	Hate Crimes	
School Programs	Jail Removal (State and Subgrantee Level)	
Youth Advocacy	Mental Health Services	
	Probation	
	Restitution/Community Service	
	Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates (State and Subgrantee Level)	
	Serious Crime	
	Sex Offender Programs	
	Substance Abuse	

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Over the four reporting periods, the numbers of grantees reporting data for the different program areas has varied. During the October 2011–September 2012 reporting period, the largest number of grantees provided data under the Prevention Programs subcategory, followed by Intervention Programs and System Improvement. However, the number of grantees reporting data has steadily decreased since the earliest reporting period for all program areas falling under these categories (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Awards by Program Area across Reporting Periods
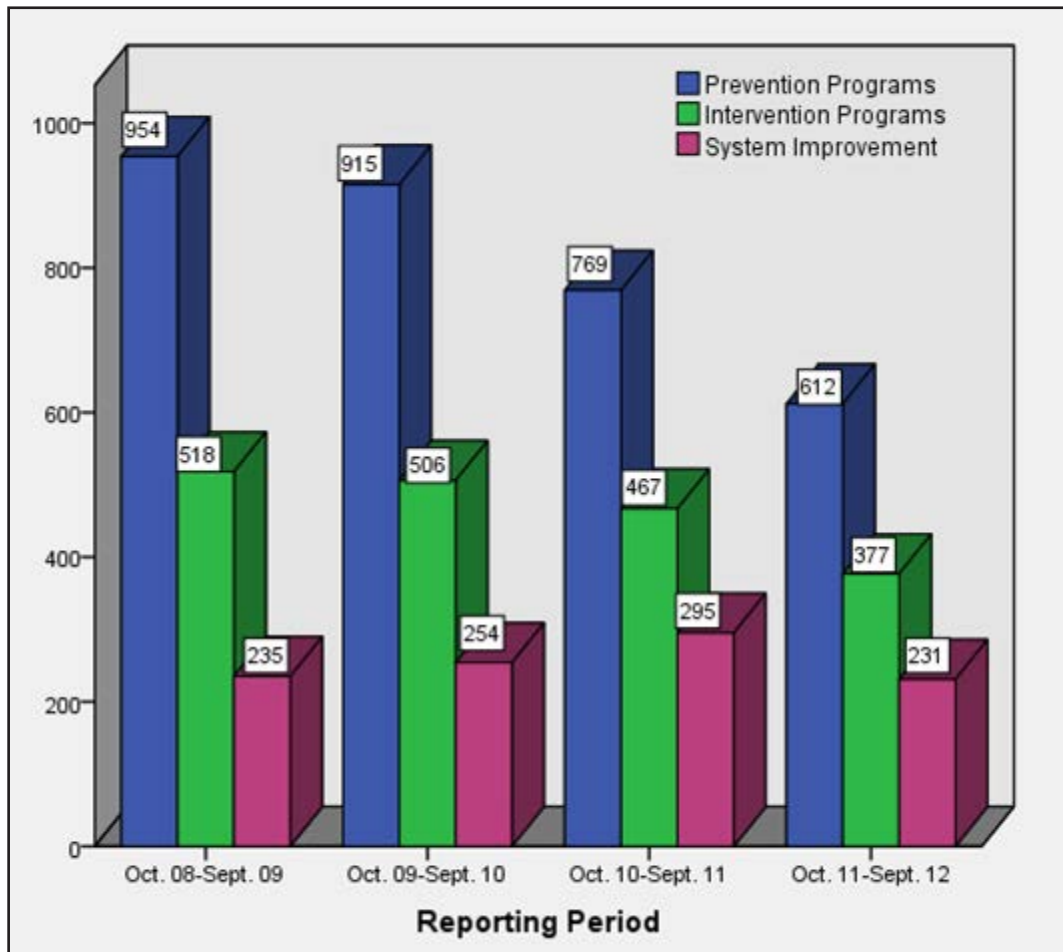
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Figure 2 depicts the number of subgrants by Federal Fiscal Year (FFY). During October 2011–September 2012, the most subgrants ($n = 417$) were made from FFY 2010 funding. In the most current reporting period, 23 subgrants were awarded from FY2012 funding. Overall, across the past four reporting periods, there has been a steady decline in the amount of Title V subgrants. Table 3 shows the total award amount by Federal Fiscal Year (FFY). During October 2011–September 2012, the largest amount of grant funding for Title V, $44,157,862, came from FFY 2010. Grantees use grant funds to implement a number of prevention and intervention juvenile justice programs.

Figure 2. Subgrants by Federal Fiscal Year ($N = 5,574$)
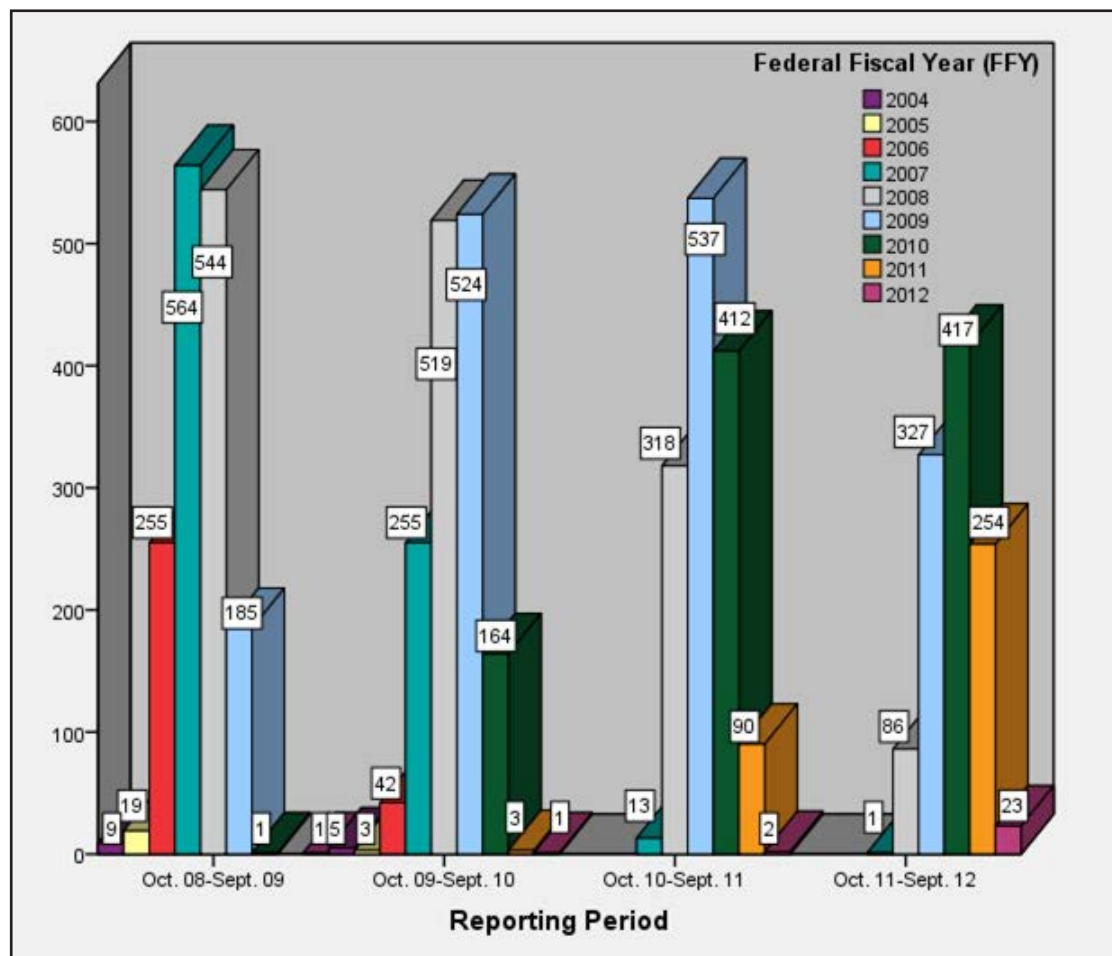
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Table 3. Total Award Amount by Federal Fiscal Year (Dollars)

FFY	Data Collection Period			
	Oct. 08–Sept. 09	Oct. 09–Sept. 10	Oct. 10–Sept. 11	Oct. 11–Sept. 12
2004	$ 990,000	$ 990,000	$ 0	$ 0
2005	12,408,631	1,297,631	0	0
2006	38,824,310	18,803,000	0	0
2007	51,510,225	40,124,301	8,503,844	1,692,000
2008	39,236,339	42,207,629	38,278,669	17,781,869
2009	14,741,000	42,089,408	47,740,208	40,466,288
2010	2,056,000	15,948,000	38,230,862	44,157,862
2011	0	4,460,374	10,231,741	23,843,807
2012	582,255	582,255	1,373,204	2,093,204

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1.2 Demographic Data for Program Participants, October 2011–September 2012

Table 4 presents an aggregate of demographic data for the October 2011–September 2012 reporting period. More specifically, the numbers in this table represent the population actually served by grantees through the Formula program. Targeted services include any approaches specifically designed to meet the needs of the population (e.g., gender-specific, culturally based, developmentally appropriate services).

Table 4. Target Population, October 2011–September 2012

	Population	Grantees Serving Group During Project Period
RACE/ETHNICITY	American Indian/Alaskan Native	277
	Asian	304
	Black/African American	715
	Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	618
	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	157
	Other Race	356
	White/Caucasian	689
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	244
JUSTICE SYSTEM STATUS	At-Risk Population (No Prior Offense)	652
	First-Time Offenders	566
	Repeat Offenders	369
	Sex Offenders	120
	Status Offenders	332
	Violent Offenders	157
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	247
GENDER	Male	805
	Female	823
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	247
AGE	0–10	282
	11–18	583
	Over 18	167
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	244
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	Rural	476
	Suburban	356
	Tribal	108
	Urban	521
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	241
OTHER	Mental Health	312
	Substance Abuse	335
	Truant/Dropout	399

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2. Analysis of Core Measure Data, October 2011–September 2012

2.1 Analysis of Target Behaviors

Targeted behaviors measure a positive change in behavior among program participants. Ideally, data are collected on the number of youth who demonstrate a positive change for a targeted behavior in each reporting period. Tables 5 and 6 show a list of measures for which grantees were required to evaluate performance and track data for certain target behaviors in each program category. The tables list both short-term (Table 5) and long-term (Table 6) percentages for the specified target behavior for all program categories for October 2011–September 2012. In all, 225,044 youth participants were served in various programs funded by Formula Grants. Of that number, approximately 83% completed the defined program requirements.

Table 5 shows that 76% of program youth exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior in the short term.

Table 5. Short-Term Performance Measures Data, October 2011–September 2012

Target Behavior	Youth Receiving Services for Target Behavior	Youth with Noted Behavioral Change	Percent of Youth with Noted Behavioral Change
Antisocial Behavior	18,725	16,031	86
School Attendance	13,687	8,381	61
Family Relationships	4,453	3,623	81
Substance Use	6,106	4,920	81
Social Competence	1,399	652	47
Self Esteem	676	565	84
Job Skills	236	222	94
Perception of Social Support	834	526	63
Body Image	569	463	81
GPA	77	52	68
Coping Skills	36	28	78
Employment Status	42	40	95
Total	**46,840**	**35,503**	**76**

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Table 6 lists long-term percentages for the specified target behavior for all program categories for October 2011–September 2012. Long-term outcomes are the ultimate outcomes sought for participants, recipients, the juvenile justice system, or the community. They are measured within 6–12 months after a youth leaves or completes the program. Overall, 64% of program youth had a desired change in the targeted behavior.

Table 6. Long-Term Performance Measures Data, October 2011–September 2012

Target Behavior	Youth Receiving Services for Target Behavior 6–12 Months Earlier	Youth with Noted Behavioral Change	Percent of Youth with Noted Behavioral Change
Antisocial Behavior	2,821	1,638	58
School Attendance	1,758	1,375	78
Family Relationships	1,555	1,034	67
Substance Use	811	463	57
Social Competence	302	225	75
Self Esteem	60	45	75
Perception of Social Support	300	81	27
Total	**7,607**	**4,861**	**64**

2.2 Analysis of Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices

Evidence-based programs and practices include program models that have been shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. A significant number of programs funded through Formula Grants are implementing evidence-based programs and/or practices (Figure 3). In October 2011–September 2012, 45% of grantees and subgrantees (n = 498) implemented evidence-based programs and/or practices.

Figure 3. Programs Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices (N = 2,171)
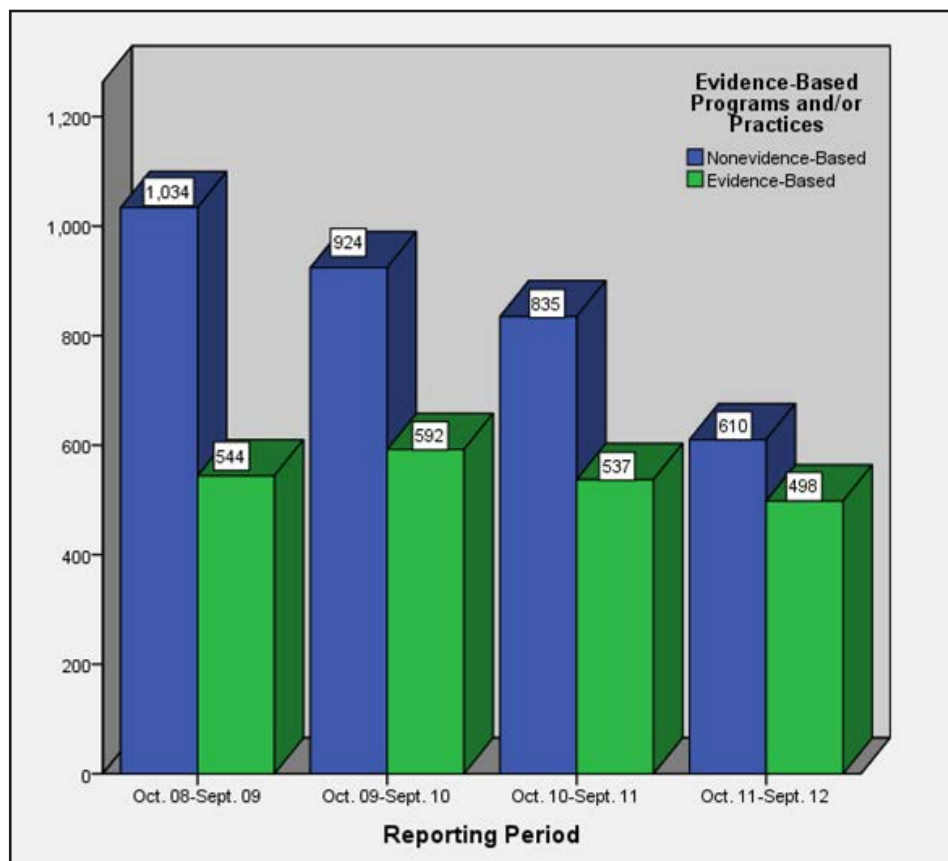
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2.3 Analysis of the Recidivism Measure

Included in the core measures are those that gauge reoffending outcomes for youth served by the program. The term *reoffending* (or recidivism) refers to a subsequent new offense. Youth who reoffend are already in the system and are adjudicated for a new delinquent offense. These youth are typically served in intervention programs whose goal is to prevent subsequent offenses.

Recidivism levels among the youth served while in the program (short-term data) were relatively low: Close to 5% of youth tracked reoffended while in the program. A relatively small number of youth who exited the program were tracked for reoffenses 6 months after their exit ($n = 8,102$). Of those tracked, 872 committed a new offense. Short-term juvenile reoffending rates are shown in Table 7, while long-term reoffending rates are in Table 8.

Table 7. Short-term Reoffending Data, October 2011–September 2012

Performance Measure	Data
Number of program youth tracked during the reporting period	46,389
Program youth with new arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period	2,262
Number of program youth who were recommitted to juvenile facility during the reporting period	599
Number of program youth sentenced to adult prison during the reporting period	28
Number of youth who received another sentence during the reporting period	778
Percent of program youth who reoffend during the reporting period (recidivism)	2,262/46,389 **(4.8%)**

Table 8. Long-term Reoffending Data for Youth Exiting Programs 6–12 Months Earlier, October 2011–September 2012

Performance Measure	Data
Number of program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago that were tracked during the reporting period	8,102
Of those tracked, the number of program youth who had a new arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period	872
Number of program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility during the reporting period	135
Number of program youth who were sentenced to adult prison during the reporting period	6
Number of youth who received another sentence during the reporting period	288
Percent of program youth who reoffend during the reporting period (recidivism)	872/8,102 **(10.7%)**

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3. Narrative Response Data

3.1 Grant-Related Accomplishments: October 2011–September 2012

During the October 2011–September 2012 reporting period, grantees were asked to answer seven questions about their overall accomplishments and what barriers they had encountered during the reporting period. The narrative responses present a story to go with the numeric data that each grantee reported. The States that were implementing activities through Formula Grants reported a series of accomplishments in meeting the goals that the grant aims to achieve. An analysis of the narratives revealed a series of goals attained by the States in meeting compliance with the four components of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). In particular, States reported accomplishments in areas such as the deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO), separation of juveniles from adults in secure facilities, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and reduction of disproportionate minority contact (DMC) within the juvenile justice system. Other accomplishments included significant reductions in juvenile delinquency through the implementation of various prevention programs.

To ensure that DMC compliance is met, States performed a series of activities. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services developed a DMC focused project to increase awareness around DMC issues. To reach compliance with DSO and Jail Removal, the State of Arkansas has hired two compliance monitors, who will go with law enforcement personnel to identify and visit facilities. Furthermore, the State has created a network of resources that can further develop compliance monitoring efforts within the State through the formulation of the Compliance Monitoring Subcommittee and a more active group of appointees in the State Advisory Group (SAG).

Although many States have reported challenges in implementation due to funding limitations, some States have shifted their focus to develop a strong infrastructure within the programs that will sustain beyond the life of the grant. For instance, the State of California reported supporting organizations engaged in long-term infrastructure development for the purposes of increasing services to at-risk and system-involved youth. Funding was designated to equip organizations with the tools and resources to lead and develop direct service activities. These efforts include hiring staff and provide training strategies for DMC awareness. Additionally, the Formula funding has been used to develop sustainable interventions in reducing disparity and disproportionality within jurisdictions.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice reported significant accomplishments in reducing the number of minority females coming into contact with the juvenile justice system by 10 percent in Orange County. This success was accomplished by the Power Promise organization, which implemented the Power Princess Program that combines evidence-based activities to address risk factors prevalent in school. Furthermore, through the implementation of this program, Florida also reported improvements in truancy rates and suspensions during the reporting period. Delinquency referrals for school-related offenses declined by 42 percent, and 39 percent fewer youth were arrested in Florida schools over the past 7 years. Similarly, Hawaii also reported successes in the reduction of delinquency, arrest, substance use through the Youth-on-Probation program.

The Maine Department of Corrections reported its continuous commitment to developing a comprehensive understanding of positive youth development and strength-based principles among the community. During the reporting period, they reported an increase in the availability of types of prevention and intervention programs, as well as in juvenile justice system improvements.

The State of Texas reported successes in reduction of recidivism among female offenders who were served by the Cameron County Female Day Offender Program. The program also assisted the women to successfully reintegrate back into the community by addressing their need for mental and emotional health support. The

Bullying Recognition and Prevention program provided antibullying training to 160 staff and informed 6,500 youth in middle schools and high schools. A new bullying reporting system was implemented across the school district.

3.2 Problems and Barriers Encountered: October 2011–September 2012

Although the grantees had many accomplishments in this reporting period, many of them also acknowledged several barriers that prevented them from achieving program goals.

Many States have reported staff capacity challenges due to staff turnover and inability to rehire qualified staff due to lack of funding. For example, the State of Arkansas reported a challenge in adequately filling the Assistant Director of Community Programs position, as funding places a limit in the pool of qualified applicants willing to accept the position at a lower salary. California reported a similar challenge, noting that these vacancies resulted in delays in the execution of programmatic goals. North Carolina also indicated a challenge in effectively addressing at-risk student populations due to the significant cuts to school support staff.

Data management continues to be a problem for some States. For instance, California reported that the lack of one singular data collection tool for DMC projects creates discrepancies between juvenile justice definitions that vary from county to county. Kentucky reported a similar challenge with data collection and sharing among juvenile justice agencies. Similarly, Idaho indicated the lack of definition and interpretation of secure adult facilities has become a barrier during program implementation.

3.3 Requested OJJDP Assistance: October 2011–September 2012

When asked whether OJJDP could help address some of the problems experienced, only 25% (*n* = 14) of the grantees said yes.

Some States requested technical assistance support from OJJDP regarding the core requirements. Others requested more training due to high staff turnover, creating a gap in knowledge. One State reported the need for technical assistance as it relates to data improvements and data/information sharing among juvenile justice agencies. Another addressed the need for regional training for new JJ Specialists and others who do compliance monitoring. Other States requested greater flexibility in the use of deobligated funds, while others recommended more funding for those States that demonstrate significant program accomplishments.