

a. Description of the Issue

1. System Description: Structure and Function of the Juvenile Justice System

In New Jersey, the age of majority is 18 and the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction is 17, based on the age of the youth at the time of the incident. A juvenile enters the New Jersey Juvenile Justice System when a complaint charging a juvenile with a delinquent act is signed by law enforcement. At this point, Family Court staff screen the juvenile to determine the process by which the case will be resolved. Screening options include the Formal Calendar (mandatory judge and counsel), Informal Calendar (judge or juvenile referee) or Diversion. In some cases, a juvenile matter may be waived from Family Court to an adult Criminal Court. Dispositional options include: dismissal; deferred disposition (in which the case is adjourned for as long as 12 months and dismissed if there is no further delinquency); probation supervision; Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP); or a term of incarceration with the Juvenile Justice Commission (Commission).

The Juvenile Justice Commission has three (3) primary responsibilities: The support of local efforts to plan for and provide services related to multiple levels of delinquency; the care and custody of juvenile offenders committed to/placed with the agency by the courts; and the supervision of youth on parole/reentry.

Commitment to the Commission for a term of incarceration is the most severe disposition available to the Family Court. Upon commitment to the Commission, juveniles are subject to an intake and classification process that determines their placement in a secure facility or residential community home (RCH). In cases where commitment is not imposed, youth may be given a term of probation and ordered into a less restrictive Commission residential community home.

Residential community homes are less restrictive settings where youth worker staff, and not corrections officers, are responsible for supervision. Currently there are 9 RCHs available to youth on committed status. If a youth is committed to a term of incarceration with the Commission, they are assigned to a specific custody level and facility or program. The Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services is responsible for reintegrating juvenile parolees into their communities upon the completion of their sentences.

In 2016, the Juvenile Justice Reform Law (P.L. 2015, c.89) (S-2003) took effect, making several significant reforms to New Jersey's juvenile justice system. Among other things, it increased the minimum age at which juveniles can be tried as adults from 14 to 15 and increased the age at which it is permissible to incarcerate a juvenile in an adult facility from 16 to 18. Additionally, it amended the law governing waiver of juveniles to adult criminal court, as it presumes that waived juveniles will begin to serve their term of incarceration in a Commission facility until at least the age of 21, with certain qualifications and exceptions, and not in a facility operated by the Department of Correction (DOC). The new law also limits the use of room restriction and increases the mandatory recreation time to be provided to juveniles while in room restriction. A report regarding the use of the room restriction at county juvenile detention centers and State juvenile correctional facilities is placed on the Commission's website annually. This report provides aggregate data, to include the duration of room restrictions by age, the average duration by race and gender, and the reason for room restrictions.

Attachment #1 depicts New Jersey's Juvenile Justice System and can be used to illustrate a youth's potential movement through this System as described in the preceding narrative sections.

2. Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency Problems and Needs

New Jersey's Juvenile Justice System is both comprehensive and responsive to the goal of moving juveniles who are involved with the system through the system and into society as productive members of their communities. The data below describe the conditions, issues, and problems New Jersey's Juvenile Justice System is addressing through the provision of social and educational services and technical assistance. The data analysis relies principally on information covering the years 2013 through 2015. The data provide a time-limited snapshot of improvements and remaining challenges in building and sustaining a fully responsive Juvenile Justice System.

The crime analysis reveals the following:

i. Juvenile Arrests (*Source: Uniform Crime Report (UCR), 2013 – 2015*)

The available juvenile arrest data classifies White, Black, American Indian, and Asian as races. Hispanic is defined as an ethnicity.

Arrests decreased significantly for all youth by 13.3% between 2013 and 2015.

- Arrests decreased by 12.6% for males and decreased by 15.4% for females. The total arrests of females were 6,818 in 2013 and 5,767 in 2015. The total arrest of males were 17,736 in 2013 and 15,502 in 2015. Both male and female youth saw a significant drop in arrests.
- Every age group experienced a decrease in arrests. The decreases for each age group are as follows: under 10 (27.3%), 10-12 years old (37.1%), 13-14 years old (37.6%), 15 years old (36.8%), 16 years old (38.4%), and 17 years old (36.8%) and (37.3%) in total decreased in arrested by age.
- Juvenile arrests for White youth decreased by 17.1% and for Black youth decreased by only 7.1%.

- Juvenile arrests for index offenses decreased by 17.9%.
 - There were reductions in robbery (27.0%), burglary (19.0%), larceny/theft (17.4%), motor vehicle theft (12.1%), and aggravated assault (12.2%). However, there was an increase of (33.3%) in rape offenses (42 to 56) and (29.4%) in murder (17 to 22).
- Juvenile arrests for non-index offenses decreased by 12.4%.
 - There were significant reductions in offenses against family and children (40.7%), sex offenses (except forcible rape) (30.8%), fraud (37.5%), liquor laws (26.1%), and disorderly conduct (22.6%).
 - There were increases in curfew and loitering law violations 39.2% (from 1,017 to 1,416), embezzlement of 33.3% (from 6 to 8), driving under the influence 5.4% (from 166 to 175) and Weapons; carrying, possessing 3.7% (from 677 to 702).
- The number of arrests by index offense for each racial and ethnic group decreased, with the exception of American Indian. The decrease in arrests of White youth was largest (20.5%) among all racial groups, followed by a decrease in Black youth (15.9%), and Asian youth (14.6%).
- When comparing the youth population to juvenile arrests, even though White youth had a 1.4% decrease in population, they had a 17.1% decrease in arrests. When compared to Black youth, there was a 1.1% decrease in youth population, but only a 7.1% decrease in arrests.

ii. Juvenile Referrals (Source: *Uniform Crime Report, 2013 – 2015*; *Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), 2013 – 2015*)

Please note, the AOC referral to juvenile court data identifies Hispanic as a race. The UCR data for police referrals to various agencies identifies Hispanic as an ethnicity.

- Total referrals to juvenile court decreased for all youth by 17.7% between 2013 and 2015.
- Referrals to juvenile court decreased by 17.5% for the male population while decreasing 18.3% among the female population.
- The total share of all referrals comprised of each racial and ethnic group remained relatively unchanged. However, Black youth comprised 17.5% of the total youth population in 2015, but a much larger percentage (42.2%) of all referrals to juvenile court. These findings point to a need to continue with DMC as a priority.
- In 2015 the percentage of arrest referrals to court for White youth was 41.4% and 55.4% for Black youth.
- Total police referrals to various agencies handling youth matters decreased by 16.6% between 2013 and 2015.
- Referrals to juvenile court or a probation agency decreased by 15.5%, referrals to child welfare decreased by 65.6%, referrals to criminal/adult court decreased by 26.6%, and referrals to other police agencies decreased by 25.1%.

iii. Cases Handled Formally and Informally (*Source: Uniform Crime Report, 2013 – 2015; Administrative Office of the Courts, 2013 – 2015; Juvenile Justice Commission Juvenile County Admissions Report 2013 – 2015*)

The available diversions, commitment, and Commission residential data identify Hispanic as a race and the race category of "Other" is not specified.

- The number of cases handled informally and released within a police department decreased by 6.5%.
- Total juvenile court diversions for all youth decreased by 14.2% between 2013 and 2015.
- Juvenile court diversions decreased by 11.4% for males and by 19.1% for females.
- The total share of all diversions comprised of each racial and ethnic group remained relatively unchanged. As stated earlier, in 2015 Black youth comprised 42.2% of all referrals to juvenile court, but a smaller percentage (35.0%) of all juvenile court diversions. In comparison, White youth comprised 36.8% of all referrals to juvenile court, but a larger percentage (43.8%) of all juvenile court diversions. These findings point to the need to continue to prioritize DMC efforts.

The total number of cases resulting in delinquent findings decreased by 22.9% between 2013 and 2015.

- Delinquent findings decreased among male youth by 25.1% and by 14.1% among female youth.

- In 2015, Black youth comprised (42.2%) of all referrals to juvenile court, but a larger percentage (49.0%) of all delinquency adjudications. In comparison, White youth comprised (36.8%) of all referrals to juvenile court, but a smaller percentage (30.0%) of all delinquency adjudications. The findings continue to point to the need to prioritize DMC efforts.

Total placements in a Commission residential community home (on probation status) decreased by 23.2% between 2013 and 2015.

- The number of probationers admitted to Commission residential community homes decreased for males (20.0%) and decreased for females (70.0%). In addition, when looking at the percentage of total residential placements, females decreased slightly from 6.5% in 2013 to 2.5% in 2015.
- The number of probationers admitted to Commission residential community homes showed a decrease of 58.8% for White youth, a decrease of 28.8% for Hispanic youth and a decrease among Black youth of 16.8%. However, the percentage of total residential placements, including not commission operated facilities, comprised of Black youth increased from 72.9% in 2013 to 79.0% in 2015. The percentage of total residential placements comprised of Hispanic youth decreased slightly from 16.1% in 2013 to 15.1% in 2015.

Total commitments to State custody, i.e., to the Commission, decreased by 25.5% between 2013 and 2015.

- The number of males committed to the Commission decreased by 26.8%.

Female commitments decreased by 5.3%. The percentage of total commitments comprised of females increased from 6.1% in 2013 to 7.7% in 2015.

- Between 2013 and 2015, the number of commitments of White youth decreased by 3.4%, Black youth decreased by 32.7%, Hispanic youth decreased by 16.4%.

iv. Delinquent and Status Offenders (DSO) Admitted to Juvenile Detention Facilities *(Source: Commission Annual Compliance Monitoring Report, 2015; Commission Annual Detention Statistics Report, 2013 – 2015)*

Note: The available delinquent and status offender's data identifies Hispanic as a race and the race category of "Other" is not specified.

In 2015, there were no youth admitted to detention that constituted a DSO violation. In addition to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (JJDP) Act, New Jersey Law at N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-46(b), N.J.A.C. 13:94-2.2(b) and N.J.A.C. 13:92-5.2(b) prohibits the admission of a juvenile status offender or non-offender to a juvenile detention center.

Total overall detention admissions decreased by 25.3% between 2013 and 2015.

- The number of females admitted to detention decreased by 29.2%; male admissions decreased by 24.7%. The percentage of detention admissions comprised of females decreased, from 12.9% in 2013 to 12.2% in 2015 and the percentage of detention admissions comprised of males increased from 87.1% in 2013 to 87.8% in 2015.
 - The number of admissions to detention for each racial and ethnic group

decreased. The percentage change in the decrease of White youth was the largest at 45.0%, followed by Black youth at 22.8%, and Hispanic youth at 20.7%. Other youth had a decrease of 21.0% (from 57 to 45).

- In 2015, White youth represented 10.0% of the total number of youth admitted to detention and minorities represented 90.0% of total admissions. Black youth had the highest percentage, comprising 49% of all admissions.
- In 2015, when comparing referrals to court to detention admissions, 6% of White youth referred to court were admitted to detention, as compared to 35.1% of Black youth, 26.5% of Hispanic youth, and 30.6% of Other youth.

v. **Social, Economic, Legal, and Organizational Considerations** (*Source: Kids Count Data Center, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation; State of New Jersey Department of Education.*)

- The percentage of children living under the 100% poverty level in New Jersey increased from 296,000 in 2011 to 308,000 in 2015, indicative of a volume increase of 12,000 children.
- From 2011 - 2015, 9% of New Jersey's children lived in areas of concentrated poverty, with Black and Hispanic children making up 81% of this population.
- In 2015, 30% of New Jersey children lived in single parent families, a total of 575,000 children.

- Of the 4,594 children entering New Jersey's foster care system in 2015, approximately 63% were Black or Hispanic.
- New Jersey youth between the ages of 16 and 19 who were not in school and not working totaled 27,000 in 2015; Black and Hispanic youth comprised approximately 56% of this population.
- In the 2015-2016 school year, Black and Hispanic youth made up approximately 73% of New Jersey's high school dropouts. This is an increase compared to 71% in the 2011-2012 school year.

vi. Education/Justice Related (Source: Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement's School Justice Partnership Subcommittee pilot study in eight counties of school-based complaints filed with the Family Court; State of New Jersey Department of Education)

- School-based complaints were comprised of 71.2% males and 28.8% females.
- In terms of race/ethnicity, almost half of the school-based complaints were comprised of Black youth (48.1%), while just under one third was White youth (30.2%). Black youth are represented at a slightly higher proportion in the school-based complaints as compared to their representation in the total population of new complaints, while White youth represent a slightly lower proportion.

- The majority of incidents which took place in school and resulted in a formal referral to and charge by law enforcement were in high schools (66.4%), followed by middle schools (24.0%).
- The majority of youth were charged with only one offense (71.8%) and only a small percentage of youth were charged with three or more offenses (7.8%). The school-based data suggests that of those youth referred by school to law enforcement, only a very small percentage are referred for very serious offenses – 2.3% (23) 1st/2nd degree combined. In fact, for both school-based complaints and total new complaints filed, the majority of complaints are for very low-level, disorderly persons and petty disorderly persons offenses (DP/PDP).
- The New Jersey Department of Education releases an annual report on incidences of violence, vandalism, weapons, substances, and harassment, intimidation and bullying. All of these incidences decreased except violence, which includes assaults, criminal threats, extortion, fights, threats, kidnapping, robberies and sex offenses, which increased from 7,895 in 2012-2013 to 8,261 in 2015-2016.

b. Goals and Objectives

Below are the goals and objectives, the JJDP Committee has identified as a priority in ranking order.

1. Juvenile Justice System Improvement – Program Area #27

- **Career Paths:**

Goal - To develop a strategy that encourages Juvenile Justice Stakeholders (e.g. law enforcement, school resource officers, prosecutors, probation staff, court officials, and school administrators) to establish comprehensive professional standards, including specialized education and training, and to promote juvenile justice assignments as a distinct career path.

Objective – Support the development and implementation of a Program in Juvenile Justice and Youth Development. Develop an interdisciplinary minor to undergraduate students and opportunities for continuing professional education to students and employees in the field. The undergraduate minor will build the foundation for the anticipated interdisciplinary major in Juvenile Justice and Youth Development at Rutgers University. Academic offerings will involve coursework and field practica in psychology, social work, education, and criminal justice. This comprehensive Program in Juvenile Justice and Youth Development will draw together critical resources within the University in collaboration across Rutgers campuses and with other partners, academic units and institutes.

This will be accomplished through the Advisory Council, a collaboration among the Commission, the Rutgers-Newark Center on Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice, Rutgers University Office of Continuing Professional Education, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and expert stakeholders around the State, in the development and implementation of a minor and eventually a major in Juvenile Justice and Youth Development, as well as new professional training seminars and a certificate program in Juvenile Justice and Youth Development.

- **Youth Leadership and Career Development Forums:**

Goal - To educate court involved and at-risk youth on educational and post high school career opportunities.

Objective – Hold up to four youth forums for approximately 150 court involved and at-risk youth to increase their knowledge and awareness of post high school educational and employment opportunities.

This will be accomplished by releasing an RFP to contract with Community/ County Colleges to provide regional youth forums.

2. Aftercare/Reentry – Program Area #1

Goal - To reduce recidivism rates for youth following release from a Commission facility on parole status.

Objectives - Fund up to two regional programs that will provide direct services to youth who are returning to their communities from the Commission and are under the supervision of parole. Services will include assistance in education, employment, family partnership, and sustainable living. In addition, services include referring youth or family to additional services needed.

This will be accomplished by continuing to fund the agency awarded to operate the two regional programs.

3. Disproportionate Minority Contact- Program Area #21

Goal – To reduce DMC and racial/ethnic disparities in the Juvenile Justice System.

Objectives – To support and implement a Juvenile Justice Training Curriculum for law enforcement personnel. The training will be focused on juvenile specific issues relevant to police and law enforcement professionals. The curriculum and training will include an education component intended to identify strategies to successfully support practices of de-escalation and other alternatives to suspension, expulsion and arrests in schools.

This will be accomplished by funding an agency to develop a curriculum to be piloted in four sites.

4. Gender-Specific Services – Program Area #23

Goal -To provide young women with opportunities to grow, develop a positive self-image, develop skills, and connect with community resources to meet their needs and help achieve their goals.

Objectives –Convene an ad-hoc Gender Specific Services Subcommittee comprised of key stakeholders at the State and local level. The subcommittee will identify and address key issues facing young women, including: physical and mental health; legal issues and advocacy; prevention; intervention; training; and rehabilitation and reentry.

This will be accomplished by working with the ad-hoc Gender Specific Services Subcommittee to implement programming that addresses key issues facing young women today.

5. Compliance Monitoring – Program Area #19

Goal - To ensure compliance with the JJDP Act's core requirements of Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Separation of Juveniles from Adult Offenders, and Jail and Lockup Removal in facilities that may hold juveniles.

Objective - Fund a Compliance Monitor position to conduct between 185 - 200 on-site visits annually to secure facilities, collect biannual surveys from 533 municipal lock-ups, and develop the annual Compliance Monitoring Report.

This will be accomplished by continuing to fund the Compliance Monitor position to carry out these monitoring responsibilities.

6. Delinquency Prevention – Program Area # 6

Goal - To provide positive youth development activities to at-risk youth.

Objectives – Fund multiple programs that will provide positive youth development activities to at-risk youth. Programs should be designed to ensure that young people have access to adequate positive opportunities.

This will be accomplished by releasing a Notice of Availability Funds (NOAF) to provide at-risk youth positive youth developmental activities during the time when youth are not in school.

7. School Programs- Program Area #17

Goal – Improve law enforcement and youth interaction while promoting public safety, preventing avoidable conflicts and arrests, and reducing the need for use of force by police officers.

Objectives- Fund opportunities for youth and law enforcement to interact effectively thus providing opportunities to foster mutual respect.

This will be accomplished by working with the Council on Juvenile Justice and System Improvement's School Justice Partnership Subcommittee to identify strategies to address the school to prison pipeline.

c. Implementation (activities and services)

Below are the implementation activities and services for the areas the JJDP Committee has identified as a priority.

1. Juvenile Justice System Improvement Activities and Services:

- **Career Paths:**

The JJDP Committee and Commission released a Notice of Available Funds (NOAF) to support the development of a “school of juvenile justice and youth development” or similar center, institute, or program within an institution of higher-education in the State of New Jersey. Rutgers University was selected to develop the program. This award is for a three-year project period (December 2016 – November 2019) and is funded through Title II FY 2015, 2016, and 2017 funds. The program includes interdisciplinary undergraduate coursework leading to a minor and eventually a major in Juvenile Justice and Youth Development, as well as new professional training seminars and a certificate program in Juvenile Justice and Youth Development. Academic offerings will involve coursework and field practica in psychology, social work, education, and criminal justice. This comprehensive program in Juvenile Justice and Youth Development will draw together critical resources within the University in collaboration across Rutgers campuses and with other partners, academic units and institutes.

An Advisory Council will meet quarterly to provide advice, discussion, and broad oversight to the program in Juvenile Justice and Youth Development. Professional Development and Undergraduate Subcommittees will meet regularly to discuss the development and implementation for each component of the program.

- **Youth Leadership and Career Development Forums:**

Understanding there is a disconnect between court involved and at-risk youth with respect to educational and post high school career opportunities, the Commission in conjunction with the JJDP Committee will release a NOAF to contract with Community/County Colleges to provide up to four regional (2) North, (1) Central, and (1) South youth forums.

The purpose of the Jean Krauss Youth Leadership and Career Development Forums are to increase the knowledge and awareness of post high school educational and employment opportunities in the State for court involved and at-risk youth. The recipient of this contract will develop the conference agenda, content, and written materials with and under the guidance of the JJDP Committee and Commission staff. The JJDP Committee and staff will collaborate with the provider to organize forums that serve to: 1) Educate youth regarding the process of becoming a leader to increase self-efficacy and the development of skills relevant to success in adulthood, such as decision-making, building self-advocacy, and self-determination skills., 2) Educate youth regarding the opportunities to attend local community, county and/ or four-year colleges (enrollment, finance, course selection, etc)., 3) Educate youth regarding the opportunities to attend public county vocational/technical school (evening programs, enrollment, finance, course selection, etc),

4) Educate youth regarding the opportunities to attend private vocational/technical school (enrollment, finance, course selection, etc.), 5) Educate youth regarding local unions of industrial trades (e.g., carpenters, sheet metal workers, electricians, ironworkers, etc.) and eligibility requirements for apprenticeship programs., 6) Work collaboratively with vocational/technical schools, regional unions of industry trades, and temporary employment agencies to participate by providing information on a variety of academic programs and technical certifications and career options within the region the applicant will be serving , and 7) Provide the forum on a college campus.

2. Aftercare/Reentry Activities and Services:

The Commission will continue to work collaboratively with the agency funded to provide regional reentry services to youth released from a Commission facility on parole status. The agency is required to work with youth prior to release from a Commission facility to assist with the transition of the youth back to their home community. The provider educates youth and families about available resources for needed services, and assists youth with accessing career opportunities, post-secondary education, vocational education, and life skills development. A committee was formed with members from the funded agency, staff from the Commission's JJDP/Grants Unit and Offices of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services, Community Programs, and Secure Care. The purpose of the committee is to work collaboratively with the agency to ensure the program is being implemented as funded, address any concerns regarding the provision of services, discuss youth as needed, and provide overall project management and oversight.

3. Disproportionate Minority Contact Activities and Services:

A review of the required training for law enforcement personnel has revealed minimal focus on racial and ethnic disparities and cultural diversity. As such, the JJDP Committee will address DMC by investing in the professional development and training of law enforcement. This priority meets JJDP Act requirements by using funds to ensure that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably based on gender, race, family income, and disability. The JJDP Committee and the Commission, through collaboration with a leadership team of State and county stakeholders, are seeking to contract with an agency or entity to develop and support the implementation of a Law Enforcement Training Curriculum. The curriculum, to be piloted in four sites, will be focused on juvenile specific issues relevant to police and law enforcement professionals. Topics will include but are not limited to: recognizing the characteristics of youth that inform their responses to law enforcement, information on adolescent development and youth culture to better assist in interpreting youth behavior and responses, and current trends in adolescent behavior and paths to juvenile justice and communication strategies for de-escalating crisis situations and improving decision making skills. As the goal is to reduce disproportionate minority contact, it is critical that training not be simply developed and taught, but rather a curriculum be implemented and reinforced over time to effect change. The implementation of this training would involve the local Police Academies.

Additionally, through an already established relationship with the CJJSI's School Justice Partnership and Racial Disparities & DMC subcommittees, the JJDP Committee will discuss how to identify successful strategies for developing positive and strongly

collaborative relationships among school resource officers, administrators, and principals so as to successfully support practices of de-escalation and other alternatives to suspension, expulsion, and arrest in schools which may contribute to DMC.

Gender Specific Activities and Services:

The JJDP Committee will convene an ad-hoc Gender Specific Services Subcommittee comprised of key stakeholders at the State and local level. The subcommittee will identify and address key issues facing young women, including: physical and mental health; legislation and advocacy; prevention; intervention; training; and rehabilitation and reentry. The Committee will also focus on girls' victimization and the ways in which it perpetuates girls' continued punishment, such as in human trafficking and prostitution offenses. This focus coincides with the My Life My Choice training and curriculum which will be provided in Commission secure and residential female facilities through other funding sources.

It is important to focus on victimization because young women involved with the child welfare system or the juvenile justice system, who are homeless, or who have run away, have a higher risk of being exposed to violence, victimization and trafficking. Human trafficking victims, including children under 18, frequently first encounter authorities when they are arrested and prosecuted for prostitution and other related crimes. Criminal arrests are traumatic experiences that can reinforce fear and distrust of police and authorities which is instilled by traffickers. Further, criminal convictions make it more difficult specifically for trafficking victims to obtain safe housing, education and legal

employment. Those convictions can continue to haunt these victims even after they have escaped their traffickers and abusers.

Compliance Monitoring Activities and Services:

The Compliance Monitor will be responsible for collecting biannual surveys from 533 municipal lockups to collect data on potential violations, conducting between 185 - 200 on-site visits annually to secure facilities that may hold juveniles, and submitting an annual Monitoring Report to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention that is used to determine New Jersey's compliance with the first three core requirements of the JJDP Act. The Compliance Monitor will be responsible for maintaining files and records related to all compliance activities; providing technical assistance to facility staff on an as-needed basis; training others, primarily facility staff, on compliance issues; developing and maintaining educational materials, forms, record-keeping systems, and correspondence relating to compliance; and preparing reports for the JJDP Committee and attending JJDP Committee meetings as needed to apprise the Committee on pertinent compliance issues.

Delinquency Prevention

The JJDP Committee will fund and support the implementation of programming for youth. Positive home life, school, and employment, summer programs are one of the many building blocks that provide positive youth development. Furthermore, at-risk youth who are provided opportunities for positive encounters engage in less risky behavior and

ultimately show evidence of higher rates of successful transitions into adulthood. Summer programs are one venue to ensure that young people have access to adequate positive opportunities. The available evidence suggests that summer programs can prevent a variety of negative behaviors among youth and improve social and emotional outcomes. The purpose of this initiative is to provide at-risk youth positive youth developmental activities during the time when youth are not in school.

School Programs

The JJDP Committee seeks to expand the goals and objectives of the Law Enforcement Training Curriculum development to educate and provide opportunities for youth to interact with law enforcement. Through collaboration with the Council on Juvenile Justice and System Improvement's School Justice Partnership, the Committee will support efforts to improve the relationship between youth and law enforcement through dialogue, training sessions for parents, youth, and law enforcement personnel. The goal of these efforts is to improve relationships and interactions while promoting public safety, preventing avoidable conflicts and arrests, and reducing the need for use of force by police officers.

Additional Population Specific Plans

The Title II Formula Grant Program solicitation ask states to describe specific services regarding gender (see above), services in rural areas, and mental health services to youth in the juvenile justice system. Below describes the work New Jersey is doing, that does not rely on Title II funding,

Treatment of Delinquency in Rural Areas

In New Jersey, rural communities are dispersed throughout each of the counties. The County Youth Services Commission's (CYSC's), located in each of the counties, offer the best opportunity to address the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of youth delinquency in rural areas. Each CYSC receives funding to address the needs of at-risk youth or youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. Rural counties use these funds to address gaps in services. This may include, but is not limited to, the provision of transportation, expanding existing programs to include additional slots for this population, or entering into a service agreement with an organization to provide a specific service to youth on an as needed basis.

Mental Health Services for Youth

The Department of Children and Families' Children's System of Care (CSOC) serves children, youth, and young adults with emotional and/or behavioral healthcare challenges, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and/or those in need of addiction services. CSOC provides support to youth with behavioral health challenges who are both in the community and involved with child protective services. CSOC serves children with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families and providing coordinated access to substance abuse treatment for certain youth (ages 13-17). Children and families access the CSOC continuum through its Contracted Systems Administrator, Perform Care New Jersey. Perform Care provides a family-centered, community-focused single point of entry for New Jersey's eligible children to obtain available behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, and developmental disability services. DCF's CSOC utilizes Perform

Care to provide 24/7 telephonic access for families to obtain these services and coordinate care for over 50,000 of New Jersey's children per year.

Perform Care authorizes and coordinates services for eligible children, youth, and young adults based on the most recent clinical information that is submitted to them and/or a needs assessment conducted by a Perform Care clinician. Services provided by CSOC and coordinated through Perform Care include developmental and intellectual disability eligibility determinations, developmental disabilities family support services, group home placements, camp, respite services, Family Functional Therapy, mobile response, Multisystem Therapy, intensive in-community services, and substance abuse treatment for children ages 13-17.

In addition, New Jersey's Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement's Access to Treatment Subcommittee seeks to fulfill the promise of rehabilitation, central to juvenile justice, by identifying and eliminating the barriers which have historically challenged equal access to services. The Subcommittee relies on data to examine and describe the various ways that treatment is currently accessed within the juvenile justice system (JJS) and through the JJS via other service agencies, the prevalence of "low risk/high need" youth in the system, how and why these youth enter and remain in the juvenile justice system, and the unintended consequences of current policy and practice regarding accessing treatment through the JJS. The Subcommittee's recommendations are designed to help ensure that, where appropriate, child welfare, behavioral health, and other treatment needs can be addressed separate and apart from the delinquency matters; facilitate the ability to obtain the appropriate services for each child in a timely manner;

and ensure the likelihood that children who access an appropriate program are given a fair opportunity to complete such program.

The Subcommittee developed and distributed an Evaluation and Assessment Reference Guide which describes the various types of assessment and evaluation tools that are available as well as the purpose/types of cases where each would be useful. Stakeholders across the State were trained on the guide and the guide is revisited frequently to make any needed modifications.

The Subcommittee recommended using a data-driven process to identify the impact, if any, that the process of accessing out-of-home treatment has on case processing timelines for youth in detention. A pilot was launched whereby Care Management Organization (CMO) caseworkers tracked data for the process leading to out-of-home treatment for youth in detention in six New Jersey counties. The results of data collection and pilot program led to formal recommendations by the Subcommittee for consideration on a broader, state level as follows;

1. Children's System of Care (CSOC)/CMO trainings and communication of out-of-home treatment guidelines for court to help navigate the nuanced processes involved when distinguishing the judicial process for a youth's behavioral needs from the treatment process for youth's clinical needs.
2. Empowering eligible requestors (Judge, Detention, Defense Attorney) to request **Bio** Psycho Social (BPS) evaluations for youth in detention not yet attached to the CMO presenting with behavioral/mental health needs which, for youth in detention, can be

completed within 5-days. If CMO subsequently becomes involved, the pre-existing bio-psycho-social (BPS) evaluations will expedite the out-of-home treatment process once the child family team determines out-of-home treatment is needed.

3. Work with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to update outdated protocols, and the updates should clarify the ability to immediately order a 14-day plan, at any point in the court process, for youth presenting with indicators of behavioral/mental health needs.
4. Update the Subcommittee's Evaluation and Assessment Reference Guide to reflect these recommendations and support the clarification and use across the State.

Consultation and Participation of Units of Local Government

In New Jersey there are several collaborative relationships and initiatives among the JJDP Committee, the Commission, other State agencies, local governments and stakeholders. County Youth Services Commissions (CYSC's) are a legislatively established planning body within each county charged with planning and implementing programs for at-risk youth or youth already involved with the juvenile justice system. Funding provided by the Commission to the counties, such as State Community Partnership, Family Court, and Innovations funding is utilized to support programs/services at all points of the juvenile justice continuum (Prevention, Diversion, Detention, Disposition, and Reentry). CYSC's meet on a bi-monthly basis and these meetings allow county representatives to provide feedback, input and guidance on juvenile justice matters affecting their jurisdictions, which is incorporated into the State plan. The statewide Association of CYSC's also has a member serve as a liaison for the JJDP

Committee to provide and share information. In addition, the JJ Specialist attends the CYSC's meetings to share information and get feedback.

Representatives from several State and local agencies or bodies attend JJDP Committee meetings to provide updates regarding the implementation of programs, services, and initiatives that benefit youth in the juvenile justice system. For example, in addition to representatives from the Statewide Association of County Youth Services Commissions, the Office of the Public Defender, the Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement, the Department of Workforce and Labor, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Education, regularly participate in the JJDP Committee meetings.

The JJDP Committee has prioritized reentry to support local communities to which system involved youth live and return. Reentry success is best achieved when services and supervision are provided simultaneously within the jurisdictions where youth and families reside. The achievement of this endeavor is enhanced when collaborations and partnerships are developed with community-based providers of services needed to support and sustain successful home and community reintegration. The Commission's Juvenile Parole and Transition Services staff collaborates with local community-based providers or entities, prior to a youth's release from a Commission facility, to ensure identified services needed are in place. This could include counseling services, employment opportunities, mentoring services, educational services, etc. Staff members work collaboratively with counties' reentry Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT), a team of key stakeholders in place to discuss services needed. This team identifies potential linkages for youth transitioning back to their communities from a Commission facility. On the policy level, collaborations and

partnerships are needed to identify and develop solutions to resolve barriers that undermine successful reentry. Specifically, the Commission uses information obtained through discussion and experiences with these partnerships to identify gaps in services and pursue policy and practice changes that fill those gaps at the agency, State and local level.

Another initiative that entails working collaboratively at the State and local level is the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). There are currently 20 active JDAI sites in New Jersey. The State body that oversees the implementation of JDAI is the New Jersey Council on Juvenile Justice and System Improvement (NJCJJSI). The role of the NJCJJSI is to use and institutionalize the core strategies of JDAI to examine juvenile justice in New Jersey systemically and to promote strategies that improve outcomes. Members include key juvenile justice agencies, government entities, nonprofits, and community partners from the juvenile justice and other youth serving systems. NJCJJSI oversees JDAI and considers Statewide policy and practice reforms. At the local level, County Councils on Juvenile Justice System Improvement are directly responsible for implementing local reform strategies. Several members of the JJDP Committee are also members of State and Local CJJSI's.

JDAI in New Jersey has earned the support of government at both the State and local level and exemplifies the best of interagency and intergovernmental collaboration. At the State level, the Commission is the lead agency for JDAI, providing the management and staffing infrastructure integral to New Jersey's success as a JDAI site. The New Jersey Judiciary is a critical partner in this work, and the Attorney General's Office and Office of the Public Defender have been instrumental in developing and supporting JDAI. Through

JDAI, ongoing efforts and successes have been implemented at the local level in the areas of effective detention alternatives, school and justice partnerships and engaging communities. A few examples of recent collaborative efforts through JDAI follow.

Burlington County- As part of the Family Engagement Program, two part-time staff were hired to engage with families at the courthouse. This allowed the main Family Advocate to be able to attend school meetings with families to advocate for appropriate evaluations and support needed for youth to be successful academically.

Monmouth County- School-based complaint data reviewed by the Education Subcommittee revealed a high percentage of youth were being referred to law enforcement, and in turn to court, for property, theft, and trespass type offenses of the 4th degree or less. Under the leadership of the Prosecutor's Office, to reduce the number of complaints filed for these minor offenses, schools are being educated that these charges represent discretionary referrals in the Education/Law Enforcement Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and are encouraged to consider in-house interventions in lieu of a complaint. For complaints that are filed, the Monmouth County Juvenile Prosecutor is supporting the use of diversion to Juvenile Conference Committee/Intake Services Conference. The local Education Subcommittee surveyed Monmouth County school districts to better understand resources in each district directed towards creating a positive school climate, school reentry for youth in confinement, and interventions/diversions employed in lieu of suspension or referral to law enforcement for minor delinquency behaviors. The results of this survey are

helping to inform the goals and action steps of the subcommittee's work and future data collection/analysis.

Ocean County- Implemented a school-based diversion program pilot in Toms River East Alternative School, providing anger management workshops to address minor instances of delinquency behaviors in lieu of a suspension or referral to law enforcement. To increase collaboration and strengthen partnerships with education stakeholders, the local CJJSI approved the creation of an Education Partnership Subcommittee, including multiple District Superintendent representatives – to better analyze school-based complaint data and hold discussions on cross-system issues aimed to inform local practices and policies.

Warren County- The Education Subcommittee surveyed middle school and high school teachers to solicit feedback on the type of classroom behavioral management training they would like to receive. Feedback suggested professional development training was needed around strategies and solutions to de-escalate situations in the classroom. A two-day training was provided to teachers on this topic.

The CJJSI is currently examining several school related concerns including the School to Prison Pipeline and the length of time it takes for youth to return to school following a Commission placement. Additionally, the Commission provides State funds to all 21 counties to address all points of the juvenile justice system continuum, including prevention. Using these funds, many counties have developed and implemented school-based prevention programs.

Collecting and sharing juvenile justice information

1. State agencies generally gather data in a method and format that best serves the needs of that individual agency. Data that would typically be sought by other interested parties are often available at the State agency's website. Data are also generally available upon request. The Commission currently accesses much of the data via agencies' websites and the Administration Office of the Court's Citrix System. All of these avenues for accessing data and information have been incorporated in the JJDP Committee's Three-Year Plan and Annual Plan updates, through the development of a data worksheet that is used to identify priorities.

The Commission makes available aggregate demographic data and statistics on youth residing in Commission programs and facilities. This information, found on the Commission website, is updated weekly. Also found on the Commission website are reports and aggregate data about detention, JDAI, recidivism, and PREA. In addition, aggregate data not available on the Commission website can also be made available upon a written request.

Further, the JJDP Committee and the New Jersey Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement (CJJSI) provide funding to Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) to host public forums to increase knowledge and awareness about key juvenile justice issues among system stakeholders. The forums seek to discuss New Jersey juvenile justice reforms that have proven to be a success in preventing juveniles from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. The forums are also an opportunity for leaders in the juvenile justice and related fields, locally and nationally, to discuss and think through

best practices for juveniles who are involved in the system. The JJDP Committee understands the importance of dialogue and increased knowledge, so the forums are free.

2. Barriers to sharing information include issues surrounding the confidentiality of youth and families who are involved in the various child-serving systems. Requests for confidential data can always be made through the appropriate authority for consideration.

D. Formula Grants Program Staff

As described in the FFY2018 Title II Solicitation requires states to provide an organizational chart and describe the staffing for the implementation of the formula grant program. This information is provided in Attachment 2, Commission Staff Grid and Attachment 3, Commission Organizational Chart.

Plans for Compliance

The solicitation requires in Appendix G of the FFY 2018 Title II Formula Grants Program solicitation, New Jersey's compliance and DMC plans, RRI data, and supporting documentation for the period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017 were submitted via OJJDP's web-based compliance reporting tool. The Commission submitted this on May 2, 2018.

Additional Requirements

As described in the FFY2018 Title II Formula Grants Program solicitation, New Jersey's compliance with the JJDP act formula grants program can be found in appendix I.

Plans for Collecting the Performance Measures Data

The JJDP Committee and the Commission understands the requirements and value of performance measures as a tool utilized for the thorough review and analysis of data to determine and initiate internal improvements. In order to meet the federal standards of the Title II program, the Commission will measure performance using the mandatory output and outcome measures identified in the program areas funded. Programs/projects funded will be required to submit quarterly data via narrative reports on the performance measures their program/project will address.

Budget and Associated Documentation

The budget (1) is complete, allowable, and cost-effective in relation to the proposed activities; (2) shows the cost calculations demonstrating how we arrived at the total amount requested; and (3) provides a brief supporting narrative to link costs with project activities. The budget covers the entire 4-year budget period. The Budget Detail Worksheet is attachment 4.

Planning and administration funds and match requirement

New Jersey intends to allocate 10% of the Formula Grant for planning and administration. The amount will be matched dollar for dollar by the State through its State match account. These funds will primarily be used to cover salaries, travel, supplies, and indirect cost.

JJDP Committee (SAG) Allocation

New Jersey's JJDP Committee intends to allocate the 5% minimum of \$20,000 towards allocations to assist the JJDP Committee.