

**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 State Relations and Assistance Division
 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Call
 April 8, 2020**

Welcome and Roll Call

Katie Penkoff, Senior TA Consultant, Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS)

I'd like to thank everyone for joining the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, State Relations and Assistance Division RED call. We will begin with roll call and ask each state or territory to please let us know if they are present. Before we conduct roll call as reminder, when you are not speaking, please mute your line to help us ensure call quality. Also, once today's agenda begins, we will have content presented by both the State Relations and Assistance Division as well as the Center for Coordinated Assistance to State. During these presentation segments we will mute all lines.

In between each segment we will unmute the lines and have dedicated question and answer period. We will also wait on the line at the end of the call to capture any state or territory we may have missed during roll call. So I'd like to start first by doing roll call with OJJDP to see who we may have present. If you're just joining us, please mute your lines when you're not speaking.

Organization/State	Attendee Name
OJJDP	TeNeane Bradford
	Julie Herr
	Tina Borner
	Ricco Hall
	Ashley Washington
	Didier Moncion
	Nicole McCrae
	Alyssa Malcomson
	Marisa Harris
	Vicky Taylor
	Brittaney Ford
	Keith Towery
CCAS	Lisa Hutchinson
	Okori Christopher
	Katie Penkoff
	Cassy Blakely
	Kia Jackson
	Kenya Roy

State	In Attendance/Mark with X
1. Alabama	
2. Alaska	X 2
3. American Samoa	
4. Arizona	X 1
5. Arkansas	X 1
6. California	X 1
7. Colorado	X 1
8. Connecticut	
9. Delaware	
10. District of Columbia	X 1
11. Florida	
12. Georgia	X 1
13. Guam	
14. Hawaii	X 1
15. Idaho	X 1
16. Illinois	X 1
17. Indiana	X 1
18. Iowa	
19. Kansas	X 1
20. Kentucky	X 1
21. Louisiana	
22. Maine	X 2
23. Maryland	
24. Massachusetts	X 1
25. Michigan	X 1
26. Minnesota	
27. Mississippi	X 1
28. Missouri	X 1
29. Montana	X 1
30. Nebraska	
31. Nevada	
32. New Hampshire	X 1
33. New Jersey	X 3
34. New Mexico	X 2
35. New York	X 2
36. North Carolina	X 1
37. North Dakota	
38. Northern Marianas Islands	
39. Ohio	X 1

State	In Attendance/Mark with X
40. Oklahoma	X 1
41. Oregon	X 2
42. Pennsylvania	X 2
43. Puerto Rico	
44. Rhode Island	
45. South Carolina	X 1
46. South Dakota	
47. Tennessee	X 1
48. Texas	
49. Utah	X 1
50. Vermont	X 1
51. Virgin Islands	
52. Virginia	X 1
53. Washington	X 1
54. West Virginia	
55. Wisconsin	X 2
56. Wyoming	X 2

SRAD Introductions

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, Associate Administrator, OJJDP, SRAD

Good afternoon. Thank you so much. Afternoon, everyone. I'm glad to know that you guys were able to chime in given this unprecedented crisis that we're dealing with. And we want to make sure you know that we are aware that you're dealing with it and we're responding to concerns about lots of different things. I know this is the RED Call, but I heard Compliance Monitors on the call, JJ Specialists on the call, just know that we're working on trying to be responsive to your needs around that.

We have requested that we get some clear affirmative direction about being able to wave, extend, be responsive to state specific concerns. We also are getting some talking points to staff to be responsive to some of the questions that you have. And we are working to try to set up a webinar to engage all of you in a discussion about kind of what your current challenges are, or potential concerns will be, as most of the country is really shut down and essential is defined very differently, civil services is defined very differently and each state and territory participating in the Act.

So we're being very thoughtful about that, and we're going to quickly get you some information out and certainly reach out to your program managers to answer any questions you may have, that you do have. But know that we are just kind of in on a federal level in some ways in unprecedented way here as well and we want to ensure that we are recommending to Congress and all those decision makers ways that we could be helpful to you and less burdensome in response to requirements that you just simply may not be able to get to as a result of COVID-19.

So I just wanted to open up and be affirming in that and let you know that we are thinking about it, having discussions and are prepared to try to answer some of your questions and as I get permission to share more details, I will do that. And in the meantime, we're going to work on setting up a special webinar in the next week or so to make sure that we hear from you, you have opportunities to discuss things with each other. CCAS is just waiting on us to give the green light to make that happen and I think Keisha has already, if she has not already, and Nicole will start having discussions with them about what that will look like as well as what the agenda items will be.

So just my personal prayers and thoughts and well wishes to all of you. I think about my staff as well as you guys who are committed to doing this work in the field and it's no small feat to continue to do this while you're thinking about making sure that you take care of yourselves and your family. So we will continue to do that. We're very thoughtful about that and our thoughts and our prayers are with you. On a lighter note, we are still onboarding staff and you've got new staff. I'm not sure if the RED Coordinators were on the last call that we had with JJ Specialists.

I want to give an opportunity for the newer staff to introduce themselves. So far we have had Alyssa Malcomson join us. So if many of you may have already been dialoguing with her if you play multiple or have multiple roles in your state operating and managing the formula awards. And then we have Nicole McCrae who joined shortly thereafter. And those of you may remember either in his capacity at JJ or in his capacity working for DC, Keith Towery, who just rejoined OJJDP, and I am so lucky to have him in SRAD to support this work and other amazing projects that we'll have and help him having assistance with helping us with.

So you guys Alyssa, if you don't mind, just a brief introduction. Nicole following, then Keith that would be great. And then when they're done, Tina I'm going pass the baton on to you.

Alyssa Malcomson, State Program Manager, OJJDP, SRAD

I'm sorry TeNeane, this Alyssa can you repeat that? You cut out for a second.

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP, SRAD

Yep. Just a brief description of who you are, your background. So that everybody on the call knows who you are.

Alyssa Malcomson, OJJDP, SRAD

Of course. Hey guys-

Barb:

Hello. This is Barb.

Alyssa Malcomson, OJJDP, SRAD

You're breaking up, Barb.

Barb:

Are you there? Hello.

Katie Penkoff, CCAS

Hi, this is the OJJDP RED Call with states. And currently we're asking that all participants on the call have their lines muted and Okori is also working on that piece too. So OJJDP and the State Relations and Assistance Division will be presenting content and in between each segment, we will unmute lines and have question and answer sessions. And again, at the end of today's call we will catch anyone we didn't catch during roll call. Thanks so much.

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, Associate Administrator, OJJDP, SRAD

Go ahead Alyssa.

Alyssa Malcomson, OJJDP, SRAD

Thanks, TeNeane. Hi everyone, My name's Alyssa Malcomson and I actually have been transferred from the FDA. Prior at FDA I handled the investigational new drugs and investigational device exemptions. Prior to that I was with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration where I worked on in the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment on a variety of different types of grants including a bunch of criminal justice grants such as offender reentry program, tribal courts, juvenile courts and family courts, and adult treatment drug courts. I handled grants management over there as well as data and evaluation and I am excited to be with the Department of Justice and OJJDP.

Nicole McCrae, State Program Manager, OJJDP, SRAD

Hi everyone, this is Nicole McCrae. I am excited to be with SRAD Team as well. I am coming from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, which is the COPS Office where we focused on providing funding to law enforcement specifically for the hiring of law enforcement officers. And I am coming with a wealth of grant management experience, worked for almost eight or nine years. So I'm excited to be a part of the team and to provide any assistance to you all that I can. Thank you so much.

Keith Towery, State Program Manager, OJJDP, SRAD

Hey everyone. My name is Keith Towery. Call me Keith. I'm coming recently from the District of Columbia serving as their RED Coordinator as well as their Compliance Monitor. Prior to that, I was here at OJJDP in our Innovation and Research Division serving as a secondary analysis grant reviewer and as well as working on grant management principles. And before that I did a lot of small little companies where we did a lot of research regarding juvenile justice issues and in Los Angeles I was in the probation department, worked in the jails and served as a probation officer. I'm very excited to be back. Shout out to Melissa, DC!

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, Associate Administrator, OJJDP, SRAD

Thanks so much to the new staff. We've got an incredible team. I'm so excited to have them on board. We are thinking about ways to really improve our work and we'll continue to report those things out in the various venues and opportunities to engage you and be supportive of you. One more thing Tina, I just took some time back, my apologies. We are still working on getting decisions made so around determinations and again, just like COVID has impacted you guys, we're definitely dealing with those impacts here.

Your program managers are prepared to answer questions about eligibility or whether your application is complete or incomplete. And we are certainly processing and responding to requests about concerns

around your submissions for Category 2. So if you have additional ones, again, I'm not going to spend this and labor this call with all the details around that, but I do know that those are concerns and I want to make sure that I address them as well. And your program managers have talking points and things that they could point you to or at least escalate your concerns up to me. Thanks so much. Tina, it's all on you now. Thank you.

Category 2 – RED Plan Reminders

Tina Borner, State Program Manager, OJJDP, SRAD

All right, well hello everybody. Again, thank you so much for being available for this call. I'm sure like everybody, like us here at the federal government, we are staying in place, staying at home, hopefully staying safe. So I appreciate your ability to call in and get this information. This call is really just going to be about some RED Plan reminders. The submission for Category 2 is still Monday, April 13th at 8:00 PM Eastern Time. And so unless you have an extension, the due date is Monday, April 13th.

But I wanted to go through and provide a little bit of some reminders and answer any questions that somebody might have on the RED Plans because this is the first year that we are actually doing phase one, two and three and I want to make sure that everybody has the information that they need in order to complete those sections. Some of the things... We had a webinar back in February regarding writing a RED Plan, writing an effective plan, the data, the population, data table. All that information was provided as assistance in order to help you get through providing the information that is necessary for the plans.

Some of the things I want to make sure that you are aware of is that the answers don't have to be big, voluminous type of answers. Very small, fact-based, very direct answers. Nothing too large. Just answer the question directly and concisely as much as possible and that is all that we are asking for you to do. I did have a look at some of the plans, I did a brief review of some of the plans that have already been submitted into the CMT system.

Oh, and let me just say this as well. So on the deadline of Monday, April 13th, the RED, the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Plans will be submitted in the Compliance Monitoring Tool, not in GMS, in the CM Tool where you do the other compliance data and information will be submitted as well. But when I went in there and I just did a brief view of some of the RED Plans that I saw in there and I felt that there's a need to remind people, remind states about requirements of the RED Plan.

So one of the requirements or one of the new reminders is that the five phase DMC reduction model is not sufficient to answer the question. It is not something that we follow anymore, we don't follow the five phase reduction model. If that is something that as a state you still want to follow and use at your state level, that's fine, but don't submit that information to us because that is not something that we follow anymore. We would just like you to answer the basic questions that are within the phases, developing a plan, phases two and three of the compliance form that was in the solicitation.

The other thing I would like to put out there is again, RRI data will not be accepted as data submission. So if you were not saying that you, again as a state, if you want to continue to use the RRI, you can, but that will be an internal document for you the state. The only data that we will accept as a part of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Plan are population-based data. And the Excel data sheets that were sent

out are a really good guide and really good, it's calibrated where you're able to put just some basic data in there and it'll do the calculations for you.

So it's a really good tool in order to use. But I did see a couple of plans in the CMT where RRI data was used and discussed as a part of answering the questions and just know that those documents will be change requests back to you because that is not something that we will be accepting anymore. And like I said, again, states are required to report population percentages not based on what the RRI says.

And so as I look at the [compliance form that was in the solicitation under phase two](#), you will see where it says, what the response should reflect or what it should say as you are looking at the question. So like question one and phase two, in developing an action plan, the question says, what do RED numbers tell you about your jurisdiction? And so what we at OJJDP will be looking at is a response that should reflect an analysis of the state's data. And again, that's population data not RRI data.

And so all of those questions have information associated with it that tells you this is what kind of response we're looking for when we are developing or when you are developing your plan. Please be sure to remember that there are six questions under both phase two and three. And so when you submit your plan, make sure that all six questions are evaluated and answered and submitted.

Under phase three, we are in the process right now of getting those compliance indicators developed and signed off on by the Administrator. And so those will be coming soon. So you will have a chance to if it doesn't meet where our compliance indicator says, we will be coming back to you with the change requests and be dialoguing with you to have a conversation in order to help answer some of the questions as we move forward. So TeNeane, can you think of anything else reminder wise?

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, Associate Administrator, OJJDP, SRAD

No, I think you covered it. Just know that we're in this with you. We want to help you get it right. So other than that, as we learn more, we will share more. But I think you got the basics.

Tina Borner, State Program Manager, OJJDP, SRAD

So Katie or Okori, if you want to open up the lines for questions.

Questions from the States

Katie Penkoff, CCAS - Okay, great. Thanks so much. Okori? The lines are now unmuted so if anyone has any questions for Tina, please share them at this time.

Melinda Fandel, MI - This is Melinda from Michigan and I am curious, are we allowed to email what our plans the DMC or RED plans are to our SRAD person for them to look over before we submit to make sure we're on the right track?

Tina Borner, OJJDP - This is Tina, and TeNeane, can correct me if I'm wrong, but I would say yes, that you have the ability to do that and have a conversation beforehand. We will not be evaluating anything until after the official submission date, but we could definitely provide you with some help if we think that you are heading down the wrong direction.

Melinda Fandel, MI - Okay. So if we have done that and we're not hearing anything back, what should we do?

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP - This is Dr. Bradford. Just send that note to me.

Melinda Fandel, MI - Thank you.

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP - We're trying to be responsive, but if there are issues you can just escalate it. Note, we're transitioning some states to newer staff, not sure if that is the cause, but no worries, just escalate it.

Melinda Fandel, MI - Thank you.

Marcia Hazelhorst, MO - This is Marcia from Missouri. Am I good to go? My question has to do with the data. Is it acceptable that in some parts of our plan we referenced RRI and the context as well as in the context of showing the percentage based off in the population that the OJJDP is requiring? But I wanted to make sure it was okay that we also included some RRI data as long as we also showed the percentage in the new format. Is that okay?

Tina Borner, OJJDP - I would say yes, it's okay. It's not necessary because we're not going to be looking at it. We're going to be looking at the population data to see what that is. But if the RRI data helps you internally and in Missouri to help you decide how your plan wants to be developed, then that's fine.

Marcia Hazelhorst, MO - We use both, and so it just as a working document for us, it just kind of helps us. We're certainly adhering to all the new requirements and the percentage when I heard you earlier about not including any RRI data I wanted to make sure we didn't need to go in and pull all that out.

Tina Borner, OJJDP - No.

Marcia Hazelhorst, MO - Thank you.

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP - This is TeNeane again. We know that many of you use this plan not just to submit to us. So we'll keep that in mind as we're reviewing because it's not just a document for us, but I think in order to help us help you making sure that what we need is clear. That will be helpful in our rating and to make sure that we can move the money to you quicker.

Callie Hargett, MN - This is Callie in Minnesota. Our state does not recognize or plan to utilize the acronym RED instead we use ERD, which is ethnic and racial disparities. And so I will make a note of it in our plan right away at the beginning, just say, "Hey, everywhere you see ERD, it means ethnic and racial disparities." I just wanted to know if that will in any way cause any ... will that get us in trouble or anything and my program manager knows that we use ERD. I just want to make sure that whomever reads it that it's okay that we use ERD instead of RED because I know that's the term you all use.

Tina Borner, OJJDP - Well it's your program manager that's going to read your plan but just so you just need to realize that in the statute, in JJRA it's RED. And so whether you are still calling it DMC because that comes out just as a roll of the tongue, DMC still comes out. So I don't believe that if you are calling

it ERD that going to cause any much angst around, you're not going to be found out of compliance just because you're calling it ERD.

Callie Hargett, MN - That was my main concern, that was where I was going with that. Thank you.

Tina Borner, OJJDP - Okay. Any other questions right now? All right. Okori, if you want to mute the lines again, I am going to turn this over to Lisa Hutchinson from CCAS, I believe, who is going to talk about training and technical assistance.

Lisa Hutchinson, Director, Center for Coordinated Assistance to the States (CCAS)

Thanks very much, Tina, and good afternoon everybody and we at CCAS are able to provide some RED training if you are interested or if you are in need of such training. I'm not sure, it's been a few years since we've been involved in it. And as of last year I believe it was Dr. Bradford, you all included some RED then DMC work back in our scope of work. So many people may not be familiar that we are able to assist with that if needed. So we just wanted to share a little bit about what that might look like. So if you find yourself in a position to need to or request some of that assistance, we can do so.

So what we've done over the past years it's been all across a realm of opportunities. It really does depend on what your state needs, and after we consult with OJJDP, what we could do that would best help you all move forward in your RED efforts. So for instance, if you're brand new to the RED role or brand new to the JJ Specialist role in your state and you're simply trying to figure out where you would find that data, sometimes that's hard to do. If you do not have data from previous years to go by, you don't have a workbook or a manual, so to speak, for figuring out where you might access that data.

We have been involved with states, Alabama several years back. We were able to help them kind of begin figuring out where do you get that information, what shape do you get that data from how you make it work and how you use that data to then put into what is now the spreadsheet and calculate your percentages so that you can inform the work you do.

So I just say that to say we can help very simplistic areas of where you even start to look for that data if you find yourself in that situation. We can also help really make sense of data. We've worked with several different states in terms of taking that data and really thinking about what means for the community that you're working in. How you take the data, how you inform it or use it, sorry to inform decision making and how you make sure that it answers the questions that your community stakeholders in those areas may have.

So we're really focused on making sure it's accurate data and also really how you take it and really turn it into a conversation with your community versus just a report out on data so to speak. And I'm sure many of you that have been doing this work faced that from time to time, how you really effectively use the data in a meaningful way. And then when you have the data and you're working with communities, whether it's on the statewide level or in any of your communities, any type of strategic planning, okay, we've got the data, we understand what it means, this is what we see as part of an issue that we want to address.

And as you're developing that plan to answer those six questions for OJJDP, you can really begin thinking about what that looks like and all of the action steps that you might need to take to be able to achieve

your intended outcome. So we can help with that. And really thinking through that, and then some of you may be finding that you are looking at your data and you really want to, based on that data, you find you want to begin work in a new area, a new part of the state or a specific community that maybe you've never worked in before.

And so we're also very happy to help with that community organizing piece, thinking through what the data tells you, and then based on that data, who needs to be at the table, what kind of representation from what key stakeholders throughout the community you would want to engage in that community as you begin organizing that work. So it really does, like I said earlier, it runs the gamut. We're happy we have not only internal CCAS staff that are on the project right now that can help you with that, but we also have access to several subject matter experts and the other partners that work with us in CCAS.

So we could make sure that what you need that we're able to meet that need and make sure that we find the most appropriate person to help you with that through our extended network of partners and subject matter experts. I think that's pretty much like a really quick and dirty overview of what we can do and what we might provide. If you find yourself wondering, if you have a question you didn't hear myself specifically say we could do it, feel free to give us a call with your SRAD Representative. Let us know we're happy to talk through something with you if you think you might be a need that just don't really know exactly what you need. Tina and Dr. Bradford was there anything else you wanted me to cover? Just wanted to give a quick overview. I hope that was helpful.

Tina Borner, State Program Manager, OJJDP, SRAD

Yes, Lisa. Thank you very much. I want to make sure that the states realized that help is out there so that if they get stuck or if they have a questions around and they want to just talk through some activities or their data or community organizing that you guys are available for them as a resource in order to help them out. So I thank you for that.

Lisa Hutchinson, Director, CCAS

You're welcome.

Tina Borner, State Program Manager, OJJDP, SRAD

So that's all I have. Okori ,would you please open the lines again, we'll ask for some more questions and then if there are no questions then we'll close it out and give people some time back in their day.

Questions from the States

Jacqueline Ledger, MS - Is it possible that you could send the data spreadsheet out again?

Tina Borner, OJJDP - Absolutely. Was that TeNeane? Who asked that?

Jacqueline Ledger, MS - That was me.

Tina Borner, OJJDP - Oh, was that a particular state asking for it?

Jacqueline Ledger, MS - Yes, it was.

Tina Borner, OJJDP - And which state?

Jacqueline Ledger, MS - The version that I have says DMC at the bottom and I didn't know if there had been any changes.

Tina Borner, OJJDP - What state are you from?

Jacqueline Ledger, MS - I'm sorry, Mississippi.

Tina Borner, OJJDP - Oh, okay. I will forward what was sent out back in February, the listserv message with all the information on it. What is your name? Never mind, we will get it to you.

Unidentified Caller - Did you all do roll call?

Tina Borner, OJJDP - Yes, we did. As soon as the questions are over CCAS, if anybody was missed on the roll call, then they will come back and get that information from you.

Caller, MS - Thank you.

Unidentified Caller - Hi, good afternoon. I was wondering if CCAS contact information has been disseminated and if not, if that could please be shared.

Tina Borner, OJJDP - Keisha can you talk about the process for TTA requests please? Just to make sure we're clear and then we'll get that out on the listserv.

Keisha Kersey, OJJDP - Yes. So to request TTA for CCAS you can actually go through [TTA 360](#). You can find that information on the [OJJDP website](#) if you go under [State Support](#). I believe, and go under [Training](#). Again, we could send this information out to you, but it'll have the link to CCAS' information and the types of things that they do. And then on that page you can click on TTA 360 to actually submit a request.

Once that request is submitted, it goes through a process for through our main TTA provider that handles all that. It will be filtered out to CCAS and then if it's a request that fits in with their scope of work, they will contact you to get a little bit more information about the request and follow up. And so we can get that out as a follow-up to this call with the links and everything you need in order to request TTA through them.

Tina Borner, OJJDP - Lisa, is there anything else you would add to that?

Lisa Hutchinson, CCAS - No, that was a really good description. Thanks, Keisha.

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP - I'd also add, this is to TeNeane again, please, if you would give your program managers a heads up so that we can proactively look for that information as well. We don't want any bureaucracy unnecessarily to stop you from getting the assistance that you need.

Tina Borner, State Program Manager, OJJDP, SRAD

Any other questions? Okay. Well, I thank you so much for providing us with your time. Hopefully the information provided will help you in your way of filling out and completing your Racial and Ethnic

Disparities Plans. Again, the deadline is Monday the 13th at 8:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time unless you have an extension and then we will move forward from there. TeNeane you have anything else to add?

Dr. TeNeane Bradford, Associate Administrator, OJJDP, SRAD

Okay, great job Tina, Lisa thank you as always. Tina I appreciate you, states we appreciate you. Just know that we're thinking about you and ways to support you in this difficult time. Have a great afternoon everyone.