

Please amend the state's DMC plan by providing a clear response to the following 6 required questions from the FY2019 solicitation:

1. What do your DMC numbers tell you about your jurisdiction?

Statewide: Black and Hispanic youth are overrepresented at intake, and are petitioned disproportionately. However, the state data indicates that black and Hispanic youth are diverted at a rate that is less than white youth. Additionally, black and Hispanic youth are detained disproportionately, and they both are adjudicated delinquent disproportionately compared to their white counterparts.

2. What would success in DMC reduction look like for your state?

In order to reach statistical parity with white juveniles in Virginia, for FY2018 data, the OJJDP-generated data indicates that:

- Referrals to intake need to decrease by 17,362 black juveniles and 408 Hispanic/Latinx juveniles;
- Diversions from court need to increase by 861 black juveniles and 188 Hispanic/Latinx juveniles;
- Cases involving secure detention need to decrease for both black and Hispanic/Latinx juveniles by 4,074 and 379 cases respectively;
- Cases resulting in a probation placement need to increase by 483 black juveniles and 60 Hispanic/Latinx juveniles; and
- Cases resulting in DJJ commitment need to decrease by 288 black juveniles.

A specific DMC reduction would be demonstrated by the increased use of Diversion programs and alternatives to detention for black and Hispanic youth.

Virginia recognizes that DMC exists within the juvenile justice system and has prioritized funding for projects regarding DMC for several years. Data, RRI calculations, and other research and information, including the professional expertise of ACJJP members, are used to develop strategies targeting DMC. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is making federal funds available to localities for alternative interventions for status offenders. Localities that detain status offenders on a violation of a valid court order (VCO) are being invited to apply for funds to develop a data-driven and evidence-based juvenile justice strategy that diverts youth from formal processing, and eliminates the secure confinement of youth due to a VCO violation.

DCJS is also providing funding for localities to address DMC and racial and ethnic disparities (RED).

Recent legislative changes have broadened use of Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) funding to serve non-court involved youth. The intent of the new legislation is to prevent juvenile crime and to provide more support services and community diversions to youth. DCJS anticipates that these solicitations and legislative changes will increase the diversion of black and Hispanic youth.

3. How much do you want to reduce DMC next year? (?)

Over the duration of this plan, Virginia would consider the continual decrease in the overall population size in the juvenile justice system, and a decrease in disparities seen by 0.05% amongst youth of color as successes in reducing disparity.

4. Is that reasonable? If yes, why?

DCJS believes that this target is reasonable. DCJS has retained through a contract, Public Policy Associates, Inc. (PPA) to serve as Equity Coordinators for Virginia. PPA has begun working to survey stakeholders to gain a better depiction of how the systems are viewed by partners and stakeholders alike. This will drive the next steps which include educating our partners on biases and where disparities may exist in policies, procedures, practices, and legislation. This will help bring more widespread awareness to the issue and will assist in accomplishing the goal of DMC reduction.

This collaborative approach is critical to reducing disproportionality. It will lessen the likelihood of duplicative efforts, will likely strengthen partnerships among state agencies and community partners, and is intended to build a more informed approach to issues youth face in the state. OJJDP can continue supporting DMC reduction by providing resources such as webinars, conference calls, guidance documents, and conferences.

DCJS, with our partners, the Virginia Departments of Juvenile Justice, Social Services, and Education, developed a Capstone project after attending Georgetown's DMC/RED training. The goals of the Capstone project are:

- Increase awareness regarding the disparate treatment of minority youth across Virginia's child serving agencies.
- In two Virginia localities, reduce the over-representation of minority youth who are referred for school discipline matters and/or juvenile court involvement by 20% in the participating localities.

5. What do you need from OJJDP to be successful with your plan?

Technical Assistance to assist in the shift from DMC to Racial and Ethnic Disparity.

6. What safeguards will you put in place to ensure that as you work to reduce DMC, you are still protecting the public, holding youth accountable, and equipping youth to live crime-free, productive lives?

The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice currently utilizes two validated screening instruments to gauge the level of risk and need, the Detention Alternative Instrument(DAI) and the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument(YASI). The DAI is used to ensure that youth who pose significant danger to public safety are detained at the point of arrest. It also enforces alternative placements for those youth you do not meet the threshold for high risk or being detained in a local detention center. The YASI instrument incorporates the Risk Need and Responsivity model. Information from the YASI is used to develop and inform pre-disposition investigation reports,

planning, develop probation disposition recommendations to the juvenile court, assign probation supervision level, and develop probation case plans. Additionally, the YASI ensures that the level of care is adequate based on the youth risk level.

The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice has also incorporated Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) within their community supervision services (probation and parole). The most recent new initiatives are below:

- Increase in community based services (AMI Kids & Evidence Based Associates)
- Increase in community based placements (Community Placement Programs & Reentry)
- Development of dispositional decision making matrix

In order to ensure timely award processing, please provide a response by no later than Thursday, June 27th.