

Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Funding Sources
Local Level Funding Administered by the JJC

State/Community Partnership Program

The State/Community Partnership Grant Program (Partnership Program) was established within the Juvenile Justice Commission to support, with grants allocated by a formula to Counties through County Youth Services Commissions, sanctions and services for juveniles adjudicated or charged as delinquent and programs for the prevention of juvenile delinquency (N.J.S.A. 52:17B-179).

The goals of the Partnership Program are to: (1) encourage the development of sanctions and services for juveniles adjudicated and charged as delinquent and programs for the prevention of juvenile delinquency that protect the public, ensure accountability and foster rehabilitation; (2) increase the range of sanctions for juveniles adjudicated delinquent; (3) reduce overcrowding in state juvenile institutions and other facilities to ensure adequate bed space for serious, violent and repetitive offenders; (4) reduce overcrowding in County detention facilities; (5) provide greater access to community-based sanctions and services for minority and female offenders; (6) expand programs designed to prevent juvenile delinquency; and (7) promote public safety by reducing recidivism.

Partnership funds are awarded to the Counties by the JJC upon approval of County Comprehensive Youth Services Plans. County Youth Services Commissions administer the Partnership Program on behalf of County governments.

Family Court Services Program

Effective December 31, 1983 legislation was passed to establish in each county one or more juvenile-family crisis intervention units. Each unit could operate as a part of the court intake service, or where provided for by the county, through any other appropriate office or private service pursuant to an agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts, provided that all such units were subject to the Rules of Court.

In 1986, legislation was passed which provided funds to the Department of Human Services for allocation to the Counties to support programs and services for juveniles involved with or at risk of involvement with the Family Court. The appropriation was directed to two program areas: Juvenile Family Crisis Intervention Units (JFCIU's) and the development of community-based services and programs to serve Family Court clients. When the Juvenile Justice Commission was established in 1995, the funds which supported the Family Court Services Program were moved to the JJC 's budget and are administered in coordination with the guidelines of the State/Community Partnership Program.

On January 1, 2006 Family Crisis Intervention Units that were staffed by the Judiciary were transferred to non Judiciary entities. Allocations for those counties were determined and an agreement was signed between the Judiciary, the JJC and the Department of Human Services. The JJC accepted the agreed upon funding allocation for each in-court Family Crisis Intervention Unit and included this amount in that county's Family Court Services allocation. These funds are administered in coordination with the guidelines of the State Community Partnership Program established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17B-179. Entities selected by each county's planning process to serve as the Family Crisis Intervention Unit must execute an agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-76. The entity must agree to provide services consistent with the Family Crisis Intervention Unit manual approved by the New Jersey Judiciary Judicial Council. Program services must be provided in coordination with the Mobile Response and Stabilization Services in each county as contracted by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Child Behavioral Health Services, Office of Children's Services.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

Formula Grant Program

Congress enacted the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act (Pub. L. No. 93-415, 34 U.S.C. §11101 et seq.) in 1974, reauthorized in 2002. This landmark legislation established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. In December 2018, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) of 2018 was signed into law,

reauthorizing and substantially amending the JJDP Act. The amendments made by the JJRA become effective October 1, 2019. The Act provides funding to states to implement the Formula Grants Program.

Formula grants are awarded to states on the basis of relative population under the age of 18 for the purpose of meeting the Act's mandates and to improve the State's juvenile justice system. It is required that two-thirds of Formula Grant funds be passed through to the locals, with one-third available for State level initiatives.

The Act requires that states, through their State Advisory Group (SAG) submit a comprehensive plan for juvenile justice every three years and updates to that plan annually. The Plan includes an summary of the state's juvenile justice system, an analysis of juvenile crime statistics and an assessment of the needs of its juveniles. Based on the plan, funding is then prioritized and allocated among thirty-four Standard Program Areas. Formula Grants Program Areas are located at <https://www.nttac.org/index.cfm?event=fgaps>.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Innovations

JDAI strives to create more effective and efficient processes surrounding the use of juvenile detention. To help jurisdictions accomplish this goal, JDAI provides a framework for conducting a thorough, data-driven examination of the detention system, and for using that information to develop and implement strategies for system improvement.

The purpose of JDAI Innovations Funding is to provide an additional resource and support to those JDAI sites that have demonstrated an active commitment to the implementation of the eight JDAI Core Strategies. Funds are used in furtherance of data driven policies and practices that are clearly consistent with the eight JDAI Core Strategies.

1. Collaboration

Key juvenile justice stakeholders coordinate detention reform activities and conduct joint planning and policymaking under a formal governance structure. They work together to identify detention bottlenecks and problems; to develop common understandings and

solutions; to generate support for proposed reforms and routinely monitor reform progress.

2. Data Driven Decisions

JDAI depends upon objective data analysis to guide detention reform planning and policy development. Data on detention population, utilization and operations is collected to provide a portrait of who is being detained and why, as well as suggesting what points in the process may need attention. As a results-based initiative, JDAI establishes and tracks performance measures. All data is disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender to monitor disparities in the system.

3. Objectives Admissions Criteria and Instruments

Detention admissions policies and practices must distinguish between the youth who are likely to flee or commit new crimes and those who are not. JDAI sites develop Risk Assessment Instruments to screen for individual risk using reliable, standardized techniques. Absent an objective approach, high-risk offenders may be released and low-risk offenders detained.

4. Non-Secure Alternatives to Detention

New or enhanced non-secure alternatives to detention programs increase the options available for arrested youth yet ensure that juveniles are held accountable for their behavior and the community is protected. Pre-trial detention alternative programs target only the youth who would otherwise be detained.

5. Case Processing Reforms

Modifications of juvenile court procedures accelerate the movement of delinquency cases, streamline case processing and reduce unnecessary delay. Case processing reforms are introduced to expedite the flow of cases through the system. These changes reduce length of stay in custody, expand the availability of non-secure program slots and ensure that interventions with youth are timely and appropriate.

6. Special Detention Cases

Special strategies are necessary for handling difficult populations of youth who are detained unnecessarily. The data analysis directs the site to the cases or cluster of

cases in need of special attention. They may include children detained on warrants, children detained for probation violations, or children detained pending dispositional placement. Addressing these cases can have immediate and significant impact on reducing detention populations.

7. Reducing Racial Disparities

Reducing racial disparities requires specific strategies aimed at eliminating bias and ensuring a level playing field for youth of color. Ongoing objective data analysis is critical. Racial disparities are the most stubborn aspect of detention reform. Real lasting change in this arena requires determined leadership and targeted policies and programming.

8. Conditions of Confinement

Reducing overcrowding in detention can immediately improve conditions. To monitor conditions of confinement in secure detention centers and to identify problems that need correction, JDAI sites establish “self-inspection” teams of local volunteers. These self-inspection teams are trained in a rigorous methodology and ambitious standards that carefully examine all aspects of facility policies, practices and programs. The teams then prepare comprehensive reports on their findings and monitor implementation of corrective action plans.