

2014 PROGRAM FUNDING PRIORITIES
Juvenile Justice Planning Committee of the Governor's Crime Commission

Note that the Program Funding Priorities that follow are not in any particular order of importance. Please also note that for grants to be awarded under these Program Funding Priorities, federal juvenile justice allocations must be received and processed at the state level. Allocations are typically made in the fall and as a result, many recommended projects do not receive an actual grant award until the month of September or even later. Applicants are strongly encouraged to take into account the possibility of a late award if funding is in fact recommended.

2014 Children's Justice

Funding under this priority is intended for systems change to improve the handling and outcomes of cases of child maltreatment in North Carolina.

Programs which may be funded include those which are designed to:

- A. Improve Investigative, Administrative, or Judicial Handling of Cases** (e.g., by providing forensic interviewing training, by supporting multidisciplinary collaboration in child maltreatment cases, by upgrading the technologies used in child maltreatment cases), or
- B. Establish Experimental, Model, or Demonstration Programs** (e.g., to improve responses to maltreatment perpetrated against child victims with disabilities and/or other special populations, to improve evidence collection and offender interview techniques, to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of maltreatment and reporting responsibilities), or
- C. Reform State Procedures or Protocols** (e.g., by establishing protocols for first responders to follow when confronted with a child death scene, by implementing procedures that minimize the risk of discomfort for child victims testifying in court).

The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee is especially interested in Children's Justice proposals that build capacity to deliver training on the forensic interviewing of children, whether on a local, regional, or statewide basis.

Please note that if you are seeking funding for treatment or direct services for victims of child abuse or neglect, you should consider addressing your proposal to the Crime Victims' Services Committee. **The delivery of direct services, whether of a treatment, case-handling, investigative, or prosecutorial nature, is not fundable under this program funding priority. It is highly recommended that you confirm with the Lead Juvenile Justice Planner that your proposal is within funding parameters before you commit to the preparation and submission of an application.**

For more information on the Children's Justice Program, please contact Lead Juvenile Justice Planner Paul Lachance at (919) 733-4564 or at paul.lachance@ncdps.gov.

2014 PROGRAM FUNDING PRIORITIES

2014 Delinquency Prevention and Intervention through Strengthening Families

Strengthening Families is a parenting and family strengthening program for high-risk families. Children and family members participate in separate skill building and educational sessions and are brought together for shared activities. The Strengthening Families Program: For Parents and Youth 10-14 (SFP 10-14) adaptation of the Strengthening Families model is considered an effective, research-supported means to simultaneously intervene with youths and the family structures that they are part of. SFP 10-14 has been associated with significant increases in parenting competencies and school engagement and also with significant reductions in youths' substance-related risks.

Programs applying for funding in this priority should make use of the SFP 10-14 approach and should display appropriate concern for program fidelity.

The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee is especially interested in Strengthening Families proposals that are addressed to youth and families who are involved with or who are at great risk of involvement with criminal street gangs.

Please note that participation incentives and meals and snacks are not allowable expenses for this priority and items of these types should not be included in a proposal's budget.

For more information on this funding priority, please contact Lead Juvenile Justice Planner Paul Lachance at (919) 733-4564 or at paul.lachance@ncdps.gov.

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2014 Delinquency Prevention and Intervention through Teen Courts

Teen court programs divert low-level juvenile offenders from the formal juvenile court process and into settings where their negative behaviors can be addressed in an individualized manner. As a restorative justice approach, teen courts frame offending behaviors as wrongs that are perpetrated against specific victims and also the greater community. Teen courts address offending behaviors through the creative use of sanctions, restitution, and victim participation. Juveniles are given the opportunity to change the paths they are on and to make full use of the supports and encouragement this is offered to them. Successful teen court programs practice the peer justice approach, with youths filling the roles of judge, jury, defense, and prosecution. The teen court approach is further strengthened by the involvement of law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other criminal justice system workers, many of whom volunteer their time and expertise without pay. Those juveniles who decline to make good use of teen court may find themselves in the regular juvenile court process, while those who help themselves to it may find their lives significantly enriched.

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2014 Delinquency Prevention and Intervention through Vocational Programming

Vocational programs that make full use of mentoring relationships and partnerships with private industry hold special promise for the youth of our state. Such programs prepare youths by imparting concrete vocational skills and the competencies and behaviors that are essential for functioning as productive, law-abiding members of society. Proposals under this priority should seek to train program participants in the specific skills that are needed in today's marketplace. Programming should be developed in consultation with private partners and should focus on skills and trades that are actually in demand.

Examples of program components include:

- Instruction in culinary arts, skilled trades, financial services, technology, hospitality, and other fields that are in demand;
- Short term training and job placement programs;
- Educational and employment programming that involves partnership with high schools and other educational institutions.

Agencies applying under this program area must demonstrate use of a specific vocational career curriculum and a strong collaborative partnership with the business community. Projects which provide after-school or mentoring services with only a minimal focus on vocational skills will not be considered for funding.

The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee is especially interested in Vocational Programming proposals that are addressed to youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system.

For more information on this priority, please contact Lead Juvenile Justice Planner Paul Lachance at (919) 733-4564 or at paul.lachance@ncdps.gov.

2014 PROGRAM FUNDING PRIORITIES

2014 Compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

North Carolina is currently out of compliance with the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offender (DSO) core requirement of the JJDP Act. As a result, federal funding has been significantly reduced. As a means to regain federal compliance and to restore the Title II funding allocation to its original level, priority consideration will be given to programs that address the placement of juvenile status offenders (e.g., truant youth, runaways, and youth detained for curfew violations).

The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee is seeking proposals specific to alternatives to detention programming and the provision of training and technical assistance to units of government on the issues related to the DSO requirement of the JJDP Act.

Examples of DSO-specific programming include:

- The development and practicing of jurisdiction-wide administrative reform, to include the use of objective decision-making tools and risk assessment instruments by youth serving agencies;
- Diversion programs serving status offending youth in lieu of formal court processing;
- Community-based alternatives to secure detention (e.g., house arrest, home confinement or day treatment programming).

Funding may also be awarded for monitoring secure facilities which detain juveniles, this as part of a system of JJDP Act compliance monitoring. Such monitoring includes physically entering such facilities and verifying juveniles are not being detained contrary to the Act.

For more information on the JJDP Act and compliance, please contact Lead Juvenile Justice Planner Paul Lachance at (919) 733-4564 or at paul.lachance@ncdps.gov.

2014 PROGRAM FUNDING PRIORITIES

2014 Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Contact

Minority youth are more likely to be suspended from school, held in secure detention, and processed at various decision points in the juvenile justice system. The Governor's Crime Commission supports efforts to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in the state's juvenile justice system. In order to be considered for funding, applicants proceeding under this program priority must be prepared to address and to reduce disproportionality in one or more of the nine juvenile justice system contact points.

Examples of promising DMC-specific programming include:

- Diversion programs serving at risk youth in lieu of formal court processing (e.g., Victim Offender Mediation, Teen Courts, Community Service);
- Law Enforcement Collaboration Initiatives (Juvenile Specific);
- Programs that specifically address minority disparities at initial contact points of the juvenile system (e.g., front end diversion, school-based diversion, law enforcement-based diversion) as well as programming focused on youth who have made their way to the deeper end of the system (confinement);
- Programs that demonstrate a level of effectiveness in reducing DMC as well as innovative programmatic interventions proven useful as a tool in the reduction of DMC.

The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee is especially interested in supporting committees and other bodies that are actively involved in local and regional efforts to reduce disproportionality on the basis of race.

Proposals under this program area must address a specific juvenile justice contact point where disproportionality is present and be able to analyze, collect, and measure the Relative Rate Index (RRI) of that contact point before and after programmatic interventions.

For more information on DMC, please see the webpage of the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/dmc/index.html>. Questions about the funding available for DMC reduction efforts in North Carolina may be addressed to Lead Juvenile Justice Planner Paul Lachance at (919) 733-4564 and at paul.lachance@ncdps.gov.