

THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION
JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE
Request for Training and Technical Assistance

Eligibility

Eligible states must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Completion of a comprehensive analysis of juvenile justice system data or a data-capacity building plan within the last 12 months, as indicated by:
 - a) An in-depth analysis of court data, or probation data, and/or out-of-home population data, or
 - b) A plan to develop a system to track and evaluate implementation progress and outcomes
2. Development of responsive policies to system drivers addressing at least one of the following areas:
 - a) Enhancement of public safety,
 - b) Reduction of reoffending and improvement of youth outcomes while holding youth appropriately accountable,
 - c) Reduction of pre-adjudicatory detention and out-of-home placements and strengthening of cost-effective diversion and community-based alternatives,
 - d) Ensuring equitable treatment of all justice-involved youth,
 - e) Maximize cost-savings and cost-aversion through reinvestment in research backed programs, or
 - f) Implementation of effective practices to address inequitable and unjust treatment.
3. Memorialized juvenile justice system improvement policy changes within the last 12 months , shown through one of the following:
 - a) Adoption of state legislation addressing policy areas noted above
 - b) Development of an OJJDP-approved system-wide juvenile justice strategic plan addressing policy areas noted above, or
 - c) Publication of a state’s strategic planning body, task force, or working group report with policy recommendations addressing policy areas noted above
4. Submission of letters from leadership of key state agencies to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) including the following:
 - a) A formal request for training and technical assistance for implementation and sustainability of juvenile justice system improvement strategies, and
 - b) Demonstration of direct engagement from agency leadership in the juvenile justice policy development process¹
5. Existence of a multi-agency/inter-branch juvenile justice implementation team or oversight body that has a role in overseeing implementation of juvenile justice policy changes

¹ Direct engagement may include representation on a state’s strategic planning body, task force, or working group; or, financial commitment through budget appropriation.

Deadline

Training and technical assistance (TTA) requests will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning on March 19, 2018 by the technical assistance provider, the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) at Community Resources for Justice. Failure to submit one of the required components may result in a TTA request not receiving further consideration. CJI will notify states within two weeks of the status of their TTA request submission.

Contact and Submission Information

Materials in support of the TTA request should be submitted to **Tessa Upin, CJI** via email at tupin@crj.org. CJI will complete an initial review to confirm eligibility requirements are met and the inclusion of all required materials. Final approval for TTA will be determined by OJJDP. Questions about TTA requests should be directed to Tessa Upin at CJI.

Technical Assistance Description

Overview

Across the nation, state juvenile justice systems face similar challenges: high proportions of youth committed to out-of-home placement for low-level offenses, high recidivism rates despite heavy spending on incarceration, limited and inconsistent access to evidence-based services that are proven to reduce recidivism while keeping youth in their communities, and inequitable and unjust treatment that are present at each stage of the juvenile justice system, and often increase as youth progress deeper into the system. Seeing the disparate outcomes and ineffective allocation of resources, states have engaged in comprehensive system improvement processes to focus residential beds on higher-risk youth who commit more serious offenses, reduce recidivism by expanding effective community-based alternatives, improve government performance, and ensure equitable outcomes. The Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) at Community Resources for Justice, through funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), is available to provide training and technical assistance to states implementing system wide, multicomponent juvenile justice system improvement planning and implementation strategies.

Technical Assistance Activities

The TTA activities CJI will engage with states may include:

1. Engage stakeholders in the process of implementation of legislation and/or an OJJDP-approved system-wide juvenile justice strategic plan.
2. Conduct relevant analysis of juvenile justice data and system assessment.
3. Assess capability of agencies to collect, analyze and share information.
4. Develop statewide and agency specific implementation plans.
5. Conduct trainings that are proven to reduce recidivism and increase equitable outcomes for stakeholders and agency staff.
6. Inform policy development related to OJJDP-approved system-wide juvenile justice strategic plans or enacted legislation.
7. Facilitate implementation of data-driven improvement strategies, and analyze impact of improvement strategies through targeted technical assistance to agencies based on identified priority areas.
8. Assist states with the implementation of effective, data-driven, evidence-based programs and strategies to address disparities.

9. Provide consultation on resource allocation strategies for reinvestment.
10. Analyze system indicators to measure impact of system-wide improvements.
11. Assist with sustainability planning to ensure resources are in place to carry on implementation, performance measurement, and quality improvement processes after TTA has concluded.

**Please note that it is requested that states share performance measurement data with CJI for the duration of assistance and to OJJDP for five years following the enactment date of legislation or adoption of an OJJDP-approved system-wide juvenile justice strategic plan. Sharing this data will enable OJJDP to track outcomes and system impacts as well as to offer targeted TTA if the data indicate such additional assistance is needed.*

A. Submission Requirements

Supporting Materials

1. Copy of a report, summary or presentation of a comprehensive data analysis or data-capacity building plan within the last 12 months from the date of the issuance of this solicitation.
2. Copy of enacted legislation, an OJJDP-approved- system-wide juvenile justice strategic plan, or report from the task force, working group and/or strategic planning body that includes at least one of the responsive policies listed in the above eligibility criteria.
3. Letter(s) from leadership of key agencies responsible for juvenile justice system improvement implementation formally requesting implementation and sustainability assistance to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
4. Demonstration of direct engagement from agency leadership in the policy development process.
Supporting documentation may include:
 - a. List of representatives on state’s task force, working group and/or strategic planning body, task force; or,
 - b. Financial commitment through budget appropriation
5. Documentation of the creation of a multi-agency/inter-branch juvenile justice implementation team or oversight entity charged with overseeing implementation of juvenile justice policy changes

B. Review Process

CJI and OJJDP are committed to ensuring a fair and open process for requesting TTA. CJI will review the TTA requests to make sure that the information presented meets the eligibility criteria and that all materials are reasonable, understandable, measurable, achievable and consistent with the improvement initiative. If the request meets eligibility, CJI will review all supporting materials within two weeks of receipt of materials and any needed clarifications and send to OJJDP for final review and approval within 30 days of receipt of the request.

The following steps describe the decision process for TTA:

1. After TTA request has been submitted, CJI will review to ensure all eligibility criteria are met and submission materials are included.
2. CJI may ask for clarification or additional submissions as needed.
3. Following CJI’s certification that all requirements of this request for TTA have been met, CJI will submit the request package, along with a memo certifying this compliance for OJJDP approval via a Program Office Approval Grant Adjustment Notice and additionally email materials to OJJDP.

4. OJJDP staff will review the request using the eligibility criteria set out in this improvement initiative and relay any additional requests about submission materials to CJI.
5. CJI will notify the state regarding any additional information or modifications that may be required.
6. Final approval for TTA will be determined by OJJDP. CJI will notify the state of the outcome of the decision via email.

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