



State of Alaska
Department of Family and
Community Services
Division of Juvenile Justice

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Proposal Narrative Three Year Plan

Title II Formula Grants Program

Federal Fiscal Years

2024 / 2025 / 2026

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I. System Description: Structure and Function of the Juvenile Justice System

The State of Alaska’s Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the division within the Department of Family and Community Services responsible for all probation, detention, and institutional treatment services for delinquent youth in Alaska. Under statutory authority (AS 47.12.020(a)(b) the Division is the sole agency in Alaska responsible for supervision and administration of statewide juvenile justice services as found in the three-year plan.¹ The mission of DJJ is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent future crime.

Juveniles are referred to the Division by law enforcement officer upon the allegation of a criminal offense. Intake investigations are completed by the Division’s Juvenile Probation Officers during which investigation determines how the referral will be addressed. Decisions are based on Division Policy, screening tool results, the juvenile’s history, community safety, and other factors. Possible outcomes of this investigation include a delinquency petition, dismissal, informal adjustment, informal probation, diversion, or screening and service referral. If the Division becomes involved with a juvenile on a formal basis, they will be released from DJJ supervision after completing the terms of their court order, or upon

¹ Assurance of Compliance with JJP Act [42 U.S.C. 5633, Section 223(a)] 1;2

“aging out” on the youth’s 19th birthday (usually this is age 18 but the Division can retain jurisdiction, by statute, of youth until age 19). Youth who have been waived into the adult criminal justice system under the autowaiver or discretionary waiver statutes shall be detained in a DJJ facility until age 18.²

Division services are directed through four geographic regions: Anchorage, Southeast, Southcentral, and Northern Alaska. Probation services in each region are under the authority and supervision of a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and each DJJ youth facility is under the authority and supervision of a superintendent. The Division has a Statewide Probation Chief and Statewide Facility Superintendent that oversee the services provided through each of these sections within the state. The Division director, deputy directors, senior managers and other state office staff are in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks.

There are thirteen juvenile probation offices located in Alaska, six of which are co- located with DJJ facilities. Three offices are in Alaska’s urban areas; the rest serve rural Alaskan communities.

Youth facilities in Alaska perform two primary functions: detention and secure treatment. DJJ operates six secure youth facilities, four of which provide both short-term detention and long-term treatment services. Detention units provide short-term, secure confinement and basic services to alleged juvenile offenders. DJJ’s four treatment facilities are designed for youth ordered by the court into long-term secure treatment due to the serious and/or chronic nature of their offenses. There are a total of two hundred seven beds in Alaska’s DJJ’s facilities.

DJJ recognizes its staff as its greatest resource. Investing in staff development is a high priority. Prior to employment, all DJJ staff undergo screening and background checks and receive training prior to working with DJJ youth.

² Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11)(B)

II. Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency Problems and Needs

The delinquency data in this section is derived from DJJ’s Juvenile Offender Management Information System (JOMIS). JOMIS provides offense data, placement, and other case management information for all delinquency cases in the state.³ It includes limited information on status offenses that are outside the DJJ’s jurisdiction. This section has been updated with FY2020- FY2022 data.

Analysis of DJJ Referrals by Charge Type: FY20-FY22

FY22

Gender

	Against Persons	Against Property	Against Public Order	Drug & Alcohol	Misc.	PV/CV	Weapon	Grand Total
Female	265	151	35	77	14	89	1	632
Male	489	452	83	112	33	240	21	1430
Grand Total	754	603	118	189	47	329	22	2062

Count Race

	Against Persons	Against Property	Against Public Order	Drug & Alcohol	Misc.	PV/CV	Weapon	Grand Total
Alaska Native/Am Indian	320	314	38	60	13	151	10	906
Asian	29	13	5	6	1	7	3	64
Black/African American	51	45	5	15	8	19	3	146
Multirace	21	11	7	10	1	18	1	69
Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander	28	14	19	6	2	7		76
Unknown	2	0	1	1	0		0	4
White/Caucasian	303	206	43	91	22	127	5	797
Grand Total	754	603	118	189	47	329	22	2062

Count Age Group

	Against Persons	Against Property	Against Public Order	Drug & Alcohol	Misc.	PV/CV	Weapon	Grand Total
< 10	8	10	1	0	0	0	1	20
10 - 12	81	72	17	13	3	0	1	187
13 - 14	233	219	35	49	12	68	6	622
15 - 17	408	294	61	125	30	221	14	1153
18+	24	8	4	2	2	40		80
Grand Total	754	603	118	189	47	329	22	2062

³ JPD Act Section 223(a)7.A

FY21

Gender

	Against Persons	Against Property	Against Public Order	Drug & Alcohol	Misc.	PV/CV	Weapon	Grand Total
Female	168	126	26	32	4	80	3	439
Male	401	338	61	47	32	171	11	1061
Grand Total	569	464	87	79	36	251	14	1500

Count Race

	Against Persons	Against Property	Against Public Order	Drug & Alcohol	Misc.	PV/CV	Weapon	Grand Total
Alaska Native/Am Indian	237	238	36	19	6	94	6	636
Asian	9	8	1	1	1	5	1	26
Black/African American	51	28	6	6	6	25	2	124
Multirace	19	14	1	1	2	19	1	57
Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander	19	10	1	1	1	15	1	48
Unknown	26	26	8	7	0			67
White/Caucasian	208	140	34	44	20	93	3	547
Grand Total	569	464	87	49	36	251	14	1500

Count Age Group

	Against Persons	Against Property	Against Public Order	Drug & Alcohol	Misc.	PV/CV	Weapon	Grand Total
< 10	7		3					5
10 - 12	79	53	8	2	1	1	1	145
13 - 14	131	125	27	13	6	48	5	335
15 - 17	333	273	49	60	29	174	7	925
18+	25	13	0	4	0	28	1	70
Grand Total	569	464	87	79	36	251	14	1500

FY20

Gender

	Against Persons	Against Property	Against Public Order	Drug & Alcohol	Misc.	PV/CV	Weapon	Grand Total
Female	205	148	21	76	14	131	1	596
Male	480	517	88	117	76	315	122	1615
Grand Total	685	665	109	193	90	446	23	2211

Count Race

	Against Persons	Against Property	Against Public Order	Drug & Alcohol	Misc.	PV/CV	Weapon	Grand Total
Alaska Native/Am Indian	317	372	49	58	25	199	5	1025
Asian	16	11	4	4	2	7		44
Black/African American	67	25	14	8	10	52	2	178
Multirace	29	16	3	8	2	27		85
Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander	36	25	2	8	2	35	1	109
Unknown	18	22	6	15	2		2	65
White/Caucasian	202	194	31	92	47	126	13	705
Grand Total	685	665	109	193	90	446	23	2211

Count Age Group

	Against Persons	Against Property	Against Public Order	Drug & Alcohol	Misc.	PV/CV	Weapon	Grand Total
< 10	3	17					1	22
10 - 12	80	94	8	17	7	2	0	208
13 - 14	183	171	32	57	29	65	5	542
15 - 17	397	369	65	119	50	317	17	1334
18+	22	14	4	0	3	62	0	105
Grand Total	685	665	109	193	90	446	23	2211

Total DJJ delinquency referrals generally exceed unduplicated youth offender counts because some youth offenders have multiple referrals within a single year. Similarly, total delinquency charges exceed total delinquency referrals because some referrals include multiple charges. The number of youths referred for delinquent offenses and the number of total delinquency referrals in FY20 (2,211) to FY21 (1,500) continued to decline with a slight uptick in FY22 a total of 2,062 referrals. Since the COVID-19 pandemic was suspected to be a factor in decreased referrals during FY20 and FY21. Since the move away from Alaska’s “hunker down” orders in many urban and rural communities, along with travel restrictions, and virtual learning environments for youth have been mostly lifted. This potentially creates more opportunities for delinquent behavior and therefore the slight increase in referrals.

Over the last three years the majority of DJJ delinquency referrals were for offenses against persons, followed by offenses against property. In FY22, approximately 65% of all DJJ delinquency offenses fell into one of these charge classes. Alaskan youth aged 15-17 years continue to receive the majority of all DJJ referrals. Continuing in the three-year trend is a large number of referrals for conduct/probation violations for Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/AI) youth, as compared to other youth in Alaska.

Analysis of DJJ Referrals by Offense Class: FY20-FY22

FY22

Gender

	Felony	Misdemeanor	PV/CV	Violation/Other	Grand Total
Female	137	403	89	3	632
Male	461	722	240	7	1430
Grand Total	598	1125	329	10	2062

Count Race

	Felony	Misdemeanor	PV/CV	Violation/Other	Grand Total
Alaska Native/Am Indian	282	472	151	1	906
Asian	18	39	7		64
Black/African American	41	84	19	2	146
Multirace	17	34	18		69
Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander	15	54	7		76
Unknown	2	2			4
White/Caucasian	223	440	127	7	797
Grand Total	598	1125	329	10	2062

Count Age Group

	Felony	Misdemeanor	PV/CV	Violation/Other	Grand Total
< 10	7	13			20
10 - 12	66	121	0		187
13 - 14	185	369	68	1	622
15 - 17	316	609	221	7	1153
18+	24	14	40	2	80
Grand Total	598	1125	329	10	2062

FY21

Gender

	Felony	Misdemeanor	PV/CV	Violation/Other	Grand Total
Female	96	263	80	0	439
Male	327	550	171	13	1061
Grand Total	423	813	251	13	1500

Count Race

	Felony	Misdemeanor	PV/CV	Violation/Other	Grand Total
Alaska Native/Am Indian	214	327	94	1	636
Asian	9	11	5	1	26
Black/African American	32	65	25	2	124
Multirace	11	26	19	1	57
Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander	11	22	15	0	48
Unknown	18	49			67
White/Caucasian	128	313	93	8	542
Grand Total	423	813	251	13	1500

Count Age Group

	Felony	Misdemeanor	PV/CV	Violation/Other	Grand Total
< 10	1	4			5
10 - 12	55	89	1		145
13 - 14	109	197	48	1	335
15 - 17	233	506	174	12	925
18+	25	17	18	0	70
Grand Total	423	813	251	13	1500

FY20

Gender

	Felony	Misdemeanor	PV/CV	Violation/Other	Grand Total
Female	129	336	131	0	596
Male	521	771	315	8	1615
Grand Total	650	1107	446	8	2211

Count Race

	Felony	Misdemeanor	PV/CV	Violation/Other	Grand Total
Alaska Native/Am Indian	323	503	199	0	1025
Asian	18	19	7		44
Black/African American	42	82	52	2	178
Multirace	15	43	27	0	85
Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander	27	47	35	0	109
Unknown	25	40		0	65
White/Caucasian	200	373	126	6	705
Grand Total	650	1107	446	8	2211

Count Age Group

	Felony	Misdemeanor	PV/CV	Violation/Other	Grand Total
< 10	10	12			22
10 - 12	82	124	9.5		208
13 - 14	172	303	65	2	542
15 - 17	363	651	317	3	1334
18+	23	17	62	3	105
Grand Total	650	1107	446	8	2211

Over the last three years the number of total felony and misdemeanor referrals to DJJ declined from FY20 to FY21 with an increase in FY22. The proportion of misdemeanor offenses to total offenses for FY22 was approximately 47% of all offenses, where in FY22 it rose to 55%. Felony referrals for Alaska Native/American Indian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander youth increased in FY20 then decreased in FY21 and FY22, while felony referrals for Black/African American youth is relatively steady only showing a slight decrease in FY21.

The majority of felony referrals continue to be from the 15-17 year age group. Referrals for conduct violations or probation violations has decreased in FY21 and FY22. The majority of referrals for conduct violations or probation violations continue to be from the 15-17 year age group.

Analysis of DJJ Cases (Referrals) Handled Informally and Formally: FY20-FY22

FY22

Gender

	Adjusted	Community Justice Panel	Dismissed	In Process	Informal Probation	Petitioned	Petitioned - Adjudicated	Screen and Refer	Grand Total
Female	207	38	241	5	68	15	58		632
Male	337	72	563	11	150	81	208	8	1430
Grand Total	544	110	804	16	218	96	266	8	2062

Count Race

	Adjusted	Community Justice Panel	Dismissed	In Process	Informal Probation	Petitioned	Petitioned - Adjudicated	Screen and Refer	Grand Total
Alaska Native/Am Indian	285	25	325	10	85	31	140	5	906
Asian	16	3	28	0	7	2	6	2	64
Black/African American	46	6	54	1	14	11	14	0	146
Multirace	12	4	32	0	7	4	10		69
Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander	22	13	22	0	7	2	10		76
Unknown	3	0	0	1	0	1			4
White/Caucasian	160	59	343	4	98	46	86	1	797
Grand Total	544	110	804	16	218	96	266	8	2062

Count Age Group

	Adjusted	Community Justice Panel	Dismissed	In Process	Informal Probation	Petitioned	Petitioned - Adjudicated	Screen and Refer	Grand Total
< 10	13	1	6						20
10 - 12	94	14	52	1	17	2	7		187
13 - 14	158	31	265	3	68	31	66	0	622
15 - 17	269	64	446	10	131	56	175	2	1153
18+	10	0	35	2	2	7	18	6	80
Grand Total	544	110	804	16	218	96	266	8	2062

FY21

Gender

	Adjusted	Community Justice Panel	Dismissed	In Process	Informal Probation	Petitioned	Petitioned - Adjudicated	Screen and Refer	Grand Total
Female	132	27	172	2	31	10	64	1	439
Male	254	49	400	4	98	39	206	11	1061
Grand Total	386	76	572	6	129	49	270	12	1500

Count Race

	Adjusted	Community Justice Panel	Dismissed	In Process	Informal Probation	Petitioned	Petitioned - Adjudicated	Screen and Refer	Grand Total
Alaska Native/Am Indian	199	18	232	4	46	14	118	5	636
Asian	4	0	12		4	1	2	3	26
Black/African American	24	4	59	0	11	5	20	1	124
Multirace	9	4	26	0	4	4	12	0	57
Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander	5	3	16	1	0	0	22	1	48
Unknown	31	10	16	1	7		1	1	67
White/Caucasian	114	39	211	0	57	25	95	1	542
Grand Total	386	76	572	6	129	49	270	12	1500

Count Age Group

	Adjusted	Community Justice Panel	Dismissed	In Process	Informal Probation	Petitioned	Petitioned - Adjudicated	Screen and Refer	Grand Total
< 10	2	0	3		0				5
10 - 12	61	10	49	0	14	1	10	0	145
13 - 14	79	27	160	2	32	7	48		355
15 - 17	227	39	332	1	80	35	202	9	925
18+	17	0	28	3	3	6	10	3	70
Grand Total	386	76	572	6	129	49	270	12	1500

FY20

Gender

	Adjusted	Community Justice Panel	Dismissed	In Process	Informal Probation	Petitioned	Petitioned - Adjudicated	Screen and Refer	Grand Total
Female	185	37	216	0	56	14	88	0	596
Male	427	74	653	1	163	43	245	9	1615
Grand Total	612	111	869	1	219	57	333	9	2211

Count Race

	Adjusted	Community Justice Panel	Dismissed	In Process	Informal Probation	Petitioned	Petitioned - Adjudicated	Screen and Refer	Grand Total
Alaska Native/Am Indian	335	22	417	0	89	15	144	3	1025
Asian	10	3	20		1	1	8	1	44
Black/African American	27	9	81	0	16	5	39	1	178
Multirace	15	2	43	0	4	5	15	1	85
Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander	19	3	31	0	12	13	31		109
Unknown	40	9	12	0	93	0		0	65
White/Caucasian	166	63	251	1	93	18	96	3	205
Grand Total	612	111	869	1	219	57	333	9	2211

Count Age Group

	Adjusted	Community Justice Panel	Dismissed	In Process	Informal Probation	Petitioned	Petitioned - Adjudicated	Screen and Refer	Grand Total
< 10	17	1	4		0				22
10 - 12	101	11	58		31	0	7	0	208
13 - 14	165	36	216	0	61	11	52	1	542
15 - 17	313	62	540	1	121	40	251	6	1334
18+	16	1	51		6	6	23	2	105
Grand Total	612	111	869	1	219	57	333	9	2211

DJJ monitors the number of delinquent and status offenders admitted, by gender and race, to juvenile detention facilities, adult jails, and lockups for FY20-FY22 (see Attachment 1).

Alaska's Poverty Rate

Alaska's statewide poverty rates are lower than the national average; however, poverty rates are considerably higher in Alaska's rural census areas. According to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) and the Council for Community and Economic Research, Alaska ranked as the third most expensive in the country for highest cost of living in 2017. The majority of rural communities with the highest poverty rates and highest rates for cost of living are not connected to a road system, are geographically isolated, and youth in these communities have limited access to resources and services.⁴ The socioeconomic disparity between rural and urban Alaska, and higher rates of children living

⁴ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(iii)

in poverty in these areas, means special emphasis must be paid to rural delinquency prevention efforts for Alaskan Native youth.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigations Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics (which combines both adult and juvenile offender information), Alaska continues to have a higher violent crime rate, forcible rape rate and aggravated assault rate than the national average. Alaska also had the highest forcible rape rate (legacy definition) in the United States for at least the last 3 years.

Alaska has long been challenged by extremely high rates of child abuse and maltreatment, which have long term impacts on childhood experiences of youth involved in Alaska's juvenile justice system. According to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in 2019, Alaska had over double the amount of child victims as compared to the national average with a rate of 17 (per 1000 children) as compared to 8.9 (per 1000 children).

Suicide rates for Alaska teens are higher than the national average statewide, especially rural areas. Alaska Native teenagers, especially boys, are far more likely than other Alaska teenagers to commit suicide. Because of the higher rate of abuse, neglect and suicide, trauma informed care is an essential framework for Alaska's juvenile justice system.

III. Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of the State of Alaska's Department of Family and Community Services is to promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans. To meet that goal the mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, to promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and to assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime. DJJ is a restorative justice agency, dedicated to providing trauma-informed care to all DJJ youth. The priority goals for the Division of Juvenile Justice during this three-year plan cycle include:

Goal 1: Maintain full compliance with the four core mandates of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018.

This goal and the following objectives are relevant to Program Areas: W-Compliance Monitoring; A-Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; 26-Jail Removal; 31-Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates; 21-Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED), and A-Alternatives to Detention and Placement.

Objective 1.1: *Collect complete, accurate data and facility classification information quarterly, to assist with the reduction of violations of core mandates of the JJDP Act reported in the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report.*⁵

Alaska will continue contracting with Professional Administrative Services, Inc. (PAS, Inc.) to contact each adult jail and lock up in Alaska to collect compliance monitoring data. PAS contacts each adult jail and lockup facility in the state on a monthly basis, compiling reports of youth holds and reporting that information to the compliance monitor. This system allows for consistent contact with statewide jail and lock-up facilities, timely notification of any violations, and the ability to track and assess patterns to be addressed through training or technical assistance. Additionally, compliance monitoring staff will annually update the compliance monitoring universe, bi-annually review the statewide Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) roster, compile and analyze results of facility site audits, and submit annual reporting data to OJJDP. Compliance monitoring staff will identify chronic compliance problems and recommend strategies to address them. A primary activity during the first year of the three-year cycle will be the update and distribution of compliance monitoring training for DJJ staff and rural law enforcement.

Objective 1.2: *Maintain compliance with national standards for the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Jail Removal, and Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates through expansion of*

⁵ JJPD Act Section 223(a) 11; 14

programs including alternatives to detention, especially in rural Alaska.

Alaska has made significant progress towards compliance of “who are treated as adults for purposes of prosecution in criminal court and housed in a secure facility,” pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11)(B), See Attachment 12. Alaska will continue efforts to maintain compliance with these core mandates through quarterly analysis of violation report data to assess potential patterns; develop strategies to address issues and barriers to compliance such as transportation, weather, and time constraints; continue collaboration with other state agencies to develop and provide resources to assist rural communities with minor consuming and mental health issues; maintain and expand alternative to detention programs such as non-secure shelters, electronic monitoring, and diversion programs; visit all secure facilities in the monitoring universe at least once every three years and continue training for DJJ’s Compliance Monitoring Site Auditors.⁶

There are a number of initiatives being developed to strengthen diversion programs and address systemic issues to ensuring the availability of appropriate non-secure placements. These efforts include reducing the number of youth who are housed in secure detention who are awaiting placement in residential treatment programs.⁷ This is a priority both internally for the DJJ, the Office of Children’s Services (OCS), as well as at the larger departmental level for Alaska Family and Community Services.

Objective 1.3: *Maintain compliance with the JJDP Act to assess and address racial and ethnic disparities within Alaska’s juvenile justice system.*

Alaska will continue annual calculation and analysis of relative rate indices; develop racial and ethnic disparity intervention strategies that focus on specific intervention points with the highest disproportionality; provide targeted training and technical assistance to DJJ staff and community partners;

⁶ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(iv)

⁷ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(v)

and support efforts to establish local community or tribal-based diversion panels, specifically in rural Alaskan communities. The division plans to identify entities in urban communities to provide services for additional youth subject to racial and ethnic disparities including; African American, Asian, and Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander.

Goal 2: Promote safe and responsible individuals, families and communities, and increase the number of juveniles who remain crime free.

This goal and the following objective is relevant to Program Areas: L-Positive Youth Development; 22-Diversion; 30-Rural Area Juvenile Programs.

Objective 2.1: *Support delinquency prevention and diversion programs to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system.*

DJJ will continue the highly successful partnership with Rural Alaska Community Action Program to support their Youth Development and Culture camp programming, which referral data demonstrates is a successful delinquency prevention technique. DJJ will also expand training, technical assistance, and outreach for community and tribal-based diversion panels.

The Division coordinates with a wide array of treatment providers across the state to facilitate youth utilization of evidence-based programs to reduce delinquency and build resiliency. This includes programs to improve educational success, substance use prevention and treatment, healthy activities, tribal services and gatherings, and other health and welfare programs throughout the department.⁸

Goal 3: Reduce overall youth recidivism rates, specifically targeting recidivism rates for Alaska Native Youth.

This goal and the following objective is relevant to Program Areas 24- Indian Tribal Programs; 21-Racial and Ethnic Disparity; D – Provide Treatment for victims of Child Abuse; T- Programs Providing Mental Health Treatment

⁸ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(8)

Objective 3.1: *Respond to the behavioral health needs of Alaskan Youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system to more effectively address youth’s treatment and reentry needs.*

DJJ will continue efforts to enhance mental health clinical services, programs, and policy including continuation of the Seven Challenges program; continue efforts to strengthen Trauma Informed Care including utilization of the division Trauma Screening and Resiliency Measurement Tools in case planning and for building community support services.⁹

DJJ staff participate in many local and regional collaborative efforts seeking to build understanding on factors leading to delinquent behavior in juveniles and address delinquency prevention services and programs for community based or ‘front-end’ youth.¹⁰ DJJ will support efforts to expand these collaborative efforts to new partners, focusing on relationships with Alaska Native Tribes and communities.

Goal 4: Enhance Alaska’s juvenile justice system through coordinated system improvement efforts.

This goal and the following objectives are relevant to Program Areas: 27-Juvenile Justice System Improvement; 32-State Advisory Group, 28-Planning and Administration.

Objective 4.1: *Support the efforts of the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee to strengthen and improve Alaska’s juvenile justice system.*

DJJ will support the State Advisory Group (SAG) by providing staff liaison support in convening virtual or in-person meetings no less than quarterly; supporting the creation of the annual report and recommendations to the Governor; work with the SAG supervisory committee in the preparation and administration of the three year compliance plan; review progress and accomplishments of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention projects funded under the state plan; and contact and seek regular input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

⁹ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(viii)

¹⁰ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(vii)

The Division will to the extent practicable give priority in funding to programs and activities that are based on rigorous, systematic, and objective research that is scientifically-based; from time to time, but not less than annually, review its plan and submit to the Administrator an analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and activities carried out under the plan, and any modifications in the plan, including the survey of State and local needs, that it considers necessary.¹¹

Objective 4.2: *Conduct planning and administration activities to effectively manage and implement the Title II Formula Grant Program.*

DJJ will continue annual submission of the Title II application, plans and all associated reporting; coordination of Formula activities with other departmental grant managers; ongoing monitoring of sub-grantees and provision of technical assistance; ongoing travel, both in and out- of state, in support of training for and compliance with the JJDP Act core mandates; ongoing provision of staff supports to the State Advisory Group; ongoing planning and resource development to support compliance with core mandates and other grant requirements.

IV. Project Design and Implementation

Based on the FY20-22 youth crime data analysis, feedback from the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee and other qualitative and quantitative factors, the following activities have been identified as the primary activities to support the achievement of the above- listed goals.

Maintaining compliance with the four core mandates of the JJDP Act requires significant investment in the state of Alaska's compliance monitoring infrastructure. This investment includes funding for compliance monitoring staff to coordinate statewide compliance activities and reporting, and funding to complete required site audits on the identified three-year cycle.

The state crime analysis and needs assessment made clear there is still a continued need for ongoing

¹¹ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(22)

compliance monitoring training targeted at rural law enforcement officials. First responders to delinquent offenses are often rural law enforcement officers with limited training and resources to address juvenile issues. Often there is a lack of law enforcement presence until a State Trooper can arrive by plane or boat. During the first year of the three-year planning cycle, compliance monitoring training and resources will be developed specifically for rural law enforcement partners.

DJJ does not detain juveniles in secure facilities for the commission of status offenses. Non-secure alternative to detention programs are provided in Alaska's two largest communities. Additionally, ongoing training is provided to law enforcement in rural locations regarding the core mandates and how to handle juveniles charged with status offenses. Juvenile survivors of commercial sexual exploitation are not detained solely on the basis of those activities. Youth admitted into a DJJ detention facility are screened for trauma, including sexual exploitation. DJJ makes referrals to community-based services whenever possible. The DJJ Policy Team will assess the current status of policy related to survivors of commercial sexual exploitation for necessary additions or revisions.¹²

DJJ ensures the coordinated use of funding provided under the award with other Federal and State funds directed at juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs.¹³ Alaska's Non-Secure Attendant Care Shelter programs provide a non-secure setting for youth to be held, helping to prevent the admission of status offenders into secure detention facilities. DJJ intends to continue to provide funding for Electronic Monitoring (EM) services, providing a reliable alternative to detention option for appropriate youth.

Alaska will continue a long-standing successful partnership with the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP), Inc. The division plans to support reentry education programming that RurAL CAP will begin providing in year one of the three-year plan. This reentry education will assist tribal

¹² 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(iv)

¹³ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(28)

entities with the understanding of the youth community reentry process to support the success of cases. Additionally, the division provides pass-through funds to RurAL CAP to support positive youth development and culturally relevant programming to youth age 12-18 in rural Alaska Native communities. Data collected from this program indicate it is an effective method for preventing delinquency among rural Alaska Native youth.¹⁴

Alaska will continue assessing the current structure and effectiveness of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) infrastructure in the state. As needed, the RED advisory groups and coalitions will be restructured to better reflect the representation needs of community partner agencies. A targeted partnership with Alaska Native law enforcement entities will be established to collaborate on training and technical assistance needs of rural law enforcement, in an effort to decrease the Alaska Native/American Indian youth RRI at the point of arrest. Identified needs and activities generated by these new partnerships will inform activities for subsequent years of the three year plan cycle.

Lastly, in order to effectively administer and monitor activities under the Title II Formula grant program, it is necessary to support adequate administrative and planning infrastructure. Planning and Administration funds will be used to support management and staffing, as well as travel for OJJDP and/or locally sponsored trainings and conferences, as well as for sub-grantee monitoring.

Population-Specific Plans

1. Gender Specific Services¹⁵

Historically the only secure female treatment program in the state was located in Anchorage. In July 2020, the Girls Treatment Program Unit was moved to Johnson Youth Center in the community of Juneau after a system-wide review of overall facility capacity, utilization and improved programming throughout DJJ. This 15-bed unit provides a safe, secure and therapeutic environment for female residents

¹⁴ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(28)

¹⁵ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(i)/ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(ii)

who are institutionalized. The treatment program includes development of an individualized treatment plan for each resident implemented through a variety of services including individual, group and family counseling. The program focuses on developing pro-social, coping, thinking and educational skills, and addresses areas such as victim impact, empathy, substance abuse, personal victimization, self-esteem, and anger management. The Girls Treatment Program utilizes the Strength Based and Trauma Informed Effective Reinforcement System (TIERS) framework.

Current gender-specific programming offered at the Johnson Youth Center includes the ‘Voices’ curriculum appropriate for girls and young women. Voices is a female led, gender responsive curriculum that reaches across cultures, race and ethnicity, demographics, economics, sexual orientation and identity, and religion. The program incorporates prevention and interventions to create connection and build a community that provides safety, respect, non- judgment, and a listening environment. The program focuses on strengths-based personal development and leadership, as well as positive life-skills development.¹⁶

Use of physical and mechanical restraints and the use of force are addressed in DJJ policy H- 105: Use of Physical and Mechanical Restraints. This policy states that only the amount of force and type of restraint necessary to address a given situation shall be used and that in most cases, youth behaviors can be addressed using non-physical methods. Additionally, physical or mechanical restraints will not be used as a form of discipline. DJJ employs a variety of programs in an effort to de-escalate youth and avoid mechanical restraints including the Trauma Informed Effective Reinforcement System, Verbal Judo, and Control Tactics. While this policy addresses all juveniles under DJJ jurisdiction, there is not specific language regarding known pregnant juveniles and the criteria described above.¹⁷ The DJJ policy team will review and amend current policies to add this language, as appropriate.

Additionally, DJJ policy M-102: Isolation, Confinement, and Quarantine addresses the limited

¹⁶ JJPD Act Section 223 (a) 9.K

¹⁷ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(ix)

circumstances in which youth are isolated or confined within secure facilities. The use of room confinement is tracked in the Juvenile Offender Management Information System.¹⁸

Some DJJ facilities also utilize ‘COMPASS: A Guide for Men,’ which is a program designed specifically for young Alaskan males. Developed by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Assault, COMPASS presents opportunities and activities designed to support young men as they explore and identify their values, goals, and unique identities. The activities, teachable moments, and discussions described in the guide create a safe atmosphere for boys to learn about and practice healthy lifestyles.¹⁹

The Fairbanks Youth Facility recently implemented One Circle Foundation’s Council for Boys and Young Men curriculum to male treatment youth. This gender specific program for boys is used to engage, challenge, celebrate, develop, and unite boys.

2. Services for the Prevention and Treatment of Youth Delinquency in Rural Area

Activities proposed by the Division of Juvenile Justice not only provide for the equitable distribution of Title II resources to rural areas²⁰, but provide delinquency prevention programming to reduce the number of rural youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system and to reduce recidivism rates in rural communities. During the FY21-23 cycle, DJJ will continue providing grant funds to rural communities to support delinquency prevention, non- secure attendant care shelter and Alaska Native/Tribal programs such as culture camps and other culturally focused programs. DJJ will also continue active efforts to provide outreach and technical assistance support to Alaska tribes and rural communities to establish community diversion panels. This collaboration will more effectively respond to and rehabilitate juvenile offenders at the local village level.

DJJ probation staff travel to rural communities to perform community outreach by meeting with

¹⁸ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(29)

¹⁹ JJPD Act Section 223 (a) 9.K

²⁰ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(6)

families, youth, Tribal Council members, elders, school staff, local law enforcement and other appropriate community members. Targeted outreach helps support interventions preventing youth from entering the DJJ system, and to support youth transitioning back to communities after treatment in secure DJJ facilities.²¹ In assessing programs to incorporate into the state plan, DJJ identifies evidence-based programming with demonstrated positive impact on youth in the juvenile justice system. Programmatic research is conducted by staff to ensure programming considers not only adolescent development, but also the unique cultural needs of Alaskan youth. Interventions are provided with a goal of ensuring the long-term success of a youth. As such, DJJ has implemented evidence-based programs with positive outcomes for adolescent populations including the Intensive Aftercare Transitional Services model, Seven Challenges, Aggression Replacement Training, Trauma Informed Care, and use of the Youth Level of Service /Case Management Inventory.²²

3. Services Provided to Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

DJJ regularly utilizes community-based services to respond to the needs of at-risk youth or youth who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system. DJJ assesses each case to determine individualized services and the least restrictive placement options. Community-based providers are used to respond to a variety of needs including mental health, substance abuse counseling, vocational training, educational needs, and other services as identified on the individual treatment plans. Though DJJ recognizes that access to community-based services is often a challenge in remote, rural locations, the division works to support development of services or expansion of programs to better serve these communities. While there is not one specific policy that addresses the use of community-based services, utilization of community providers is the practice of DJJ staff and referenced in multiple policies across the spectrum of services provided to youth including the protection of their rights to privacy.^{23/24}

²¹ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)

²² 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(viii)

²³ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(vii)

²⁴ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(18)

DJJ involves parents, families, and caregivers in placement decisions, the development and implementation of institutional treatment services, and release planning. DJJ provides opportunities for family involvement in the institutional treatment process through family contact visits, facilitated family therapy, and the recent implementation of Zoom videoconferencing technology for family contact. In the past, DJJ has distributed parent feedback surveys to gain insight on different elements of the DJJ system; internal leadership will assess the feasibility of re- instating this practice. Additionally, information is publicly posted for the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, whose membership is available to receive such feedback.²⁵

The Division of Juvenile Justice uses specific youth orientated substance abuse screenings and assessments related to the status of a youth in the DJJ system. For example, DJJ uses screenings such as the *Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument* (MAYSI) and *Car, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble* (CRAFFT) screening early in a youth's engagement with DJJ to determine if substance use may be a factor in youth delinquent behaviors. DJJ Mental Health Clinicians use detailed assessment tools, such as the *American Society of Addiction Medicine* (ASAM) Criteria, to determine substance abuse diagnoses and develop treatment plans for youth receiving court- ordered treatment in a DJJ facility. Mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment is provided for juveniles placed in DJJ detention and treatment facilities. Referral to community based service providers are made for community-based youth in need of services.²⁶

DJJ currently has 14 mental health clinicians serving six facilities around the state. Mental health clinicians work primarily with youth in secure DJJ facilities, but also provide services to probation youth in the community. All clinicians working in detention and treatment facilities provide direct mental health interventions including crisis intervention, individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy,

²⁵ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(vii)

²⁶ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(30)

reviewing mental health and suicide screens and conducting suicide/self-harm risk assessment for youth on suicide status.²⁷ Indirect clinical services may include staff consultation, assisting with referrals to contract psychiatric and psychological providers, and conducting trainings on suicide prevention and other mental health topics.²⁸

When assessing new programs for implementation in the DJJ environment, evidence-based and trauma-informed programs are prioritized. DJJ is a trauma-informed agency that regularly incorporates trauma-responsive curriculum into regular training, such as the Division Fundamentals training that all new staff complete. Another specific example of trauma informed programming is the implementation of the Trauma Screening Tool. This tool is a set of 15 questions adapted from the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study that is administered to all youth in DJJ detention and treatment facilities, as well as community based youth on formal probation.²⁹

The Division's mental health clinicians are trained in Advanced Trauma Informed Care and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). DJJ clinicians are trained and certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, which is evidence-based treatment³⁰ for children and adolescents impacted by trauma and their parents or caregivers.

The Division's mental health clinical staff is also trained in Seven Challenges Substance Abuse Counseling. Seven Challenges has a weekly group therapy session for substance abuse and once monthly family therapy. As a part of Seven Challenges, the clinicians also provide weekly clinical supervision to Juvenile Justice Officers who co-facilitate Seven Challenges with them.³¹

Other group therapy currently being offered by DJJ mental health staff is a psychoeducational trauma

²⁷ JJP Act Section 223(a) 9.S

²⁸ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(vi)

²⁹ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7)(B)(viii)

³⁰ JJP Act Section 223 (a) 21.A

³¹ 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(30)

focused group therapy program called S.E.L.F, which addresses the fundamental problems surrounding exposure to violence without needing to focus on specific individual events within a group setting. The division received training for Neurofeedback, an intervention that works in conjunction with psychotherapy to help reduce problematic behaviors/symptoms by teaching the brain to self-regulate and function better. Neurofeedback is very effective due to the plasticity of the brain and works especially well in resolving issues related to trauma, ADHD, anxiety, depression, anger and other mental health diagnoses. It can also be used to help with addictive behaviors and substance abuse.

The Division of Juvenile Justice provides all admitted to and released from secure juvenile treatment programs with transitional services to improve the successful return to the community and to reduce recidivism. DJJ's transitional services program is based on the national Intensive Aftercare Program Model. These services are collaborative between families, probation, caregivers, treatment programs, community resources, Guardian at Litem's and OCS workers culminating in the development and facilitation of a transition plan. These plans identify the areas of risk/need and the resources and services necessary to assist juveniles in their return to the community. Transition planning begins when a juvenile is first placed into a secure juvenile treatment program or a non-secure residential treatment program and continues as a coordinated exercise of pre-release supervision and post-release services provided to a juvenile upon discharge from the program. Case Planning Meetings are held approximately every 30 days throughout the duration of this process to review the plan. The Individual Reentry plan is a written document that addresses counseling, referrals to appropriate agencies, specialized treatment needs, vocational and/or educational training, job placement, living arrangements, restitution, victim mediation/clarification, drug testing, electronic monitoring, and other services as appropriate.³²

³² 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(31)

4. Consultation and Participation of Units of Local Government

DJJ works in active partnership and consultation with other divisions in the Department of Family and Community Services and other State of Alaska Departments to develop the state plan and provide appropriate services to Alaskan youth.³³ Collaborative state agency partners include: the Division of Behavioral Health; the Office of Children’s Services; Division of Health Care Services; Division of Public Assistance; Division of Public Health; Department of Education and Early Development; Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Additionally, DJJ has well-established, diverse, and dedicated partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and Alaska Native Tribes. These partnerships enhance and expand the ability of the division to provide programs and services to Alaskan youth including improving outcomes for Alaska Native youth, reducing recidivism rates, and targeting ‘front-end’ youth with delinquency prevention activities.

There are 229 federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes in Alaska. Iñupiat, Yupik, Aleut, Eyak, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, and a number of Northern Athabaskan tribes comprise the diverse cultural heritage of Alaska’s indigenous peoples.

DJJ staff will resume travel to rural Alaskan communities to meet with Tribal Council members, elders, school staff, local law enforcement, and other appropriate community members to support interventions preventing youth from entering the DJJ system as well as to support youth transitioning back to communities after treatment in secure DJJ facilities or residential programs.

Previously, DJJ developed Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) with twenty-nine Alaska Tribes for formal collaborations in the implementation, training, and support of diversion programs for juvenile offenders in rural Alaskan communities. The intent of these collaborations is to use restorative justice

³³ JPD Act Section 223(a) 4

principles to effectively respond to appropriate juvenile offenders at a local level, and to potentially serve as a model program for other rural communities.

V. Plans for Compliance and Monitoring

The three-year compliance and monitoring plans for the four federal core mandates were submitted separately via OJJDP's online Compliance Monitoring Tool.

VI. Plan for Collecting Data Required for Performance Measurement

The overarching goal of the division is to implement a balanced statewide juvenile justice continuum. DJJ is an information-based agency that requires standardized practices across the state to assure efficiency and to improve the quality of service to Alaska's youth. Performance measurement of the Title II Formula Grant documents program outputs and program success leading to improved outcomes benefiting Alaska's youth, families, and communities.

DJJ requires internal tracking and documentation of performance measurement for each program area. All Title II subgrantees are required to submit performance measurement plans in their grant applications and track and report on performance measurement quarterly throughout the term of the grant. DJJ understands the reporting requirements and mandatory performance measures for each program area, as documented and provided by OJJDP. Through the combination of internal monitoring and quarterly subgrantee reporting, DJJ is able to collect the required data on all mandatory performance measures. DJJ does not identify any barriers in meeting the federal reporting requirements and is able to submit timely and accurate reports in the online Performance Measurement Tool.