

ANNUAL REPORT

Year: 2021

Umbrella: COSOO

Unit: 201J

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

PURPOSE:

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) was created in response to the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as reauthorized in 2018, (JJDPA). JJDPA created a voluntary partnership between states and the federal government for the purpose of improving the administration of juvenile justice. In return for an annual formula grant, based on the state's juvenile population, each state undertakes to meet four congressionally defined standards ("Core" Requirements) for the management of juvenile offenders. These core requirements relate to: 1) the handling of status offenders; 2) the separation of juvenile from adult prisoners; 3) the detention of juveniles in places other than adult jails; and 4) the identification of any racial or ethnic disparities that exist and their reduction throughout Maine. Maine has participated in the Act since its inception. The JJAG operates as the supervisory board for all planning, administrative, and funding functions under the Act.

ORGANIZATION:

The JJAG was first established as a committee of the Maine Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance Agency. It was formalized by Executive Order 4 FY80 on October 5, 1979 and authorized by statute in 1984 (34-A MRSA, section 1209). Since July 1, 1982, the Department of Corrections (DOC) has acted as the JJAG's administrative and fiscal agent.

As provided by the Act, the JJAG consists of not less than 15 and not more than 33 representatives of various constituencies concerned with juvenile justice and related areas, including: units of local government; public agencies responsible for law enforcement, juvenile justice, corrections, probation, and the juvenile courts; and those responsible for delinquency prevention or treatment, including welfare, social services, mental health, education, and youth services; private organizations concerned with delinquency prevention or treatment, neglected or dependent children, and the quality of juvenile justice, education, and social services for

children, public and private agencies that utilize volunteers to work with delinquents or potential delinquents; businesses and business groups employing youth; and persons with special experience and competency in addressing the problem of school violence, vandalism, and learning disabilities.

Neither a majority of members, nor the chairman, may be full-time employees of a governmental entity. At least one fifth of the members must be under the age of 27 at the time of appointment, and at least three members must have been or currently be under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

PROGRAM:

The JJAG will work with other stakeholders and devote resources in accordance with its 3-year plan, which is focused on four major goals.

1. Development of community-based continuum of care for youth involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.
2. Addressing the particular needs of historically and currently marginalized populations of youth involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the juvenile justice system, including youth of color, immigrant youth, LGBTQ/GNC youth, youth with disabilities and tribal youth.
3. Improve system policies and procedures consistent with national best practices and recommendations reflected in the recently complete system assessment to reduce the number of youths in the justice system or at risk of becoming involved in the justice system; and
4. Elevate and amplify the voices of youth involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, to ensure that Maine youth are authentically engaged in reform efforts.

The JJAG will continue to use the findings and recommendations from the Children's Center for Law & Policy report on improving areas of service for youth in the Maine juvenile justice system.

Program Area: Mental Health

The JJAG will support the development of more effective crisis responses with a focus on community-based initiatives that successfully minimize or eliminate the role of law enforcement in responding to the behavioral health needs of youth in schools, residential settings, and in the community. The JJAG will support efforts to improve the quality of and accessibility to appropriate, evidence-based and promising programs to meet the needs of youth and divert them from justice system involvement.

Program Area: After Care /Reentry

The JJAG will support the development of inclusive supportive housing for system-involved youth with an emphasis on youth transitioning out of secure care. The work will focus on community-based support for youth to increase access to approaches that provide payment mechanisms (vouchers, subsidies) and to develop availability of housing stock. The JJAG will continue its COVID-19 response program to help accelerate the reintegration process and reduces reliance on detention.

Program Area: Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Guided by the RED/DMC plan the JJAG will support targeted diversion and related capacity-building efforts in community-based organizations to meet the needs of youth in historically or currently marginalized populations. This includes supporting trainings for judges, court staff, attorneys, law enforcement on trauma informed responses, adolescent development, behavioral and mental health needs. The JJAG will work with systems, schools, community-based organizations to amplify youth voice to help promote racial equity.

Program Area: Community Based Programs & Gender Specific Services

The JJAG will devote resources to community-based programs for girls and LGBTQ/GNC youth. The JJAG will continue to support local and regional efforts to establish sustainable restorative and transformative justice practices that demonstrate effectiveness in reducing system-involvement and promoting accountability and healing with a focus on ensuring that youth of color, immigrant youth, LGBTQ/GNC youth, youth with disabilities, and tribal youth have access to these practices.

Program Area: Positive Youth Development

The JJAG will work to elevate and amplify the voices of youth involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the JJ system, to authentically engage them in reform efforts. The JJAG will engage experts in youth engagement to assist in this goal and youth will receive a stipend for their participation. JJAG will distribute a scholarship, the Paul Vestal Award annually for \$5000.00.

ON GOING FUNDING:

2017-JF-FX-0036 Expires 09/30/2021

School Resource Officer's Summit \$4,600.00

Verve Marketing: \$3,000.00 Building a new public facing JJAG page (reports, available funding, minutes, scholarships).

2018-JX-FX-0031 Expires 09/30/2022

Youth Court rental assistance \$5,000.00

Indian Youth Summit \$25,000.00

Tree Street Family & Youth Engagement Counselor \$25,000.00

Young People's Caucus Youth JJAG members \$50,000.00

Aroostook Boys & Girls Maliseet Club Cultural Engagement Mentor (1) & SMART Coordinator (1): \$63,729.98

Racial & Ethnic Disparities Conference Louisville KY (5) \$4,500.00

Remaining Funds \$75,155.16

2019-MU-FX-0030 Expires 09/30/2023

Aroostook Boys and Girls Micmac Club Cultural Engagement Mentor (1) \$31,168.20

Young People's Caucus Youth JJAG members \$50,000.00

Remaining Funds \$310,838.04

2020-JF-FX-0025 Expires 09/30/2024

Aroostook Boys and Girls Micmac Club Cultural Engagement Mentor (1) \$15,000.00

Remaining Funds \$ 418,759.00.