

COMMUNITY-BASED JUVENILE SERVICES AID PROGRAM

Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

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NEBRASKA

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COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Introduction

The Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program of the Nebraska Commission of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Nebraska Crime Commission) is responsible for developing data collection and evaluation protocols, overseeing statewide data collection, and generating an annual report on the effectiveness of juvenile services that receive funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program in Nebraska, in accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-2404.01.

History

The County Aid Program was created in 2001 and administered by the Office of Juvenile Services. Beginning in 2005, the Nebraska Crime Commission administered the County Aid Program. For eight years, the County Aid Program allocated funds to assist counties in the implementation and operation of programs or services identified in their comprehensive juvenile services plan such as programs for assessment and evaluation, prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion, shelter care, intensive juvenile probation services, restitution, family support services, and family group conferencing. In 2013, with the passage of Legislative Bill 561, the County Aid Program was replaced with the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The program broadened recipients to Indian tribes, outlined eligibility requirements, and expanded eligible programs and services.

Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Division

The Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Division is a separate and distinct budgetary program within the Nebraska Crime Commission. Funds under this program shall be used exclusively to assist the aid recipient in the implementation and operation of programs or the provision of services identified in the aid recipient's comprehensive juvenile services plan, including programs for local planning and service coordination; screening, assessment, and evaluation; diversion; alternatives to detention; family support services; treatment services; truancy prevention and intervention programs; pilot projects approved by the commission; payment of transportation costs to and from placements, evaluations, or services; personnel when the personnel are aligned with evidence-based treatment principles, programs, or practices; contracting with other state agencies or private organizations that provide evidence-based treatment or programs; preexisting programs that are aligned with evidence-based practices or best practices; and other services that will positively impact juveniles and families in the juvenile justice system.

The Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Division of the Nebraska Crime Commission is responsible for providing technical assistance and guidance for the development of comprehensive juvenile services plans; coordinating the review of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program application and making recommendations for the distribution of funds; developing data collection and evaluation protocols, overseeing statewide data collection, and generating an annual report on the effectiveness of juvenile services that receive funds; developing relationships and collaborating with juvenile justice system stakeholders, providing education and training as necessary, and serving on boards and committees when approved by the commission; assisting juvenile justice system stakeholders

in developing policies and practices that are research-based or standardized and reliable and are implemented with fidelity and which have been researched and demonstrate positive outcomes; developing and coordinating a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the coalition to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds; and working with the coordinator for the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice in facilitation their obligations specific to the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The Financial Monitor is responsible for fiscally monitoring subgrantees, processing reimbursement contingent upon documentation, training, reviewing and processing cash requests, and the overall fiscal oversight of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.

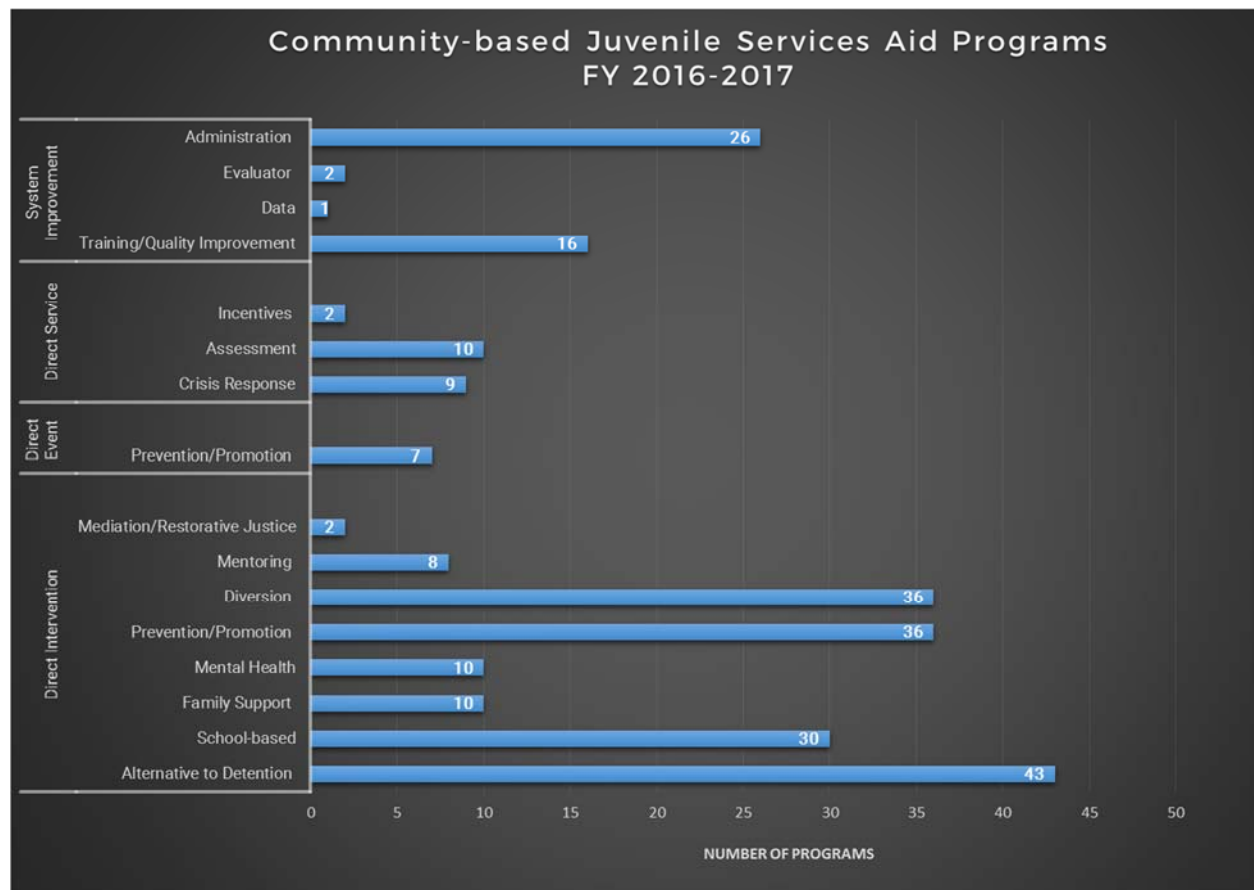
Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plans

To be eligible for participation in the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, a comprehensive juvenile services plan (community plan) shall be developed, adopted, and submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission. The community plan may be developed by eligible applicants for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program and by individual counties, by multiple counties, by federally recognized or state recognized Indian tribes, or by any combination of the three for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. Each community plan is required to be developed by a comprehensive community team representing juvenile justice system stakeholders; be based on data relevant to juvenile and family issues; identify policies and practices that are research-based or standardized and reliable and are implemented with fidelity and which have been researched and demonstrate positive outcomes; identify clear implementation strategies; and identify how the impact of the program or service will be measured. During the reporting period, there were 33 community plans filed with the Nebraska Crime Commission. These community plans represent 72 counties and 2 Indian tribes. Community plans served the timeframe July 1, 2015—June 30, 2018. It is essential that communities have programs to prevent youth from becoming unnecessarily involved in the juvenile justice system. These programs should be available at multiple points throughout the system, providing every opportunity to exit the system. Such programs rarely occur by chance; they are almost always the result of careful community planning. Community planning can also be used to: assess current programs, identify preventive measures to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system, pinpoint duplication and gaps in services to youth, and focus on effective, research-proven strategies.

Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Grants Program

For Fiscal Year 2016-2017, a total of \$6,300,000 was distributed across 71 counties and 2 Indian tribes. Ten percent of funds are set aside for the development of a common data set and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The common data set maintained by the Crime Commission shall be provided to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute to assess the effectiveness of programs.

The chart below displays the number of programs funded through the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. The four over-arching program types are as follows: direct intervention, direct service, direct event, and system improvement. There are numerous programs specified within the four over-arching program types. The definitions and program types are located at the following website: <https://www.jjinebraska.org/programs-home-1/>



Quarterly Reports

According to Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-2404.01, the Nebraska Crime Commission, in consultation with the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI) is responsible for developing and administering a statewide system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Commission Grant Program and Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. In addition, JJI is statutorily charged with measuring the effectiveness of programs implemented with Community-based Juvenile Services Aid. The following information is summarized from JJI's quarterly reporting submissions for Contract CC-17-630.

Juvenile Justice Institute First Quarter Report: July 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016

Program Registration and Classification

Prior to the first quarter, JJI developed and implemented an online registration page to capture the programs who were awarded funds for the FY2016-2017. During the first quarter, the information was compiled into a comprehensive dataset to include the necessary information to track reporting requirements. Additionally, it provided the opportunity for JJI to contact all subgrantees, verify program types, and ensure dataset certificates were distributed.

Evaluation

JJI completed the diversion program evaluation report which contains a statewide measure of recidivism, including sealed and unsealed cases. Truancy data was also reviewed, and it was discovered that additional data was necessary to complete the evaluation of truancy programs. New fields were created and existing fields were modified for truancy programs to enter accurate data. JJI staff conducted individual training sessions with programs to review data errors and to aid in the assistance of data entry into new screens. JJI conducted training in September which included staff from five truancy programs. Utilizing funds from the Rural Futures Institute Justice by Geography grant, interns with JJI traveled to meet other programs in their location for data entry training on present and previous quarters.

Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS)

JJI continued to work with UNO College of Information Science and Technology and the Nebraska Crime Commission on the development of the JCMS, which is the secure data system used by subgrantees to conduct quarterly reporting and provide data to determine program effectiveness and recidivism rates. Since July 2015, JJI has identified outcome measures for each program classification. The process has involved conducting research on current outcome measures related to specific program types, then holding multiple conference calls and meetings with program staff involved in that program type. This process has allowed JJI to collect feedback from program staff on the type of outcomes they believe are appropriate and valuable. JJI identified outcomes for the following program types: assessment (mental health and assessment centers); promotion and prevention; one-time events; and referral services.

Certificate Requests

Programs are required to have a certificate issued by the Nebraska Crime Commission to meet compliance standards for quarterly reporting. JJI staff streamlined the process for individuals to request a new certificate or update a current certificate by developing and implementing an online request form for each individual to submit. JJI staff then worked with the Crime Commission to ensure all certificates were distributed to the necessary subgrantees.

Data Summary

A total of 230 programs uploaded first quarter reports. Of these, 141 programs reported individual-level data either directly into the Juvenile Case Management or the temporary upload website. There are various reasons for the discrepancies between the total number of programs, the number of programs that submitted first quarter reports, and the number of programs that submitted individual-level data. For a specific list of reasons outlined in the quarterly activity reports, contact the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Juvenile Justice Institute Second Quarter Report: October 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Nebraska Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference

The Juvenile Justice Institute attended and presented at the Nebraska Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference on October 12-14, hosted by Lancaster County and the Nebraska Crime Commission. JJI's Director, Dr. Anne Hobbs, presented on "Local Diversion Trends and Outcomes". The third day of the conference was specific to programs receiving Community-based Aid funds, and JJI reviewed collective impact and system measures with all programs before hosting smaller breakout sessions specific to program type. JJI staff, graduate students, and interns were available to the programs to discuss quarterly reporting requirements and address data entry questions. Approximately 90 people attended the Community-based Aid presentation presented by Cynthia Kennedy, Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program and breakout sessions. During the first two days, JJI had a table that was staffed all day to allow programs to stop by and ask questions. Three programs arranged for training with JJI staff during breaks in the presentations.

Collective Impact and Evaluation

A survey was emailed to programs to understand how groups of people from different sectors collaborate on complex social problems. Sixty programs completed the survey during second quarter, and a raffle was open to all participants to win one of two gift cards. JJI staff and interns continued to work with truancy programs individually to ensure that the truancy data was complete before data analysis. The data was analyzed and a draft submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Data Summary

A total of 234 programs uploaded second quarter reports into the Juvenile Case Management System or temporary upload site. Of these, 152 programs reported individual-level data into the Juvenile Case Management or the temporary upload website.

Juvenile Justice Institute Third Quarter Report: January 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017

Training and Technical Assistance

The screens for the school-based programs went live for users to begin entering data. JJI recorded a webinar to assist with this process. JJI assisted with installing and troubleshooting Crime Commission certificates; accessing and completing reporting spreadsheets; quarterly reporting; and providing draft versions of consent forms.

Juvenile Case Management System

Screens were developed for family support and mental health during the reporting period. JJI hosted webinars to obtain feedback from users prior to implementation.

Grant Review

To assist the Nebraska Crime Commission and grant review members determine if programs were meeting the reporting requirements, JJI created a form for each program that was receiving funds during that time. This feedback assisted reviewers with the program's data and reporting history.

Data Summary

A total of 231 programs uploaded third quarter reports into the Juvenile Case Management System or temporary upload site. Of these, 149 programs reported individual-level data into the Juvenile Case Management or the temporary upload website.

Juvenile Justice Institute Fourth Quarter Report: April 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017

They Call Us Monsters film screening

In April, JJI and the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association (NJJA) co-sponsored a screening of film "They Call Us Monsters" at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. The film is a documentary about three youth in California's juvenile justice system being tried as adults for charges of murder and attempted murder, and the challenges of juveniles charged and sentenced for adult crimes, and changes in the California legislation.

Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Annual Conference

JJI sponsored a booth which allowed staff to meet with programs regarding the usage of funds for community-based juvenile services aid programs. Staff at the Nebraska Crime Commission, diversion program personnel, and staff at JJI facilitated a statewide diversion meeting.

Data Summary

A total of 236 programs uploaded fourth quarter reports into the Juvenile Case Management System or temporary upload site. Of these, 145 programs reported individual-level data into the Juvenile Case Management or the temporary upload website.

Evaluation

According to Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-2404.01, the Nebraska Crime Commission, in consultation with the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI) is responsible for developing and administering a statewide system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Commission Grant Program and Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program in preventing persons from entering the juvenile justice system and in rehabilitating juvenile offenders.

According to Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-2404.02, evaluation of the use of funds and the evidence of the effectiveness of the programs shall be completed by the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, specifically:

- The varying rates of recidivism, as defined by rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the commission, and other measures for juveniles participating in community-based programs; and
- Whether juveniles are sent to staff secure or secure juvenile detention after participating in a program funded by the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.

A detailed update is provided in the **Quarterly Reports** section of this annual report in regards to the quarterly progress made toward the evaluation of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program by the Juvenile Justice Institute. Please view the following website to see the full evaluation reports published by the Juvenile Justice Institute:

<https://www.jjinebraska.org/reports/>

Rules and Regulations

Title 75, Chapter 1; Distribution of Community-based Juvenile Services Aid was adopted on January 11, 2016. Drafting of the rules and regulations began in the fall of 2014 and feedback was obtained from several entities to include the following: University of Nebraska – Omaha and Lincoln, Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee, Crime Commission Staff and Legal Counsel, Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, Nebraska Office of Probation Administration, Nebraska Bar Association, Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare, Secretary of State, Nebraska Association of County Officials, and the Nebraska Legislature.

There were several new processes included in the rules and regulations which include a detailed appeals process; a new and more efficient grant review process that maintained all levels of review but expedited the process for subgrantees; a detailed set of guidelines for quarterly reporting; and the addition of a majority vote of the community planning team before the application is submitted to the Crime Commission. The regulations are located at the following website: <http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/index.html>

Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-2404.01, the Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program shall develop and coordinate a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the coalition to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The working group was developed in 2013 and is comprised of individuals from across the state. This working group is referred to as the Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice. In Fiscal Year 2016-2017, the Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee accomplished many tasks to assist with the successful distribution of Community-based Juvenile Services Aid funds. The subcommittee convened six times and discussed the assigned statutory duties.

During the first quarter, the subcommittee assisted the Juvenile Justice Institute with common definitions to be utilized statewide. The subcommittee assisted the Director of Community-based Juvenile Services Aid with a modified and innovative grant application for the 2017 announcement. In this application, subcommittee members assisted with the core program questions that applicants answered on behalf of each program that was requested for funding. Additionally, the application included a new visual composition. Overall, subgrantees were pleased with the new application format and submitted more concise and thorough applications for the subcommittee members to review.

During the second quarter, the subcommittee participated and assisted with the Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference hosted by Lancaster County at the Marriott Cornhusker. The subcommittee also discussed their statutory role in reviewing grant applications and the critique sheet that is submitted by each member during grant review.

During the third quarter, the subcommittee reviewed 51 grants for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Each community's plan was reviewed in conjunction with each application to ensure priorities identified in the community plans were aligned with funding requests.

During the fourth quarter, the subcommittee reviewed and provided suggestions for the 2018 application for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The subcommittee revisited statutory requirements and provided recommendations on the upcoming role of the staff reviewers. Furthermore, discussion ensued regarding age requirements, administrative costs, best practices for school resource officers, salary increases, and prevention/promotion program best practices and statutory alignment.

2016 Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference

The Nebraska Crime Commission and Lancaster County hosted the Nebraska Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference on October 12-14, 2016 at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker. The keynote was Bias in Decision-Making delivered by Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding from Sacramento State University. Her curriculum on implicit bias is used throughout the United States, included in over 5,000 law enforcement training academies.

The conference highlighted several breakout sessions to include: Improving Responses to Youth Charged with Status Offenses, Models for Change Detention Alternatives, Strengthening Relations between Youth and Law Enforcement, Implementing the Risk Principle, School Resource Officers Role in Prevention, Trauma Informed Care, Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, Drug Testing Best Practice, Gang Resistance Education And Training (GREAT), Screening and Assessment, Refugees and Juvenile Justice, Crisis Response, and Family Engagement. Speakers were from various institutions and fields representing several different states and regions, as well as Nebraska experts. All programs presented were ground in research and evidence-based practices.

The Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program conducted a grant writing training for the revised grant application. This session included a detailed description of the revisions and additions to the grant application, allowable and unallowable expenses, quarterly reporting requirements, and community planning feedback. There were approximately 90 individuals in attendance for grant writing training. After this session, additional presentations included the following: overview of the juvenile justice system; collective impact and system measures; and outcomes for diversion, truancy, and alternative to detention programs.

Over 350 Nebraska juvenile justice stakeholders took advantage of this conference at no cost. Funding was provided by Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Enhancement funds as well as contributing sponsors and private donations. Lancaster County facilitated a team of individuals statewide to partake in the development of this conference. Additionally, staff from Lancaster County worked diligently to ensure that the conference had minimal cost as donations were a large contribution to the success of this conference.