



Front End Reform

Fast Track Accountability

The goal of these projects is to provide a timely response to juvenile crime committed by low and moderate risk youth that holds youth quickly accountable and prevents their penetration into family court processing. Generally speaking, these projects include:

1. Use of the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) to assess youth risk and need, either attendant to arrest or at probation intake;
2. Use of a behavioral health screening, to assess youth for behavioral health needs;
3. Referral for services to address needs identified by the YASI and the behavioral health screening; and
4. Implementation of restorative justice practices as alternatives to formal family court processing.

Ulster County Alternative Project

Ulster County Probation Department

Family of Woodstock, Inc.

7-15 year old Ulster County Youth

Family of Woodstock staff will receive referrals from the probation Department. Staff will conduct the YASI and behavioral assessments. Program elements will include day reporting, assistance with school work and tutoring, referral to other community services, curfew enforcement, parenting support, and restorative justice activities.

Grantee

Implementing Agency

Target Population

Description

Juvenile Justice Alternatives and Diversion Program

Grantee
Implementing Agency
Target Population
Description

Madison County
Madison County Department of Social Services
Madison County Youth
Probation Staff will complete a YASI assessment tool for all youth receiving family court appearance tickets within the county due to a JD charge. Additionally, all such youth will be referred to the Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth: Stepping Stones program for further assessment utilizing the MAYSI-2. Based on these assessments, youth will be matched with a family support specialist who will develop an implementation plan to access appropriate treatment and support services to address demonstrated risks and needs. Stepping Stones will also involve all youth referred to them in restorative practices, including victim/community awareness to help the offender understand the harm and/or trauma caused by their behavior while offering an immediate response and holding them accountable for their criminal actions.

Coming Full Circle

Grantee
Implementing Agency
Target Population
Description

Ontario County
Ontario County Probation Department
Community Leaders to Work with Ontario County Youth
Ontario County Probation Department will contract with two local nonprofits to train community leaders in Restorative Circle and Conference techniques; this service will be given to youth assessed to have Community/Peer risk level on the YASI. Also the MAYSI will be used to screen individuals who score a Mental Health risk level on the YASI, and multiple evidence-based therapies will be available based on the MAYSI assessment.

Alternatives to Detention

The JJAG provides funding to alternative to detention strategies that specifically create options outside of a detention setting for youth who would otherwise be sent to detention only because their home situation is not a viable option. The following projects utilize strategies for keeping these youth who are not a risk to public safety out of juvenile detention settings.

Richmond County Respite Program

Grantee
Implementing Agency
Target Population

Center for Court Innovation/Fund for the City of New York
Center for Court Innovation/Fund for the City of New York
Moderate-risk youth aged 10 to 17 in Staten Island

Description

This project utilizes multidimensional treatment foster care homes as respite providers to reduce the use of detention for moderate-risk Staten Island youth aged 10-17 charged with delinquency who pose no threat to public safety but who cannot return to their homes. The project's goal is to keep the targeted youth out of detention, reduce the recidivism rate among youth who complete respite care and successfully return home, and reduce the level of conflict and improve communication among participating families to which respite youth return through the provision of family therapy and service linkages.

The Way Home

Grantee
Implementing Agency
Target Population

New York Foundling
New York Foundling
Low and moderate-risk youth aged 7 to 17 in the Bronx and Manhattan

Description

Implemented by the New York Foundling, this program provides Family Team Conferencing and Brief Strategic Family Therapy for low and moderate-risk youth aged 7-17 placed in detention for more than 3-5 days from Bronx and Manhattan Family Courts due solely to lack of a viable family/home resource. The program strives to increase the number of low and moderate risk youth aged 7-17 united/reunited with a viable home or family resource during the pendency of their family court case and to reduce the number of days that minority youth are held in detention.

Expansion of Way Home and Quest Respite to Queens

Grantee
Implementing Agency
Target Population
Description

ACS New York City
ACS New York City
Queens Youth
In coordination with the New York Foundling and the Center for Court Innovation, Administration for Children's Services has developed a program, which will target 7 to 15 year olds with low to moderate risk of reoffending, as well as those who have been detained or at risk for detention due to family instability. QUEST (Queens Engagements Strategies for Teens) Respite will provide Therapeutic Foster Care for up to 21 days, while Way Home will be administering family team conferencing.

Juvenile Justice ATD and Diversion Project

Grantee
Implementing Agency
Target Population
Description

Onondaga County
Onondaga County Probation Department
Onondaga County Youth
Through this project, Onondaga County will add an additional alternative to detention service to youth coming from an untenable home situation. By coupling Brief Strategic Family Therapy with therapeutic foster care respite, the locality will be able to create a more stable home and work with the family on developing and mastering supports provided to them by the program.

Erie County Alternatives to Detention Reform

Grantee
Implementing Agency
Target Population
Description

Erie County
Erie County Department of Social Services
Youth from within the City of Buffalo
Erie County plans to implement Brief Strategic Family Therapy coupled with Family team Conferencing in an effort to decrease detention length of stay for juveniles with untenable home situations and successfully divert the same population from further juvenile justice system involvement.

JCAP Respite Program

Grantee
Implementing Agency
Target Population
Description

Oswego County

Oswego County Probation Department

Oswego County Youth

This project will provide services to youth who have been charged as a Juvenile Delinquent and are at risk of detention placement; modeled after Staten Island's Project Ready Respite. JJAG funding support allows for a respite component for a current ATD program and provides positive reinforcement to youth. Funding also allows for local community-based services to be utilized as "wraparound" supports to youth and families; and the development of a new program for those juveniles at the disposition and violation of probation stage.
