

State of North Carolina

Three-Year Comprehensive Plan

2021 - 2023



Diane Barber-Whitaker, Interim Executive Director, NC Governor's Crime Commission
Adonica McAllister, Juvenile Justice Specialist
Tonishia Lockley, RED Coordinator

North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission
1201 Front Street
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-733-4564 (Main)
919-733-4625 (Fax)

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Introduction

The Governor's Crime Commission (GCC), a section of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, serves as the State Administering Agency and administrator of federal juvenile justice funding allocations. The GCC is the designated state agency responsible for preparation and administration of the 3-year plan. The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee (JJPC) of the Governor's Crime Commission serves as North Carolina's State Advisory Group (SAG), as required under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP Act). The Governor's Crime Commission functions as the state's supervisory board under 28 C.F.R. § 31.103 and in compliance with the requirements of the Justice System Improvement Act of 1979. As outlined in NC Gen Stat § 143B-1102, The Governor's Crime Commission is designated as the agency responsible for the 3-year comprehensive statewide plan.

State Advisory Group (SAG)

The JJPC/SAG provides resources for youth who are at-risk of becoming delinquent due to individual, school, family, peer, or community factors. These resources provide services for youth who are delinquent, undisciplined, involved in the juvenile court process from intake through aftercare. The JJPC/SAG involved in the juvenile court process, from intake through aftercare. The JJPC/SAG has two subcommittees: The Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force and the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Subcommittee, previously known as the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Subcommittee.

A major responsibility of the JJPC/SAG is to review, comment on, and score all grant applications that are submitted for Title II Juvenile Justice funding. This process includes bringing forth funding recommendations to the to the full Governor's Crime Commission.

Commission Members include the heads of statewide criminal justice agencies, appointed state and local government officials, and private citizens. The GCC allocates program funds to support the JJPC/SAG (\$20,0000), not to exceed 5 percent of the total award received each year.

- (A) The North Carolina Juvenile Justice Planning Committee/State Advisory Group is composed of 20 members, including five youth members and nine full-time Government members (See **Appendix A**).
- (B) The JJPC/SAG participates in the development and review of the state's juvenile justice plan prior to submission to the supervisory board for final action. This is done through a SAG retreat in which members discuss and vote on priorities for the plan, and then by subsequent review and approval of the draft plan prior to submission to OJJDP.
- (C) The SAG is afforded the opportunity to review and comment, within 45 days after their submission to the advisory group, on all juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications submitted to the GCC. The SAG reviews and scores the grant applications and provides funding recommendations within 45 days of receiving the applications. The SAG then provides the final vote on the awards to be made by the designated state agency.
- (D) The JJPC/SAG advises the designated state agency, and its supervisory board which is made up of Commission Members. The SAG holds an annual strategy session at the GCC to address the need for effective statewide planning and coordination of activities that are written into the 3-year plan. The GCC, under the guidance of the SAG, is responsible for implementing that plan. Throughout the year, the GCC updates the SAG on the priorities and activities. The JJPC/SAG makes recommendations for the annual updates required by OJJDP.

North Carolina affirms that contact and regular input is sought from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the JJ system. The North Carolina Department of Public Safety maintains statutory authority over all juvenile detention and juvenile correctional facilities. The Deputy Secretary of Juvenile Justice serves on the SAG and is able to provide opportunities for SAG members to meet with juveniles who are currently under their jurisdiction to gather input.

State Advisory Group Plan Development

North Carolina provides for the active consultation with and participation of units of local government or combinations thereof in the development of the state plan, which takes into account the needs and requests of units of local government. The GCC is comprised of 42 members that are appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Commissioners serve two-year terms and can be reappointed. The GCC also has ex-officio members including heads of statewide criminal justice/human service agencies, representatives from the courts, and state law enforcement. The JJPC/SAG has two subcommittees: The Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force and the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Subcommittee, previously known as the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Subcommittee. Each respective Committee, including the full Commission, meets quarterly each year. This structure gives localities an opportunity to give input into the state plan and juvenile justice priorities.

North Carolina assures that at least 66 and 2/3 percent of funds, excluding funds made available to the SAG, are expended through programs of units of local government or combinations thereof, to the extent that such programs are consistent with the state plan; through programs of local private agencies, to the extent the programs are consistent with the state plan, only if such

agency requests such funding after it has applied for and been denied funding by any unit of local government or combination thereof; and for programs of Indian tribes that agree to attempt to comply with the core requirements applicable to the detention and confinement of juveniles, an amount that bears the same ratio to the aggregate amount to be expended through programs of units of local government or combinations thereof and through programs of local private agencies, as the population under 18 years of age in the geographical areas in which such tribes perform such functions bears to the State population under 18 years of age.

North Carolina provides for an equitable distribution of the assistance received within the state, including in rural areas. This occurs through the creation of the state regional youth justice teams that help inform local entities as well as the state about challenges and needs throughout the state. This information, in conjunction with youth crime analysis data, helps inform the funding decisions made.

Analysis of juvenile delinquency problems (youth crime) and needs.

The following provides an analysis of juvenile delinquency problems in, and the juvenile delinquency control and delinquency prevention needs (including educational needs) of North Carolina, a description of the services to be provided, and a description of performance goals and priorities, including a specific statement of the manner in which programs are expect to meet the identified juvenile crime problems and juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs of the State.

North Carolina is the 28th largest and 9th-most populous state, with an estimated population of 10,630,691 people. The State consists of 100 counties which contain 533 incorporated municipalities. All counties and municipalities operate independently of one another and the State. North Carolina has a state-run juvenile justice system, where most juvenile justice

functions occur at the state level. The formal juvenile justice system includes law enforcement, the court system and all the programs and services of the state Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice (DAC-JJ). North Carolina's approach to juvenile crime was redefined in 1998 with the ratification of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act and further modified in December 2019 with the passage of "Raise the Age" legislation, which determines that juveniles who commit crimes in North Carolina are no longer automatically charged in the adult criminal justice system.

In addition to OJJDP Title II funds, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety administers Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) grant funds which includes funds that support evidence-based and research-supported, including programming to address the needs of the 16- and 17-year-old population effected by the implementation of Raise the Age legislation. In 2017, North Carolina's General Assembly passed the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act by including the language in the appropriations bill. This legislation allowed for most 16- and 17-year-olds charged with crimes to be served in juvenile justice system instead of being charged as adults. Both the Governor and the General Assembly made significant investments to implementing Raise the Age in their budgets.

JCPCs are deliberately structured to address the legislated mandates in the execution of its duties by: (1) assessing the risks for delinquency and the needs of delinquent youth in the county (analyzing the offender profile unique to the county and address community risk factors that contribute to delinquency), (2) assessing local resources available to serve target youth populations in the county, (3) identifying service gaps in the county's service continuum, (4) identifying the services needed to fill gaps in the service continuum, (5) determining the priority services to address the needs of court involved youth and youth most likely to become court

involved which are then advertised through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to solicit proposals from service providers to address priority service needs, and finally (6) completing a plan approved by the county government for addressing delinquency in that county that also identifies the services and recommended funding awards from the county JCPC allocation . The JCPC decision-making process which leads to the approval of funding for non-profits or government-sponsored entities to address the needs of court-involved and at-risk youth requires multiple tiers of decision-making.

(A) An annual breakdown of juvenile arrest data by county is located in the County

Databook, located at: <https://www.ncdps.gov/Juvenile-Justice/Community-Programs/Juvenile-Crime-Prevention-Councils/JCPC-Planning-Process/County-Databooks>

(B) The following details an analysis of gender-specific services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency in the State of North Carolina:

North Carolina has developed and maintains residential housing with gender-specific services that address both prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency. The need was recognized in the early 2000 as the face of our population included many revelations regarding specific treatment needs especially with increasing populations of female youth, youth with mental health diagnosis, and the largest population, which are youth with significant ACE and trauma related behaviors/conditions. North Carolina worked with many community partners to set forth plans to address these growing populations to develop strategies on how to treat each of those concerns. The following information along with the attached document provide more details on how North Carolina addressed those needs (**Appendix B**).

Three Residential Academies, Kerr Lake, Boomer and Candor are funded through the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, the Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice. The programs are bid through an RFP process. Eckerd has been operating in NC since 1977. Eckerd Connects is the largest provider of Level II residential services in the State of North Carolina. The three residential programs are all short-term (6-months) residential programs that serve males and females from the ages of 13-17. The programs are accredited schools through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and are accredited through the Council on Accreditation. The programs focus on utilizing evidence-based practices that are gender-specific. The programs work with the youth and families to identify the primary treatment issues and develop individualized service plans to include addressing behavioral issues, educational deficits, community service and vocational services.

Youth served annually:

- Kerr Lake (35)
- Candor (118)
- Boomer (117)
- Total served from 5/1/2020-4/30/2021 (270)

Key Performance Indicators (KPI):

The following are a list of the **Key Performance Indicators** in the contract for Eckerd Male Residential Academy at Boomer and Eckerd Male Residential Academy at Candor: Kerr Lake has recently began tracking the KPIs

- 85% of clients successfully complete program per North Carolina Department of Public Safety conditions, to include completion of more than 50% of conditions/goals identified during service planning.
- 75% of successful completers will not recidivate one-year post discharge.
- 75% of successful completers will demonstrate gains in reading evidenced by an increased score from intake to discharge on California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) test.
- 75% of successful completers will demonstrate gains in math evidenced by an increased score from intake to discharge on STAR test.
- 85% of successful completers will demonstrate gains in social skills evidenced by an increased score from intake to discharge in areas including social skills, problem behaviors, and academic competence on the Social Skills Improvement System Assessment.
- 75% of successful completers will demonstrate improvements in mental health evidenced by an improved score on the Youth Outcome Questionnaire (YOQ).
- 85% of successful completers report being satisfied with services.
- 85% of parents/guardians of successful completers report being satisfied with services.

Eckerd Boomer and Eckerd Candor Specific Curriculum and Interventions:

Implementing effective delinquency interventions requires an understanding of the *Principles of Effective Intervention* (PEI), which help target thinking errors, anti-social beliefs and attitudes and behaviors. The following provides an overview of the PEI and

how North Carolina utilizes it to incorporate evidence- and strength-based interventions with trauma-informed care practices.

- **Risk Principle:** identifying the risks/barriers/lack of protective factors the youth presents.
- **Need Principle:** targeting areas of need that create the most risk or the biggest barriers for the youth.
- **Responsivity Principle:** paying attention to the individual characteristics of the youth and responding to those characteristics in a manner that is effective.
- **Treatment Principle:** providing services that are proven effective and that work – this includes cognitive interventions and social learning theory practices when implementing behavioral interventions, including Motivational Interviewing.
- **Fidelity Principle:** providing the service in a manner that it was intended to be provided.

Evidenced-Based Practice	Target Intervention	Frequency/Number of Session	Delivered By	Resource Reference
Motivational Interviewing	Youth and Family Engagement	Daily during course of programming	All Staff	Clearinghouse-Pewtrusts.org
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)	Individual Therapy and Group Setting	Weekly 60 minutes/Duration varies	LMHC	Clearinghouse-Crimesolution.gov
Forward Thinking – Interactive Journaling	Group & Individual Application (Journaling) Substance Abuse module for SA diagnosed youth	Weekly (Minimum of 16 weeks) during course of programming/60-90 minutes	Youth Counselors LMHC (SA Treatment Group)	Clearinghouse-Pewtrusts.org Changecompanies.net
The Council for Boys & Young Men	Group	Weekly during course of programming/60 minutes	Youth Counselors	Clearinghouse-NREPP OneCircleFoundation

Kerr Lake Specific Curriculum and Interventions:

Gender-Specific Girls Safety and Security Approach

The quality of life of the youth participating in the program begins with the establishment of a homelike structure and environment. The structure is created through the development of small primary groups in which youth will maintain membership through to transition. The environment and structure of the program will be designed to support the development of positive peer relationships in this small group setting. Living in a small, closely-knit group offers youth daily experiences in building positive interpersonal relationships and practicing personal development skills. Youth learn by being the focus of a discussion; observing problems, solutions, and behaviors of other group members; participating in finding solutions and providing support to others, participating in recreation, group counseling, and other activities with these peers to model family interactions and relationships. A commitment to the philosophy, values, policies and processes is integral to transforming services to girls in the juvenile justice system.

Gender Responsive: Commitment to creating a gender-responsive culture that is ingrained in the agency mission, values, policies and programming at every level.

Culturally Competent: Ensuring cultural competence in policy making, administration, procedures, service delivery and work with girls and their families.

Trauma-Informed Approach: Integration of trauma informed care into the program's community and all aspects of programming. Creating an environment that is grounded in trauma informed care and providing trauma specific treatment.

Family Focused: Understanding the importance of family engagement, family relationships and a commitment to family-focused services.

Relationship-based: Recognizing the importance of healthy relationships and incorporating healthy relationship development into daily programming.

Strength-based: Use of strength-based approaches throughout all aspects of treatment and programming.

The creation of a safe, therapeutic community begins with the facility design and living environment.

Walls: Researched colors for calming, increased sensitivity and inquisitiveness and reducing stress and tension. Program walls contain inspirational posters and artwork, celebrations of success, role models and youth artwork.

Serenity Area: Safe area designated for relaxation and supportive environment.

Safety Plans: Safety planning is completed with each youth. Safety plans include risk behaviors requiring monitoring, preventative awareness-triggers, early warning behaviors, coping skills, supportive people, and implementation of appropriate responses.

Family Visitation Area: Welcome area to facilitate family visits and reunification activities.

Point Store: As a part of the positive performance system, young women will be rewarded with opportunities to visit the store where points are exchanged for items selected by the youth which can be earned.

Group Room Space: Adequate space is provided for the provision of group services that is comfortable, private and conducive to talking and sharing.

Family Style Eating: Socialization occurs during mealtimes.

Recreation Space: Space includes indoor and outdoor areas for recreation. Equipment is available for basketball, volleyball, soccer, meditation, yoga, jump rope, dance, etc.

Privacy Showers: Space is available for showering and dressing in private. Curtains are hung with materials to reduce the fear of suicide threat. Privacy is essential and is supported by policy.

Medical: Private space is available for young women to speak with medical staff. Medications and treatment will be delivered in a private area that safeguards confidentiality.

For transitional living, we offer single gender housing and programming at Craven (male), Forsyth (male), and North Hills (female). The programming is not gender-specific but provided in single-gender settings (**Appendix C**).

The youth we served in transitional living are ages 16-21. The typical length of service for each program is 6-12 months and the program include services related to:

- Educational Goals: Penn Foster, Hi Set, GED, college classes, trades- depending on where youth is at time of admission and area of home.
- Vocational Goals: Trade schools, opportunities to work in their communities while in transitional living and beyond.
- Financial Skills Goals: Budgeting, banking, and financial literacy skills taught by Transitional Living staff.
- Duke Personal Responsibility Educational Program (PREP): Utilizing Making Proud Choices curriculum in a classroom setting

- Casey Life Skills: Assessing competencies of youth to enhance independent living skills.
- i. Plan to provide alternatives to detention for status offenders, survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, and others where appropriate

North Carolina's Juvenile Detention Facilities are considered short term secure facilities that house juveniles apprehended for delinquency and require secure custody for their own protection or that of the community. Most juveniles held in these facilities are pending juvenile court disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction or they may be awaiting needed mental health services. At intake or at the time of the offense, the juvenile is administered North Carolina's juvenile detention screening tool, a tool designed to assess need for the juvenile's secure placement. Detention may also be ordered by a District Court Judge based on the commission of non-divertible offense by the juvenile as defined by general statute or for juveniles bound over to superior court for the alleged commission of a class A-G felony per new NC raise the age legislative mandates. Use of detention for status offenders is strictly monitored by the juvenile justice section of DPS and is a discouraged practice.

Court Services Programs and Initiatives to identify survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and provide alternatives to detention and/or community-based services or treatment include:

- Partnership with local programs,
- Training at the state and local level through dedicated conferences and organizations,

- Referral to specialized courts, including a dedicated human trafficking court,
 - Collaboration with county-level human trafficking task forces and human trafficking coordinated response teams,
 - Piloting screening tools, including the West Coast Human Trafficking Tool, and,
 - Assessment for placement in a Level II or JCPC-funded crisis bed, or referral to an assessment center (**Appendix D**).
- ii. Plan to reduce the number of children housed in secure detention and corrections facilities who are awaiting placement in residential treatment programs
- The Juvenile Community Programs’ mission serves to prevent youth at- risk for becoming delinquent from entering the juvenile justice system and adjudicated youth from penetrating deeper into the juvenile justice system. The Juvenile Community Programs section works to provide programming that may be used as an alternative to detention, particularly for youth that are adjudicated delinquent at or below age 12, by offering an alternative to detention model in a more therapeutic and age- appropriate environment. Currently the section supports a crisis and assessment model that offers an Alternative to Detention for this young delinquent population. Crisis and assessment centers have also been a valuable resource for placement in lieu of detention for juveniles that are awaiting placement to prescribed mental health residential services (PRTFs).
- iii. Plan to engage family members where appropriate in the design and delivery of juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment services

Juvenile Community Programs is representing Juvenile Justice by offering collaboration and guidance to the Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services in their effort to establish a sustainability plan for Triple P throughout North Carolina. The goal is to scale up Triple P so that the service is accessible to all parents in North Carolina. This five -level intervention program model is designed to alter dysfunctional parenting practices with goals to reduce family risk factors for child maltreatment and to also address youth with behavioral and emotional problems. With effective planning and implementation, the program could be accessible to families of need across the state. Given that the program model addresses parenting of youth up to age 17, it could serve as a viable resource to local School Justice Partnerships being developed across the state. The program has been found to have a large effect on the overall reduction in risk factors in counties where it is implemented.

The family engagement subgroup was formed as a part of the Re-Entry Grant that was awarded to the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2015. Family engagement is defined as an active and ongoing process that facilitates opportunities for all family members to fully participate and contribute in decision making for their children, plus meaningful involvement in specific programs and with other families. The subgroup focused on providing training and tools to ensure not just that families were informed or involved with their child in the system but engaged in the entire decision-making process. From the subgroup, came tools such as a Bill of Rights for Parents of Youth in the Juvenile Justice System, a Bill of Rights for Youth in Juvenile Community Programs Residential Care, a Reentry

Handbook, and the development of a family engagement training module. Other family engagement contributions included policy driven protection for LGBTQI populations in our secure facilities, a redefining of “family” and practices that support acknowledgement that families are fluid with changing members, recommendations for more frequent communication with parents while in residential or secure facilities, and telecommunication and use of technologies (in all 30 judicial districts) that can support family engagement while juveniles are in secure facilities or residential care. **(Appendices E, F)**

iv. Plan to use community-based services to respond to the needs of at-risk youth or youth who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system

For juveniles that are deeper in the juvenile justice system, on juvenile probation with stricter, more structured dispositions, Alternative to Commitment Programs provide services that halt the trajectory of these youth into commitment status and into the system’s most secure facilities, known as Youth Development Centers.

Alternative to Commitment programs provide residential and/or community-based intensive services to juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent with a Level 2 or Level 3 disposition (commitment) or who are reentering the community after serving time in a youth development center. Programs provide intensive “wrap around services” to the youth and family, home based family counseling, parent/family skills building, sexual offender assessment and treatment, therapeutic foster care, mentoring, and vocational skills.

There are three Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers that are funded under the Juvenile Community Programs umbrella of services. The Juvenile Crisis and

Assessment Centers are designed to intervene with juveniles who are having a behavioral crisis or other need and require referrals to appropriate services rather than being placed in Detention. These centers provide a comprehensive juvenile assessment in a residential setting with the primary goal of matching the youth to the most appropriate services in their community. The assessment takes place under the supervision of a licensed psychologist and licensed clinical case managers. The average length of stay is between 28 and 30 days. Additionally, the Western Area Center also has four secure custody beds available for short term secure stays (3-7 days).

The Juvenile Assessment Centers serve Level II offenders between the ages of 10 and 17. Some exceptions are made for offenders that are not in the Level II category such as high-risk and/or high needs Level 1 youth. The service includes a systematic evaluation that includes testing in the areas of education, behavior, personality, and intelligence. Additional testing is provided areas such as sexual predation, substance abuse, and trauma. Testing information is combined with information obtained through observation of the daily living aspects of the program. This combination allows for a more complete look at the youth's strengths, areas of concern, and goals. At discharge the youth, family, and Court Counselor are provided a comprehensive and user-friendly evaluation report accompanied by clear and actionable recommendations.

The Crisis and Assessment Center model has served to reduce detention bed capacities when juveniles are awaiting mental health residential placement. The

center has also served to support the Juvenile Facilities Section when overcrowding of facilities has prompted use of other resources for selected juveniles.

v. Plan to promote evidence-based and trauma-informed programs and practices

Core programming rooted in a Risk-Need-Responsivity model shall be offered at each of the State's Youth Development Centers. Core programming shall be informed by the research literature addressing "what works" with confined juvenile offenders, shall be rooted in a cognitive-behavioral treatment approach, and shall encompass a motivation system as well as focused interventions targeting common criminogenic needs. In addition, each juvenile shall be assigned to a service planning team that is responsible for the development of an individualized service plan that identifies unique goals, objectives, and interventions designed to promote the rehabilitation/habilitation of a juvenile. The service planning team monitors progress and addresses the changing needs of the juvenile by reviewing and revising the individualized service plan as warranted.

(Appendix G)

vi. Plan to eliminate the use of restraints of known pregnant juveniles housed in secure juvenile detention and correction facilities

The State has eliminated the use of abdominal restraints, leg and ankle restraints, wrist restraints behind the back, and four-point restraints on pregnant juveniles, as stated in both the Juvenile Justice Use of Force Policy and Juvenile Justice Transportation Policy. (Appendix)

Implementation (activities and services).

The JJPC/SAG works within the Governor’s Crime Commission in administering the Title II funds and in achieving and maintaining compliance with the Four Core Requirements set forth through the JJDP. In 2020, the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS) provided technical support to the SAG which included SAG 101 training and 3-year strategic planning, priority area identification, and plans for compliance. During these trainings, the JJPC/SAG voted and approved the funding priorities for subawards of Title II funds administered through the NC Governor’s Crime Commission. As with previous annual funding cycles, the priorities established include: Racial and Ethnic Disparities, Raise the Age Implementation, and School Justice Partnerships. Each of these priorities are addressed outside of Title II funding and in conjunction with other State juvenile justice services and initiatives. **(Appendix H)**

(A) Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) remains a priority of the Governor due to trends indicating overrepresentation of youth of color at key points throughout the juvenile justice system. Moreover, as the “Raise the Age” statute is implemented in North Carolina, the impact of this legislation on youth of color is still being determined. In keeping with our commitment to reducing racial and ethnic disparities and promoting racial equality, grant applications are sought that address these issues.

Goals and responsibilities of the RED priority as identified by the JJPC workgroup include:

- i. Shared data measurements and efforts to work toward standard definitions for the collection of data across systems, groups, and different regions of the state.
- ii. Examining past efforts of focus, funds spent, and barriers to implementation to inform current and future strategies.

- iii. Ensuring that the RED Subcommittee is utilized at the State level and locally as educational leaders to RED work across the state.

The subawards granted under the FY2020 Racial and Ethnic Disparities (formerly known as DMC) priority include:

PROJ014341 2020 City of Goldsboro JJ DMC

Subrecipient: Goldsboro Police Department

Project Summary: City of Goldsboro Police Department will lead Wayne County Public Schools, Wayne County Courts, Wayne County Sheriff, and others in addressing a Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Reduction Initiative. The effort will be in conjunction with Wayne County's School to Justice Partnership.

PROJ014044 Ties for Guys Mentoring Program

Subrecipient: Ties for Guys Mens Ministry

Project Summary: Ties 4 Guys MM proposes to expand the Intel-I-Gents mentoring and tutoring program to include a mentor and education coordinator, secure meeting space, and to establish the "Law Enforcement Ambassador" program to improve youth and law enforcement interactions to reduce delinquent behavior.

(B) Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, otherwise known as “Raise the Age,” requires process changes, program expansion, and infrastructure support to effectively implement the increase in the age of juvenile jurisdiction. The significant influx of 16- and 17-year-olds into the juvenile system dramatically changed the juvenile system’s capacity and approach.

Locally, solutions range from providing training to law enforcement on working with juveniles to offering crisis and assessment placement solutions as an alternative to

detention. The referral and/or provision of services for the emerging adult populations of (1) at-risk youth and (2) juvenile justice involved youth are key to preventing recidivism and further penetration into the court system. Intervention strategies within the continuum of services may be community specific or require multi-county agreements to accomplish basic, core programming for juveniles. Goals and responsibilities of the Raise the Age Implementation priority as identified by the JJPC workgroup include:

- i. The assessing and evaluating the need for the expansion of transitional services to meet the needs of 16 years of age and older through (1) cross sharing information to pinpoint mental health, medical health, and other support services needed and connect youth to the services and supports needed, (2) identifying and addressing the barriers to foster care for youth who turn 18, and (3) determining whether youth are connecting with the services and supports needed, and the types of outcomes youth are experiencing.
- ii. Endorsing and evaluating the creation of localized diversion programs that focus on addressing the needs of at-risk youth in under-resourced communities.

Programming under this priority seeks to impact outcomes in juvenile delinquency, provide prevention services including diversion and re-entry programming, the reform of secure custody practices by separating juveniles from adults, offering a continuum of services including alternatives to detention, and supporting efforts to build and operate effective prevention programming. The subawards granted under the FY2020 Raise the Age Implementation priority include:

PROJ014326 Juvenile Diversion

Subrecipient: Haven House Services, Inc.

Project Summary: Program expansion for low-level, first time offenders, with a priority on 16-17-year-olds, to be diverted from the juvenile court system. Assessments and targeted interventions address problem behaviors through evidence-based curriculum and 24/7 crisis support, preventing further court involvement.

PROJ014361 Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act Initiative

Subrecipient: Robeson County Teen Court & Youth Services

Project Summary: This project addresses the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act implementing research-based programs holistically supporting needs of high risk status offenders identified by the courts using a Teen Court model providing Parenting Wisely and Botvin Life Skills thus avoiding a formalized court process.

PROJ014386 Cabarrus Youth Development Center's Green House Project

Subrecipient: Department of Public Safety

Project Summary: The horticulture program will uniquely provide job training and transitional services to our students by collaborating with the SYJDC Food Services Unit, 100 Gardens of Mecklenburg County, N.C., along with Rivendell Farms of the Carolinas, one of the largest commercial greenhouse operations in the southeast. The implementation of our proposed project will substantially increase the production rates and provide a quality curriculum leading towards greenhouse certification on a year-round basis, with the majority of our students benefitting from the vocational training needed to be successful upon re-entry into society.

PROJ014277 S. A. Y.-Save-A-Youth Vocational Program 2020

Subrecipient: St. John Community Development Corp, Inc.

Project Summary: The Program will aid in the reduction and assist with preventing juvenile delinquency by providing training to our youth through marketable vocational skills and aid in helping to significantly reinforce the student's academic achievement, life/social skills along with their pro-social skills. SAY Vocational will serve you in Wilson/Wilson County between the ages of 12-17 who are at-risk of or involved in delinquent activities.

(C) The Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, aka "Raise the Age," required the creation of School Justice Partnerships across North Carolina. The Governor's Crime Commission prioritizes grant requests that provide safer school environments by creating more effective alternatives to suspension or the filing of juvenile petitions for minor discipline problems. These practices have been shown to do more harm than good at changing student behavior. Effective alternatives such as Teen Court, crisis and assessment services, academic coaches, school-based community service and restitution, and restorative justice practices are considered for funding under this priority. In addition, local communities who need support to coordinate the planning process associated with the school justice partnership could be funded under this priority.

Goals and responsibilities of the School Justice Partnerships priority as identified by the JJPC workgroup include:

- i. Ensuring that 16/17-year-olds continue education through partnerships and every justice-involved youth earns a high school diploma or GED.
- ii. Developing community school alternatives to suspension/expulsion that incorporate educational and/or job skills as a component.

- iii. Ensuring that appropriate support is in place in schools and communities to provide mental health, counseling and other supportive services.

The subawards granted under the FY2020 School Justice Partnerships priority include:

PROJ014234 Stokes County Teen Court

Subrecipient: Children’s Center of Surry County

Project Summary: Stokes County Teen Court is a diversionary restorative justice option for first time juvenile offenders ages 11 to 17 and will serve 50 youth per year. Teen Court uses positive peer role modeling and meaningful sanctions to improve offender competencies and reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

Consultation and participation with units of local government.

Not less than 75 percent of the funds available to the State of North Carolina under section 11132 of this title, other than funds made available to the State Advisory Group under section 11132(d) of this title, whether expended directly by the State, by the unit of local government, or by a combination thereof, or through grants and contracts with public or private nonprofit agencies, shall be used for, with priority in funding given to entities meeting the criteria for evidence-based or promising programs.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety has developed an adequate research, training, and evaluation capacity within the state through the Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice Section (DACJJ) which provides high quality data, research, and evaluation services to an array of entities including federal, state, and local governments. DACJJ employs a team of four research staff that support the analysis and decision support needs of the section. In

addition, the SAG has supported an evaluation of a state-funded juvenile programs; this evaluation has yielded useful information leading to improvements in the operations of diversion programs, including training of staff involved in those programs and addressing disparities in youth progression into the juvenile justice system.

Plans for Compliance.

North Carolina will submit the compliance and RED plan, compliance data, and supporting documentation for the period of October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 electronically to OJJDP's online compliance reporting tool separately from this application by August 12, 2021 **(Appendix I)**.

i. Deinstitutionalization of status offenders

North Carolina was determined to be in compliance with the deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO) requirement pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11).

ii. Separation of juveniles from adults in secure facilities

North Carolina has met the Federal requirement for separation of juveniles from adults in secure facilities as part of the State's ongoing PREA audit program.

Additionally, N.C.S.L. 2020-83, House Bill 593, requires all persons under the age of 18 to be housed in a facility approved by the Juvenile Justice Section, and all persons who turn 18 to be moved into the custody of the sheriff of the county where the charges arose **(Appendix)**.

PREA audit reports can be found at <https://www.ncdps.gov/adult-corrections/prison-rape-elimination-act#cycle-3--2019---2022>

iii. Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups

North Carolina has met the Federal requirement for the removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups as codified in N.C.S.L. 2020-83, House Bill 593 (**Appendix**).

House Bill 593 can be found at

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H593v7.pdf>

Racial and Ethnic Disparities.

In addition to funding RED initiatives through Title II program funds, the JJPC/SAG has a Racial and Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee who provides support, insight, and oversight through their subject-matter expertise. Additionally, in 2020 the Governor established the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice (TREC) through Executive Order 145. TREC is composed of a range of stakeholders, including advocates, elected officials, state and local law enforcement agencies, justice-involved individuals, and representatives of the judicial branch and recommend solutions to end disparate outcomes in the criminal justice system, mitigate the effects of bias and discrimination, and increase accountability in law enforcement and criminal justice (**Appendix J**). North Carolina works to assure that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, family income, and disability in according with the State's Juvenile Bill of Rights (**Appendix K**).

Consideration and assistance are available for approaches designed to strengthen the families of delinquent and other youth to prevent juvenile delinquency with approaches that include the involvement of grandparents or other extended family members when possible and appropriate, and the provision of family counseling during the incarceration of juvenile family members and coordination of family services when appropriate and feasible. During the Covid-19 pandemic, North Carolina introduced video visitation to facilitated continued family engagement for

juveniles in facilities and plans to continue this option as it reduces barriers to visitation and strengthens communication and engagement (**Appendix L**).

North Carolina maintains procedures for protecting the rights of recipients of services and for assuring appropriate privacy with regard to records relating to such services provided to any individual under the State plan (**Appendix M**).

Additionally, North Carolina assures that--

- Any assistance provided under this chapter will not cause the displacement (including a partial displacement, such as a reduction in the hours of non-overtime work, wages, or employment benefits) of any currently employed employee;
- Activities assisted under this chapter will not impair an existing collective bargaining relationship, contract for services, or collective bargaining agreement; and,
- North Carolina is an at-will state for employment; as such, no activity that would be inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement shall be undertaken without the written concurrence of the labor organization involved

Financial Controls.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety operates under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), providing for fiscal control and fund accounting procedures necessary to assure prudent use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of federal funds received.

Further, the State assures that that Federal funds will be used to supplement and increase (but not supplant) the level of the State, local, tribal, and other non-Federal funds that would in the absence of such Federal funds be made available for the programs selected for funding by the

Governor's Crime Commission, and will in no event replace such State, local, tribal, and other non-Federal funds.

Valid Court Order.

It is important to note that the Juvenile Justice section approves custody for any juvenile, as outlined in the JJ Confinement policy (**Appendix N**). Therefore, the procedures to ensure legal accuracy, appropriate court orders, and an evaluation of alternatives, as well as the requirement for notification to the appropriate public agency all occur prior to confinement. The JJ Court Hearings policy also addresses this process in detail (**Appendix O**). North Carolina complies with all requirements for valid court order exceptions and documentation has been submitted in the compliance monitoring tool (CMT).

North Carolina affirms that if the state receives an amount that exceeds 105 percent of the amount received under this section in FY 2000, all such excess would be expended through or for programs as part of a comprehensive and coordinated community system of services.

North Carolina, to the maximum extent practicable, and in accordance with confidentiality concerns, has implemented a system to ensure that if a juvenile is before a court in the juvenile justice system, public welfare records (including child protective services records) relating to such juvenile that are on file in the geographical area under the jurisdiction of such court will be made known to such court (**Appendix P**).

Pursuant to § 7B-3100. Disclosure of information about juveniles.

The Division, after consultation with the Conference of Chief District Court Judges, has adopted rules designating certain local agencies that are authorized to share information concerning juveniles in accordance with the provisions of this section. Agencies so designated shall share

with one another, upon request and to the extent permitted by federal law and regulations, information that is in their possession that is relevant to any assessment of a report of child abuse, neglect, or dependency or the provision or arrangement of protective services in a child abuse, neglect, or dependency case by a local department of social services. Agencies that may be designated as "agencies authorized to share information" include local mental health facilities, local health departments, local departments of social services, local law enforcement agencies, local school administrative units, the district's district attorney's office, the Juvenile Justice Section of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, and the Office of Guardian ad Litem Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Juvenile offenders whose placement is funded through section 672 of Title 42 receive the protections specified in section 671 of Title 42. At times, the court will place delinquent or undisciplined juveniles into the custody of the county child welfare agency. When this occurs, the court order that places the juvenile in the agency's custody should address the reasonable efforts requirements and the best interest of the juvenile. If the court order does not, the county child welfare agency must file a motion to provide evidence in court to get an order that includes the language, or the county child welfare agency has the option of filing a Juvenile Petition (AOC-J-130) in lieu of a motion if deemed appropriate by the agency. Thereafter, court reviews shall be held at the same frequency as when children are adjudicated abused, neglected, and/or dependent (**Appendix P**).

When juveniles are placed in agency custody by a civil court, the county child welfare agency shall consider the court's findings related to the placement of the juvenile in agency custody as a Child Protective Services referral, assign the referral as either an abuse, neglect, and/or

dependency report based on the court's findings, assign a response timeframe and assign as either a family assessment or investigative response.

North Carolina's Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice undergoes training to establish and maintain the state's model of care, which addresses eliminating the use of dangerous practices, unreasonable restraints, and the unreasonable isolation of juveniles. The purpose of this training is to provide Juvenile Justice Officers with the tools and knowledge to fully implement a therapeutic model of care when working with Juveniles in Youth Development Centers. The state is committed to ensuring that Youth Development Centers are safe, secure, and therapeutic in their design, and accessible to youths' families. Bearing in mind our mission of Youth Development Centers – reducing rates of criminal re-offending and producing safer communities – we are also dedicated to ensuring that programming is based on what research tells us works best in achieving these goals (**Appendix Q**).

For this reason, a review of the evidence-based literature regarding treatment efforts with juvenile offenders was undertaken prior to the development of the program. The review revealed some consistent answers to the question of “what works” with juvenile offenders. First, smaller centers are preferable to larger ones, as they maximize treatment effectiveness, improve safety, and have the greatest impact on low educational achievement (one of the major risk factors for juvenile offending). Second, recidivism is reduced when juveniles are placed in centers within close proximity to their homes, to increase opportunities to involve families in treatment programming (family dysfunction is one of the main predictors of juvenile offending), and to allow for seamless reintegration into the community. Third, programming is most effective when staff are trained and/or selected for warmth and commitment, when they model pro-social

attitudes, values, and skills, and when they are consistent, supportive and firm, but not overly rigid. Finally, to be maximally effective, treatment programming must:

- Address criminogenic risk factors, or factors which increase youth's risk for involvement in criminal activity,
- Proceed from a cognitive-behavioral approach,
- Be intensive; and,
- Be delivered faithful to its design.

Core programming offered at each of the state's Youth Development Centers shall be informed by the research literature addressing "what works" with confined juvenile offenders, shall be rooted in a cognitive-behavioral treatment approach, and shall encompass a motivation system as well as focused interventions targeting common criminogenic needs. **(Appendix G)**

The established principles include:

- Targeting criminogenic needs;
- Conducting thorough assessments of risk and needs;
- Basing program design and implementation on a proven theoretical model;
- Using a cognitive-behavioral approach;
- Providing intensive services;
- Disrupting the delinquency network;
- Assessing each juvenile's barriers to benefiting from specific interventions, including motivation, developmental level, learning style, and intellectual and cognitive abilities, and adjusting interventions to meet each individual's needs;

- Including a relapse prevention component that identifies: situations which increase risk for reoffending, strategies for managing them, and opportunities for rehearsing these strategies;
- Integrating community-based services; and
- Ensuring program fidelity is maintained.

The Department shall provide individualized assessment services to juveniles on commitment status to determine areas in need of intervention, as well as responsivity factors that may either interfere with or facilitate the juvenile's response to interventions. These assessments shall be used to identify strengths and needs to be considered in the development of an individualized service plan for each juvenile (**Appendix F**). Initial screenings and assessments for Youth

Development Center commitments include:

- Mental health assessment,
- Risk and needs assessments,
- Hearing, speech-language, and/or vision screenings when clinically indicated,
- Educational, including GED,
- Physical health,
- Physical fitness,
- Mental health evaluation,
- Substance use/abuse, and
- Social history screening.

Each juvenile shall be provided with mental health services as detailed in his/her individualized service plan. Mental health services, including psychiatric evaluations and treatment,

psychological screening and assessment, crisis intervention services, and psychotherapy, shall be available to each juvenile. Appropriately credentialed clinicians provide mental health services. All juveniles admitted to a youth development center with an active prescription or consideration for psychotropic medication shall be immediately referred to the contractual Psychiatrist **(Appendix R)**.

As required by N. C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-2513, each juvenile committed to a Youth Development Center who is entering a detention center from court shall be tested for use of controlled substances or alcohol. This drug screen is performed only on juveniles that are committed to a youth development center **(Appendix S)**. There shall be substance abuse services provided at each youth development center. If services are required that are not available through youth development center resources, the YDC Clinical Directors or designee shall request assistance from the YDC Clinical Services and Programs Coordinator. The YDC Clinical Services and Programs Coordinator shall provide oversight for appropriate services through contractual agreements. Each juvenile's individualized service plan shall reflect substance abuse treatment recommendations. The juvenile's Social Worker shall make referrals as needed for substance abuse services **(Appendix T)**.

Each juvenile committed to the Department shall be regularly reviewed for progress towards release by the assigned treatment team every thirty days. When the juvenile is approaching successful completion of the individual treatment goals and objectives, or approaching the maximum commitment period, a post-release supervision planning conference shall be conducted to finalize a post-release supervision plan **(Appendix U)**.

- Transition support shall be provided to all juveniles, regardless of placement.

- Transition support shall be guided by the principles of person-centered planning and strength-based assessment.
- Transition support shall be implemented in a collaborative manner, with the YDC Treatment Team process as the focal point.
- Transition support shall be provided in coordination with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for any Exceptional Education juvenile who has a transition plan as a component of his IEP.

In 2017, supported by a Second Chance Act grant from OJJDP, NC's Juvenile Justice Section partnered with a local nonprofit organization, Communities in Schools of North Carolina (CISNC), to develop and implement a comprehensive program to serve juvenile justice-involved youths returning to their home communities following a period of confinement in YDCs. Launching in mid-2017, the Reentry to Resilience program (R2R) is a juvenile justice-specific program addressing the educational and vocational needs of reentering and transitioning youths in state custody. R2R currently has a team of three Youth Success Coaches (YSCs) who provide intensive support to youth returning to Cumberland, Durham, Guilford and Wake counties. YSCs begin their work with a youth within 30 days with their commitment to a YDC (Phase 1); continue working with them to prepare for reentry and engage in reentry planning (Phase 2); and provide support in the community to youth and their families for 12 months post-release (Phase 3). In the community, YSCs are responsible for enrolling youth in school and providing academic support (e.g., tutoring, learning labs), preparing youth for career and workforce readiness (e.g., vocational education placement, mock interviews, job shadowing/placement), connecting youth to afterschool and

pro-social supports (e.g., sports, service learning, mentoring), and connecting youth to healthcare support, if needed.

As of December 30, 2019, R2R had served 101 youth. Of these, 45 were receiving R2R services within YDCs (26 in Phase 1; 19 in Phase 2); 24 were receiving services in the community; 25 had graduated; and 7 did not complete the 12-month post-YDC program (2 dropped out voluntarily, 2 relocated, 1 died, and 2 left for other reasons). Of the 24 youth in the community, 16 (67%) were enrolled in high school; 10 (42%) were receiving educational support services; 7 (29%) were receiving mental health or substance abuse services; 8 (33%) were employed (7 part-time, 1 full-time) and 7 (29%) were job seeking; and 5 (21%) were engaged in pro-social activities. The 25 graduates were engaged in educational and employment activities, as well as receiving behavioral health treatment. Importantly, of the 56 reentry youths released from YDCs who have been served in the community by R2R to-date, only 2 (4%) had a new delinquency complaint, and 7 (13%) committed a technical violation of post-release supervision.

Youth development centers shall regularly inform parent/legal guardians, juveniles, and relevant staff of juvenile progress in education programs, and shall provide a permanent record of educational progress. The Department shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and shall promote the importance of information sharing and coordination of services for the purpose of meeting juveniles' identified educational needs (**Appendix V**).

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety collaborates with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop and implement plans to ensure that student records, in order to support educational progress:

(A) the student records of adjudicated juveniles, including electronic records if available, are transferred in a timely manner from the educational program in the juvenile detention or secure treatment facility to the educational or training program into which the juveniles will enroll;

(B) the credits of adjudicated juveniles are transferred; and adjudicated juveniles receive full or partial credit toward high school graduation for secondary school coursework satisfactorily completed before and during the period of time during which the juveniles are held in custody, regardless of the local educational agency or entity from which the credits were earned.

Appendices

Appendix A – FY21 SAG Roster

Appendix B – Gender Age and Crime Data

Appendix C - Transitional Living - Gender and Tx Specific

Appendix D - Survivors of Sexual Exploitation

Appendix E - MD MOC 2, Individualized Service Plan and Service Planning Team

Appendix F - YC 2.0 Admissions and Assessments

Appendix G - YC 1 Treatment Philosophy

Appendix H - JJ-Annual-Report_2019_final

Appendix I - NC FY21 Compliance Data Extension Approval

Appendix J - TREC-exec-summary-12132020

Appendix K - Juvenile Bill of Rights

Appendix L - ATD, Family Engagement, Awaiting Placement, Diversion

Appendix M - CS 5.1 Records Final

Appendix N - CS 8.1 Confinement Policy

Appendix O - CS 2.1 Court Hearings

Appendix P - CPS RECORD SHARING (06-28-2021)

Appendix Q - DPS-945-2017

Appendix R - YC 1.4 Mental Health Services

Appendix S - YD 2 Post Commitment Screening

Appendix T - YC 1.6 Substance Abuse Treatment Services

Appendix U - MD 3, Post Release Supervision Planning

Appendix V - Education Records