



Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Wednesday, April 10, 2024



Working for Youth Justice and Safety

ojjdp.ojp.gov

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



OJJDP

OJJDP's Continuum of Care for the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Continuum of Care for Communities

A broad array of youth justice programs and services ranging from prevention programs for young children and youth at risk of delinquency to intervention programs serving high-risk youth in secure residential settings and reentry programs for youth returning to their communities.



OJJDP

In addition to the array of services, system and policy changes play a critical role in achieving a fully effective continuum of care in which the needs of youth and families are met, positive outcomes are achieved, and personal accountability and public safety are maintained.

The field has always recognized the need for a Continuum of Care to serve young people

- Early research identified the importance of prevention and early intervention as the best ways to prevent youth crime and reoffending. Subsequent research has only confirmed this more strongly.
- A “continuum of care” framework is well established in the health and other social services fields.
- Many states and localities are already using a CoC framework and have done so for years. We are learning from them.

Why it matters

- Prevention and early intervention work to prevent later offending and incarceration.
- Small number of complex youth that need a high level of intervention – a strong continuum of care factors in those needs and immediate intervention.
- Communities with a continuum of care can constantly assess changing needs and adapt to respond to changes. Community members feel safer as they know their community can respond and is spending funds on solutions shown to work.

What is it & How is OJJDP Using it?

- The Continuum of Care (CoC) is a Framework for understanding the broad array of youth justice programs and services needed to prevent delinquency and the further progression of youth in the juvenile justice system.
- OJJDP is using this CoC framework to help communities provide the supports and services that youth and families need to prevent them from becoming further involved in the system and to help guide them to a positive future.
- The framework can also help communities in allocating resources and identifying where the gaps are greatest.

2018 Changes to the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act

Purpose - 34 U.S.C. §11102(4)

“...to support a **continuum** of evidence-based or promising programs (including delinquency prevention, intervention, mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, family services, and services for children exposed to violence) that are trauma informed, reflect the science of adolescent development, and are designed to meet the needs of at-risk youth and youth who come into contact with the justice system.”



Federal Agencies & the Continuum:



Relevance of this model for the Coordinating Council

- Use the framework as a **tool** to guide federal interagency work for youth justice:
 - Assessing gaps in practice and policy
 - Identifying opportunities for youth that may not yet exist or to scale
 - Coordinating agency activities
 - Realigning investments to the front end where impact is greatest and most effective
- Use the framework **to organize the Council's report** to Congress and ensure content is balanced across the continuum of youth needs



Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Wednesday, April 10, 2024



Working for Youth Justice and Safety

ojjdp.ojp.gov

Coordinating Council Recommendations: Listening Phase

- Between October 2022 and December 2023, the Coordinating Council heard testimony and gathered input from:
 - Young people with lived experience
 - Programmatic Staff
 - System partners
 - Field Experts
 - The general public
- This process captured nearly 100 unique recommendations for the Council.

Reviewing, Narrowing & Refining Recommendations

- Between January & March of 2024:
 - Refined recommendation language
 - Consolidated where appropriate to reduce duplication
 - Subcommittee representatives vetted recommendations within their agencies and submitted priorities
 - Subcommittees examined trends and themes/affinity grouping among the recommendations
 - Culled the recommendations list down to 6 main themes, with 16 recommendations in total

Sorting & Categorizing Recommendations

Recommendation	Primary Agency	Primary Affinity Group	Program or Policy Focus
Support local communities in identifying their own individual needs, and provide training and technical assistance to support implementation of prevention services that are responsive to these needs. <i>(prevention)</i>	Multiple	Cross-Governmental Collaboration	Practice

Identifying Major Themes:

1. Build Opportunities at the Federal Level for Meaningful Engagement of Incarcerated Youth & Families
2. Expand Opportunities for Investments in Developmentally-appropriate, Culturally-aligned, and Healing-focused Prevention and Early intervention Strategies
3. Invest in, Elevate, and Research Culturally-Relevant, Community Based Services as Alternatives to Detention

Themes (continued):

4. Enhance Coordination of Mental Health and Substance Use Services Across the Continuum for Justice-Involved Youth
5. Expand Re-entry Opportunities for Justice-Involved Youth
6. Build Knowledge and Capacity of the Workforce that Serves Justice-Involved Youth

Prioritizing Recommendations:

- Identify top priorities
- Consider the Continuum of Care
- Balance Program and Practice recommendations
- Balance short-term and long-term recommendations

Next Steps:

April-June subcommittee mtgs:

- Reviewing the full Council's prioritized recommendations
- Gathering supporting data/information, as needed
- Breaking recommendations down into workplan activities and/or recommendations to Congress/the President
- Continued vetting by agency representatives behind the scenes

June Full Council mtg:

- Full Council reviews and approves workplan and final recommendations list as developed/refined by subcommittee members

June-August subcommittee mtgs:

- Report drafting
- Continued agency vetting, as appropriate

September Full Council mtg:

- Full council approves draft report

September-December:

- Report design and final approval process

January 2025:

- Report distributed to Congress/White House



For More Information

Julie Herr or Marcy Mistrett

Julie.Herr@usdoj.gov

Marcy.Mistrett@usdoj.gov

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

<http://www.ojjdp.gov>

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

<https://juvenilecouncil.ojp.gov/>



Working for Youth Justice and Safety

ojjdp.ojp.gov