



Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2024



Working for Youth Justice and Safety

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OJJDP

Top 5 Priorities: Federal Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice

June 27, 2024

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Adoption of OJJDP Continuum of Care



Cross-Cutting Values

- Trauma-informed.
- Healing focused.
- Culturally responsive.
- Addressing the entire continuum, because all parts of the continuum are important.
- Engaging meaningfully with those with lived experiences.
- Being community-based or community-led.
- Not creating additional federal silos.
- Reducing administrative burden.

Top 5 Priorities of the Coordinating Council

Top 5:

1. [Re]direct funds and concentrate efforts towards **community-based programs** and services that address the **root causes of delinquency**, (such as poverty, absence of community development, poor health, lack of education, workforce disengagement, mental health, and substance use issues). (*prevention*)
2. Promote and ensure funding, training, and implementation support for community-based, **culturally and developmentally-informed trauma informed and healing centered services** for youth and families. These programs need to be effective, affordable, and accessible. (*-Med Intervention*)

Top 5 (continued):

3. Inform and support access to **mental health and substance use** programs for justice involved youth to prevent/reduce out of home placements. These programs need to be comprehensive, community-based, and culturally responsive. (e.g., family counseling, peer to peer supports, educational stabilization, mental health and substance use, arts and healing centered). *(Med-High intervention)*

4. Provide financial incentives/rewards to communities that successfully **keep children and youth out of detention/commitment** and with their families. (Med-High Intervention)

5. Improve access to **post-secondary education and career training** for youth exiting the justice system. (Re-integration)

Possible Recommendations to Congress (1-5)

1. Update and re-fund the Department of Labor's 2000 Youth Opportunity Grant, which shows a holistic, community-centered approach to education and jobs, and **ensure that justice-involved youth are included.**
2. **Lessons from the Youth Opportunity Grant are well documented, and outcomes are positive. Fund a pilot program that incorporates these lessons (e.g. begins cooperation between two federal agencies to demonstrate efficacy. Then expand.**
3. **Support schools to provide more counselors, social workers, intervention specialists, free meals, extra-curriculars, and after-school activities for youth at risk of entering the justice system.**
4. **Fund initiatives that focus on repair and healing, not just punishment. Prioritize using these restorative approaches first in schools.**
5. Support and encourage federal partnership and collaboration by authorizing joint funding streams among agencies that support prevention funding for youth

Possible Recommendations to Congress (6-10)

6. **Pass legislation that requires warning labels on social media for teens, highlighting the Surgeon General's concerns.**
7. Appropriate funding to expand **community-based** access to mental health and substance use programs for justice-involved youth.
8. Allow federal funding and reimbursement for treatment modalities that are culturally-responsive (e.g. Tribal wellness practices).
9. Publish, educate, and provide training on best practices for sharing information about youth involved in multiple systems when confidentiality concerns prohibit coordination.
10. Identify programs with strong return on investment data and shift federal dollars to prioritize those that reduce detention. For example, Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts have a 113% return on investment.

Suggested Year 1 Council Activities

- (1). As a Council, support a five-part webinar on each of the five recommendations that highlights different agency's current work in each of the priority areas.
- (2). Demonstrate how the Community of Care looks across federal agencies by identifying current investments in each "piece of the pie."
- (3). Consider developing a series of one-pagers highlighting progress that federal agencies have made under each priority area (e.g. HUD lifting barriers to housing by removing criminal charges from exclusion). This could be approached as an update to the "MythBusters" series released by the Federal Interagency Reentry Council.
- (4). Each agency request FY 26 funds that support a priority in the Coordinating Council workplan.

Possible Recommendations to Congress (11-14)

11. Expand [Title I, Part D of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#) (ESEA) to address gaps that were identified through the Department of Education's [2019 study](#), **as well as other identified gaps, in order to increase services to students in non-residential correctional settings**, and services that address successful transitions for youth back to educational settings in the community.
12. Facilitate conversion of jails to transitional housing for youth exiting secure care by forgiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture bonds that helped build the facilities.
13. **Support law enforcement diversion by requiring that expenditures on diversion and related supports equal expenditures on arrest and commitment.**
14. **Expand access to and services in the Family First Prevention Services Act that keep youth in communities and ensure access to justice involved youth (who are often in these same placements).**



For More Information

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