

**NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
2024 Title II Application**

Proposal Narrative

a. Description of the Issue

1. System Description: Structure and function of the juvenile justice system

In light of solicitation guidelines and the size and complexity of New York State's juvenile justice system, the system description is attached in Appendix A.

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

See Appendix B, Table 1, for a summary of juvenile justice case processing in New York State (NYS) for 2021-2023 broken down by New York City (NYC) and Rest of State (ROS).

Juvenile Arrests

In its attempts to improve the quality and quantity of data, NYS does quality reviews and checks on the data that are gathered and made available to localities. In NYS, the age of criminal responsibility has historically been 16; this, combined with the separate reporting of race and ethnicity in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data, results in a need for a multi-stage estimation process to derive juvenile arrest counts by race-ethnicity. Due to concerns with the accuracy of the estimates, an in-depth review of race-ethnicity counts at the arrest contact point was conducted. One county was chosen for this review as all police departments in that county, with the exception of the State Police, report arrest data via the Incident Based Reporting (IBR) system rather than through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. The case level nature of the IBR data permits precise race-ethnicity counts, while formulas must be utilized to estimate race-ethnicity counts based on UCR data. The results of this analysis revealed that estimates for the selected county based upon UCR-type data both undercounted the number of Black youth and overcounted the

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number of White youth. Based on these results, it was determined that NYS cannot provide accurate race-ethnicity counts for juveniles at the arrest contact point at this time. All race-ethnicity arrest counts were removed from data published on the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) website, and will not be submitted as part of this year's Title II Application, which means that NYS will use referral to court as the first point of contact in its data calculations and discussion. Referral to court data have been used in lieu of arrest data in the data chart provided in Appendix B. NYS is working toward full National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) compliance over the next few years and will be able to provide accurate race-ethnicity counts once compliance is attained.

Probation Intake and Processing

See Appendix B, Tables 2 and 3 for probation intake and processing in NYS for 2021-2023, broken down by NYC and ROS.

- Total number of cases opened for NYC increased from 4,026 in 2021 to 7,310 in 2023; ROS also saw an increase from 5,622 to 8,468.
- Statewide, immediate referrals of cases closed at probation intake increased slightly from 52% in 2021 to 55% in 2023. Immediate referrals to petition increased 108% in New York City (NYC) and 33% in Rest of State (ROS). NYC immediate referrals to petition increased from 2,601 in 2021 to 5,419 in 2023; ROS also saw an increase from 2,690 to 3,588 during this period. The proportion referred after an adjustment attempt remained consistent at 8% statewide for each of the three years in the time period. NYC remained fairly stable as well with a 1%

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decrease from 4% in 2021 to 3% in 2023 and ROS saw stability as well with only a 1% increase from 11% in 2021 to 12% in 2023.

- There was a slight decrease in proportion of cases that were adjusted in 2021 (40%) as in 2023 statewide (36%). The proportion of cases adjusted in NYC decreased from 34% in 2021 to 24% in 2023. The proportion of cases adjusted in ROS increased slightly from 44% in 2021 to 47% in 2023.
- In 2023, 15,778 JD intake cases were opened statewide. Of those, 51% were felonies and 48% were misdemeanors. Males made up the majority of cases opened (75% vs. 24% females). When disaggregated by race and ethnicity, Black youth comprised 45% (n=7,151) of intakes opened, while White youth comprised 23% (n= 3,655) and Hispanic youth comprised 24% (n=3,849). There is also a small percentage of intake cases where race and ethnicity were either not reported or reported as other (7%).

Admission to Detention

See Appendix B, Table 4 for detention data in NYS for 2021-2023, broken down by NYC and ROS.

- Statewide, total detention admissions increased 58% from 2021 to 2023. Total admissions to detention increased 76% in NYC and increased 43% in ROS from 2021 to 2023. Statewide, the number of Juvenile Offender (JO) cases nearly doubled (152 v. 303) and JD cases were increased 67% (1,622 v. 2,709) in the same time period.
- In terms of demographics, NYC male admissions increased 73% from 2021 to 2023 (973 v. 1,682), and male admissions in ROS increased 38% (1,061 v. 1,466). NYC female admissions

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increased significantly 99% from 2021 to 2023 (143 to 284), and ROS female admissions also increased (258 v. 422). 2021 to 2023 saw an increase statewide in admissions in each racial category. For example, in NYC, white admissions increased 49% (43 v. 64) and ROS increased 37% (239 v. 327). For black youth in NYC, admissions increased 59% and in ROS, increased 46%. Hispanic youth increased 120% in NYC and increased 42% in ROS. And finally, the “other/not reported” racial category increased 200% in NYC and increased 43% in ROS during 2021-2023.

Family Court Processing

This section reviews petitioned Family Court cases involving juvenile delinquency and designated felony petitions and dispositions in 2021-2023. See Appendix B, Table 5 for Family Court petition filings, by charge class category, sex and race/ethnicity for 2021-2023, broken down by NYC and ROS. Petition disposition information is in Appendix B, Table 6.

a. Initial Petition Filings¹

- Statewide, total initial petition filings increased 42%. Between 2021 and 2023, statewide petition filings for JD cases increased from 4,408 to 6,258. NYC family courts reported a 61% increase from 2021 to 2023 (1,116 v. 1,798). Courts in ROS counties reported 1,168 more total petitions, an increase of 35%. Statewide petitions involving males and females increased 35%

¹ The “initial” petition is filed by the presentment agency (Corporation Counsel in NYC and local county attorneys’ offices elsewhere) following an arrest and charges a juvenile with the alleged commission of one or more crimes. This petition may be filed when the presentment agency determines that there is legally sufficient evidence to commence a delinquency action in family court (FCA §311.2). A supplemental JD petition is, in essence, an addendum to an initial JD petition. It is filed subsequent to an initial JD disposition outcome only in instances where a family court has retained legal jurisdiction over a juvenile and further case intervention is deemed warranted by the family court, probation department or custodial (placement) agency. For example, a supplemental petition might be filed if a juvenile violated conditions of an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal (ACD) or a dispositional order for conditional discharge, probation supervision or placement.

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and 78% respectively, with petitions for males comprising approximately three-quarters of annual filings. In 2023, Black youth comprised 49% (n=3,048) of initial petition filings, while White youth comprised 23% (n= 1,451) and Hispanic youth comprised 19% (n=1,220). There is also a small percentage of initial petition filings where race and ethnicity were either not reported or reported as other (9%).

- NYC felony filings increased 59%, from 919 to 1,462, and ROS felony filings increased 30% from 1,782 to 2,310. In NYC, 336 misdemeanor petitions were filed in 2023, a 71% increase from 2021. In 2023, 2,150 misdemeanor petitions were filed in ROS counties, a 42% increase from 2021.

b. Initial Dispositions

- In 2023, of 5,622 total dockets disposed statewide in juvenile delinquency cases, 565 (10%) resulted in orders to out-of-home placement. The total number of out-of-home placements remained steady from 2021 to 2023. NYC courts reported an increase of 57% total placements from 2021 to 2023 (87 v. 137) and ROS reports a 23% increase (347 v. 428). In 2023, placements comprised 9% of dispositions in NYC and 10% of dispositions in ROS family court cases.
- Statewide, 1,524 cases (27% of cases disposed) were disposed to probation supervision in 2023. The proportion of cases disposed to probation remained fairly stable from 2021 to 2023 for ROS (26%) but increased in NYC (22% to 30%). The proportion of dispositions to probation statewide increased to 3 percentage points from 2021 to 2023.

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- The number of cases that did not result in JD findings statewide increased 25% from 1,448 in 2021 to 1,810 in 2023. These outcomes generally included cases that were disposed in favor of the youth, including cases that were withdrawn, reduced to a PINS (status offender) petition, dismissed, and adjourned in contemplation of dismissal. Statewide, cases with no JD findings represented 32% of all dispositions in 2023. Regionally, these outcomes made up 35% of cases disposed by family courts in NYC and 31% of dispositions reported by courts in ROS counties in 2023.

Admissions to OCFS Custody

Admissions to Office of Children and Family Services' (OCFS) custody include adolescent offender, juvenile offender, and juvenile delinquent admissions to OCFS-operated facilities. Admission counts include youth in both OCFS and local Department of Social Service (DSS) custody. Admission numbers will differ from the placement dispositions in Appendix B, Table 6 because the Office of Court Administration's placement information includes only placements based on the initial disposition of the family court petition.

See Appendix B, Table 7 for statewide and regional demographics, service setting, and adjudication type of admissions to OCFS custody for 2021-2023.

- Statewide admissions to placement have increased from 2021 to 2023. Across the state, placements were reported at 823 in 2023 compared to 594 in 2021, a 39% increase. In NYC, placement of juvenile offenders increased from 10 in 2021 to 29 in 2023, a 190% increase. Admissions of juvenile delinquents in NYC increased from 49 in 2021 to 74 in 2023, an

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increase of 51%. Outside of NYC, there was a 76% increase in juvenile offender admissions (17 v. 30) and 22% increase of juvenile delinquents (430 v. 524).

- Admissions to OCFS-operated facilities increased 91% statewide (265 v. 505) and admissions to foster care declined 3% (329 v. 318) respectively. In NYC, total admissions to OCFS-operated facilities increased significantly (138%) from 2021 to 2023.
- Male and female placement admissions both increased between 2021 and 2023 statewide. Regarding race/ethnicity, placement admissions for all categories (White, Black, Hispanic, and other/not reported) increased. Placement for White youth increased 13%, Black youth increased 47%. Hispanic youth increased 53% and other/not reported increased 35%.

OCFS Custody in Care

OCFS Custody in Care numbers in Appendix B, Table 8 represent the total number of youth in the care of OCFS-operated facilities (residential placements), OCFS-contracted voluntary agencies (residential placements), and community services (non-residential placements) at year end. In Care counts include only youth in OCFS custody.

- Statewide, there were 249 more youth in OCFS care at the end of 2023 than at the end of 2021. NYC had 47 more youth in custody, an increase of 127% while ROS had a 59% increase from 2021 to 2023 (344 v. 546).

- Statewide the percentage of juvenile delinquents in custody declined from 68% in 2021 to 61% in 2023, and the actual number of juvenile offenders increased (95%) from 38 youth in 2021 to 74 youth in 2023. Total numbers statewide also increased (65%) from 381 to 2021 to 630 in 2023.

When disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender, in 2023, males comprised the majority of youth

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in OFCS care and custody (85%). Black youth comprised 53% (n=332) of youth in custody, while White and Hispanic youth comprised 19% (n=118) and 24% (n=149), respectively. 5% (n=31) of youth were classified as other/unknown race/ethnicity.

Youth Part of Criminal Court

Cases are heard in the new Youth Part of Criminal Court for 16- and 17-year-olds that commit a felony-level crime on or after the effective date of the RTA legislation. However, there is a presumption of removal to Family Court for adolescent offenders (AOs), which can be accomplished in two ways. First, if the AO committed a violent felony, he/she must pass a three-part test in order for the case to be removed to Family Court. Removal depends on whether the defendant used a firearm or deadly weapon, whether the offense was a sex crime, or the individual caused significant physical injury. If none of these, or other extraordinary circumstances are present, the case is processed in Family Court. Second, if the AO committed a non-violent felony, the District Attorney can prove extraordinary circumstances to prevent the removal of the case to Family Court within 30 days. AOs in Family Court become designated as JDs and are treated as such.

In 2023, there were 4,837 total Youth Part Arraignments statewide. 551 of these arraignments were JOs and the remaining 4,286 were AOs. Statewide 337 JOs were removed to Family Court for adjudication, 276 in NYC and 61 in ROS for the same year. Additionally, 1,138 AOs were removed to Family Court statewide (600 NYC, 538 in ROS). 2,375 AOs were removed to Probation Intake (1,567 NYC, 808 in ROS) Of the AO and JO cases disposed in the Youth Part of the Superior

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Court in 2023 there were 3,856 total AO and JO removals either to Family Court or Probation Intake (84% of AO cases and 62% of JO cases).

Trend data and other social, economic, legal, and organizational conditions considered relevant to delinquency prevention programming

Validated, standardized risk and needs screening and assessment instruments are integrated into probation procedures statewide. The Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) is used at probation intake and when youth are placed under probation supervision in every county outside of NYC; NYC Probation uses the Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLS) at intake. These tools facilitate identification and diversion of lower risk youth, more informed diversion and supervision approaches to youth that demonstrate moderate and high risk and matching of risk and need to services that build on assets and address criminogenic needs. In 2018, New York's capacity for identifying and addressing mental health needs in its juvenile justice population was bolstered by the promulgation of new probation regulations that call for implementation of behavioral health screens. The NYS DCJS' Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) requires a mental health screen at the initial conference for juvenile delinquent youth cases opened for adjustment services. The screening is used to determine the necessity for further evaluation and link youth to appropriate mental health services. In addition to the statewide roll out of the mental health screen in probation, a trauma screen pilot was implemented for juvenile delinquent youth on probation in six counties. These youth who screen positive on the trauma screen are referred for a full trauma assessment and appropriate trauma specific services. Discussion continues to

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strategize and resource state-wide trauma screening and service access. The resulting data will enable probation staff to work more effectively with local providers on development of case plans and referrals for services.

The state has developed data infrastructure and analytical capability needed to identify areas of need and effectively target its resources to improve overall system performance. DCJS' Office of Justice Research and Performance (OJRP) produces county-level juvenile justice data tables for probation intake, petitions, and probation supervision annually. These provide each of New York's 62 counties with local data for system processing points and generate discussion around observed trends.

In preparation for the NYS Juvenile Justice Advisory Group's (JJAG) Strategic Planning process, the New York State Youth Justice Institute (YJI), developed a data snapshot that provides a holistic, multidisciplinary collection of data and snapshot of youth in New York beyond individual system vantage points. This contextual information is crucially important when identifying prevention and early intervention strategies to support the well-being of the whole youth and their family. The following summarizes statistics and data regarding youth in New York State².

² Youth Justice Institute's Youth Snapshot: <https://university-at-albany-youth-justice-institute.foleon.com/yji/youth-in-new-york-state-2024/>

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*Physical Health*³

Use of firearms played a role in the top three cause of death for youth and young adults ages 15 – 24, Nationally and in New York State. This includes harm from unintentional injury, homicide, and suicide. Most homicides by firearm are male youth ages 15-24 and disproportionality impact youth of color. In 2021, suicide rates for youth in New York State were 10.5 per 100,000 for males and 3.5 per 100,000 for females.

*Mental and Behavioral Health*⁴

Impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 and 2021 nearly a quarter of all children (ages 3-17) in NYS and the United States had one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions. In the fall of 2022, 37% of young adults in New York State reported feeling anxiety symptoms most days in the prior two weeks.

*Childhood and Family Dynamics*⁵

The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) on a young person’s ability to thrive as adults. Research as shown that ACES can have an impact not only on social emotional learning, brain development, and can increase the likelihood that they engage in delinquent behaviors. In a 2019 survey conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 62% of adults across 25 states reported that they had experienced one ACE in childhood and nearly a quarter reported that they have experienced three or more ACES. Over the course of the pandemic, ACE scores

³ <https://university-at-albany-youth-justice-institute.foleon.com/yji/youth-in-new-york-state-2024/physical-health>

⁴ <https://university-at-albany-youth-justice-institute.foleon.com/yji/youth-in-new-york-state-2024/mental-behavioral-health>

⁵ <https://university-at-albany-youth-justice-institute.foleon.com/yji/youth-in-new-york-state-2024/family>

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increased for almost one-third of U.S. Adolescents. When taking into account family dynamics in New York State, 25% of youth live in a single parent household; 64% of all Black youth, 51% of Hispanic youth; and 41% of all youth with two or more races in New York State live with a single parent.

Emerging research is showing that parental incarceration is having negative consequences for youth behavior and outcomes. Specifically, as it relates to antisocial behavior, aggression, school exclusion and economic deprivation. In NYS approximately 2.5% of youth under the age of 18 have lived with a parent who has been incarcerated. This disproportionately impacts youth of color who make up 55% of these youth.

b. Goals and Objectives

New York's 2024-2026 juvenile justice plan focuses on goals that will ensure that the NYS youth justice system operates with effective, safe, fair, and equitable practices that promote public safety, prevention, wellness and healing, maintain commitments to Raise the Age priorities, expand on successful strategies developed during the pandemic, and align with intersecting systems.

GOAL (Priority #1): To increase meaningful Youth, Family and Community Engagement- equal focus on prevention and intervention, and greater emphasis on geographic community and adolescence. New York continues to make intentional efforts to include the youth, family, and community voice in the planning and implementation of policy changes related to the juvenile justice system. Research and best practices continue to elevate the need to include young people as true thought partners and decision makers in policy and decision making. The intention of this

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goal is to beyond just including young people in the conversation, rather to share power and decision making with young people throughout the work.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To emphasize the focus on youth and families being served by further developing collaboratives among youth, families, and professionals across youth-serving systems to increase seamless services and reduce disparities and other detrimental impacts embedded into system structure and operations.
2. To develop youth, family, and community partnerships by intentionally and holistically including youth, family, and community participation in determining youth justice system responses and functioning in a culturally competent and affirming way. .
3. To promote and support efforts that include authentic representation of system involved youth and their families.
4. Invest in the development and growth of young people to engage in and seek professional opportunities to work in the areas of youth justice programming.
5. Identify and support young people in advancing and advocating for change in both rural and urban communities.

PROGRAM AREAS: (C) Comprehensive Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs; (D) Child Abuse & Neglect Programs (H) Counseling, Tutoring and Mentoring Programs; (L) Positive Youth Development (N) Community-based Programs and Services to Strengthen Families and Reduce Risk of Recidivism; (R) Community-Based Programs that

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Promote Successful Aftercare/Re-entry (W) Racial and Ethnic Disparities and Juvenile Justice System Improvement.

GOAL (Priority #2): To increase access to trauma, healing and behavioral health- focus on prevention, geographic community and childhood. Trauma and prevention efforts are a main part of the plan, as an estimated 90% of justice-involved youth have experienced serious trauma in their lifetime.⁶ Additionally, as highlighted in the description of the issue section during and post the COVID-19 pandemic mental health issues increased across the country as well as in NYS. With the increase of ACEs as well as social, emotional, and other behavioral health needs. New York plans to continue efforts to prevent trauma and invest in mental health services and support trauma focused care and training on the pathway to healing for youth and young adults, families, and communities. Areas of focus include expanding local access and availability to mental health; substance use and trauma support resources. Specifically, a scarcity of services exists in rural areas: fewer practitioners to meet demand, longer distances to access, and insurance plans may not cover the full scope of services or mental health programs needed. Additionally, access to trauma, healing, and behavioral health is currently inadequate because of structural barriers in obtaining and utilizing related services. Specifically, the lack of training in the use of family systems models, and the overall lack of providers willing or able to work with children are the main drivers of these barriers. Additionally, existing fiscal structures for payment for mental and behavioral health services tend to limit access in rural areas, where there are fewer resources available. Stigma

⁶ Sawyer, W. (2019). *Youth Confinement: The Whole Pie 2019*. Prison Policy Initiative (<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/youth2019.html>)

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around accessing mental health services as well as the lack of diverse, culturally informed and affirming providers also contributes as a barrier to access.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To address racial and ethnic disparities in mental health services and promote awareness by conducting all youth justice work using strategies that will intentionally eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that are grounded in anti-racist theory.
2. To focus on trauma, healing, and behavioral health by addressing systems issues related to and guiding youth justice system professionals in understanding adolescent brain development, trauma, and behavioral health, and in implementing effective and healing-centered responses to youth behavioral issues.
3. To train and certify youth-serving professionals in effective trauma-informed interventions to address youth justice policy priorities, and the integration of effective interventions into certification requirements for professionals in higher education programs.
4. To identify and expand upon successful telehealth opportunities for rural and urban communities that were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROGRAM AREAS: (C) Comprehensive Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs; (D) Child Abuse & Neglect Programs (H) Counseling, Tutoring and Mentoring Programs; (V) Girls; (W) Racial and Ethnic Disparities; Rural Area Juvenile Programs; and Juvenile Justice System Improvement.

GOAL (Priority #3): To increase prevention efforts and youth-centered service delivery- focus on prevention, geographic community, and childhood by working through the social determinants

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of health framework to ensure youth-centered prevention and early diversion services are delivered in a seamless and more accessible manner.

The JJAG is intentional in identifying barriers to youth-centered services and supports. In the three-year plan, the JJAG seeks to increase and improve prevention efforts for youth, especially in geographic areas with limited resource options. Specifically, rural areas may lack adequate transportation options or availability of mental health and other services. Additionally, youth and families often lack equitable access to community-based opportunities, such as the lack of physical space for young people to gather and the reluctance of school systems to implement school-based programming or are unable to do so due to insufficient funding. Accordingly, the JJAG will invest in youth-centered programming to increase positive youth development opportunities, address racial and ethnic disparities and create wholistic prevention opportunities that strive to heal communities and prevent system involvement.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To emphasize the focus on youth-centered services through a social determinants of health framework to ensure efficient delivery of preventative and early diversion services.
2. Establish programming within, and/or directed toward school systems and community support centers to promote an all-inclusive approach involving youth, families, and communities.
3. Identify and support local community -based organization in the creation of positive youth development opportunities to provide youth and young adults with safe spaces and places to engage and interact.

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PROGRAM AREAS: (C) Comprehensive Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs; (D) Child Abuse & Neglect Programs (H) Counseling, Tutoring and Mentoring Programs; (L) Positive Youth Development; (N) Community-based Programs and Services to Strengthen Families and Reduce Risk of Recidivism; (V) Girls; (W) Racial and Ethnic Disparities; and Rural Area Juvenile Programs.

Project Design and Implementation⁷

New York State has made successful strides over the past several years at reducing youth contact with juvenile justice system. This has included the successful implementation of Raise the Age Legislation, which was fully enacted in October of 2019; PINS reform enacted in 2021; and most recently raising of the lower age of criminal responsibility from seven to twelve in December of 2023. Collaborative efforts among state agencies and with partners across New York State have resulted in the continuation of reduced reliance on the juvenile justice system. At the same time, there is still much work to be done to ensure that youth and families are equitably provided resources and the support that they need to mitigate contact and interaction with the juvenile justice system and ensure public safety through a developmentally appropriate and healing framework.

The JJAG spent several months in 2023 developing a clear vision, goals, and action steps derived from the major themes, as well as specific implementation steps expected to result in positive outcomes and progress on behalf of youth, families, and communities across NYS. Designated state agency staff and the Youth Justice Institute developed and administered a

⁷ Details demonstrating compliance with all 33 statutory requirements of the State Plan are included in Appendix C
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questionnaire to JJAG members to identify priority areas for action. This information help to inform the agendas for two in-person strategic planning sessions held in October and December of 2023. Over the course of these two sessions, the JJAG was presented with a myriad of detailed data presentations (including the Youth Snapshot Data discussed previously), had conversations regarding the youth justice landscape in New York State, and participated in working sessions utilizing the Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework. This culminated in a pointed plan to guide the JJAG in its priority areas and funding decisions through 2026.

The JJAG's three-year plan is structured to address challenges to youth, their families, and their communities by implementing strategies in a sustainable and cost-effective manner utilizing a three-category design for funding investments: small, medium, and large. This will allow for a deep approached to addressing the goals and objectives outlined previously a targeted and comprehensive manner. This includes funding for:

- Creation of four Transformative Youth Justice Hubs designed to coordinate and sustain partnerships and cross-pollinate prevention efforts and best practices at the local level.
- Development and support of data infrastructure in collaboration with communities on the creation of standardize metrics of youth success and system equity.
- Investment in direct youth-service programming that builds on successful or promising existing initiatives.

Implementation of the plan will be achieved through multiple channels, led by a grants working group comprised of JJAG members that will meet quarterly between full JJAG meetings

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to develop funding proposals directly tied to the goals and objectives of the plan. Designated state agency staff and will provide support to the JJAG, and the newly formed Youth Action Committee to help inform funding decisions that will result in progress on plan goals and objectives.

Specifically, to achieve the goals and objectives listed above, the JJAG will support efforts that include the following:

1. Allocate funding that specifically addresses the goals and objectives described above.
2. Utilize data to support implementation efforts in ways that are effective and measurable and affirm the validity of the narrative attributed to the juvenile justice system.
3. Disseminate effective youth justice system planning and implementation strategies across the field for knowledge and consistency purposes.
4. Commit to a renewed call to action to support state and local efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities by continuing and building upon previous efforts, as follows:
 - a. Implement specific actions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities through this plan's investments, and analyze impacts through enhanced data collection efforts;
 - b. Conduct ongoing, comprehensive personnel development training on racial and ethnic disparities for professionals working with the juvenile justice population;
and
 - c. Identify and address the underlying causes of racial and ethnic disparities at all juvenile justice system points.
5. Create and develop the Transformative Youth Justice Hubs in designed to coordinated and sustain partnerships in key priority regions of New York State and will be used as a way to

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cross-pollinate prevention efforts and best practices. The Hubs will exist in two rural and two urban communities and will operate as partnerships to coordinate and provide support to youth, families, and communities at the prevention and re-entry points.

6. Support the development of a new Youth, Family, and Community Toward Success (YFACTS) Center to coordinate the measurement, gathering, and dissemination of youth justice data (qualitative and quantitative) on prevention services, efforts and impact, especially in the communities served by the newly created Transformative Youth Justice Hubs. YFACTS Center will serve two main functions:
 - a. Coordinate data measurement, gathering, and dissemination with and for the Hubs, which will involve participatory development of common measurements across the Hubs.
 - b. Gather and disseminate data on prevention and progress. Specifically, the types of prevention measures being coordinated across New York State will be shared to demonstrate the unifying knowledge and serving approach being taken. Prevention measures and progress will be used to inform policy and practice development that address youth justice disparities and expands prevention efforts.
7. Increase prevention efforts and youth-centered service delivery by working through a social determinants of health framework to ensure youth-centered prevention and early diversion services are delivered in a seamless, more accessible manner.

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8. Increase access to trauma, healing, and behavioral health by expanding local access to effective mental health, substance use, and trauma supports, and building on this long-standing work to integrate a healing framework for youth and their families.
 - a. .
9. Establish a new Youth Action Committee under the JJAG. The Committee will be comprised of the youth members of the JJAG, who will be paid a stipend for engaging in work designed by them to advance the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system. The JJAG will set aside a portion of its funding to provide for youth-led, youth-driven initiatives identified by the Committee.

Consultation and participation of units of local government

DCJS' Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) exercises general supervision over the operation of county probation agencies and the use of correctional alternative programs throughout the State. OPCA requires each county probation office to submit an annual plan that outlines local needs and plans for programming and training. These reports include a section on juvenile justice needs and services. Counties have also been asked to prepare comprehensive annual plans related to the recent addition of 16- and 17-year-olds into the juvenile justice system that focus exclusively on anticipated needs of Family Courts' expanded population and project associated training and services that will improve local capacity. Finally, a new Executive Order required each local government in NYS to adopt a policing reform plan that will maintain public safety while building mutual trust between police and the communities they serve.

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Collecting and Sharing Juvenile Justice Information

1. Process of data collection and sharing across state agencies

New, detailed county-level tables for probation intake, petitions, and probation supervision are updated annually beginning with 2019 data and are available on the Youth Justice section of the DCJS Statistics website at <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/stats.htm>. Other sources of data available include the NYS Council on Children and Families annual publication, “Touchstones/KIDS COUNT Data Book,” as well as an interactive, web-based Kids’ Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse. This data source provides indicator profiles on economic security, physical and emotional health, education, citizenship, family and community.

In addition to the above sources, representatives from a variety of child serving agencies-- law enforcement, probation, mental health, education, the courts and community-based organizations—comprise the NYS Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG), and have input into the development of the DCJS Juvenile Justice Three-Year Plan and annual updates. Additionally, many local jurisdictions have juvenile justice coalitions and boards that meet regularly, and make juvenile justice planning and development a multi-disciplinary undertaking. The development of the YFACTS Center as well as the Transformative Youth Justice Hubs will allow for enhanced data sharing and capacity across communities and youth serving systems. .

Law Enforcement. The source of information for juvenile arrests in NYS outside of NYC is the Uniform Crime/Incident-Based Reporting (UCR/IBR) system maintained by the Office of Justice Research and Performance within DCJS. The UCR/IBR system collects arrest information from all non-NYC police agencies in the State monthly, including the age, sex, race, and ethnicity of

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arrestees and the offenses charged. Juvenile arrest data for NYC are provided annually by the NYPD and include age, race, ethnicity, and offense class category. All data are collected in aggregate format, which poses significant limitations on analyses. Due to the limitations of these data, they are not included in this plan. Instead, DCJS uses probation intake as a proxy for arrest.

Probation Departments. In January 2020, DCJS began receiving probation data via a monthly, case-level file from the vendor that supplies the case management system used by 57 of New York's 58 probation departments (Caseload Explorer). This new data extract provides substantially more information than the old, aggregate-level data. Data included in the extract pertain to the following processing points: probation intake, pre-dispositional supervision, pre-dispositional investigations, probation supervision, violations of probation, and voluntary assessment and case planning services. Data available at each processing point include race, ethnicity, sex, age, offense information, and outcomes. Much of these data are new and allow DCJS to conduct far more detailed analyses than was previously possible.

Office of Court Administration (OCA). OCA maintains a Uniform Case Management System (UCMS) of all court related records. Family Court Juvenile Delinquency (JD) and Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) proceedings are part of this database. Through UCMS data, information on volume of JD and PINS filings, the race, ethnicity, sex, charge, and disposition of JD and PINS cases is available. DCJS receives statewide JD and PINS data from OCA through a transactional data exchange.

Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). OCFS maintains statewide data on detention and juvenile placement. Regional (NYC/Non-NYC) detention and placement data are provided

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quarterly to DCJS by OCFS. More comprehensive, county-level data are posted on the OCFS website quarterly (detention) and annually (placement).

2. Barriers to information sharing

While great strides have recently been made in collecting and sharing juvenile justice data, remaining challenges include the following:

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) discontinued arrest reporting to UCR in 2001 and now only provides data on formal arrests, while agencies that report via UCR report both formal and informal arrests. This restricts statewide analysis of juvenile arrest trends. The aggregate-level nature of UCR arrest data poses significant difficulties in analyzing data, with race-ethnicity counts being particularly challenging to estimate. Due to concerns with the accuracy of the old estimates, an in-depth review of race-ethnicity counts at the arrest contact point was recently conducted. One county was chosen for this review as all police departments in that county, except for the State Police, report arrest data via the Incident Based Reporting (IBR) system rather than through the UCR system. The case level nature of the IBR data permits precise race-ethnicity counts, while formulas must be utilized to estimate race-ethnicity counts based on UCR data. The results of this analysis revealed that estimates for the selected county based upon UCR type data both undercounted the number of Black youth and overcounted the number of White youth. Based on these results, it was determined that NYS cannot provide accurate race-ethnicity counts for juveniles at the arrest contact point at this time. Due to these significant limitations, race-ethnicity arrest counts will not be submitted as part of this year's Title II Application. NYS is working

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toward full NIBRS compliance over the next few years and will be able to provide accurate race-ethnicity counts once compliance is attained.

Historically, juvenile justice data in NYS have been highly protected to safeguard the confidentiality of the young offender. Juvenile data systems are segregated from adult systems, and juvenile data are purged from systems (by law) when events are disposed in the favor of the juvenile. These protective mechanisms have the effect of making juvenile data sources unreliable and/or incomplete.

New York has made great strides in acquiring case-level data to analyze and report on case processing for youth. However, complete pictures of individualized paths through the juvenile justice system are still not available for research purposes, due to challenges inherent in matching youth across different records management systems. A lack of stable or consistent identifiers across data systems remains a challenge in identifying youth in different data systems at different case processing points. NYS State will continue to work on developing a central repository for analyzing juvenile data.

Plans for Compliance

d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for This Solicitation’s Performance Measures

DCJS adds all mandatory federal performance output and outcome measures to each contract, developed with federal Title II funds, according to the applicable program area, and requires that grantees report on these measures quarterly. Performance data that demonstrates the results of the

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work carried out under the award will be aggregated and compiled from the reports collected and submitted by the grantees on a regular basis and submitted to OJP as required.