

8/25/2020



Juvenile Services Committee and Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice 2019-2020 Joint Annual Report

Recommendations to the Nebraska
Children's Commission and the
Judiciary Committee of the Legislature

Juvenile Services Committee and Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Joint Annual Report

The Juvenile Services Committee (“JSC”) of the Nebraska Children’s Commission and the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (“NCJJ”) present this joint report as a thoughtful contribution to the reform of juvenile justice in Nebraska and in compliance with [Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-4203](#) and [43-2412\(1\)\(b\)](#). The recommendations contained in this joint report support the ongoing juvenile justice reform efforts, and reflect a collaborative, open, and inclusive process of discussion and information sharing.

In order to enhance collaboration, coordinate initiatives, and increase the impact and efficacy of juvenile justice reform in Nebraska, the JSC and NCJJ have begun collaborating in the form of joint meetings, joint reporting, and inclusive workgroups. This collaboration will allow the most coordinated response possible for juvenile justice reform, while allowing each body to meet its statutory obligations in the most efficient way possible.

The two have divided initiatives and work based on the juvenile justice continuum of care.

These groups will work together towards juvenile justice reform and improved outcomes for Nebraska’s youth and families. Both groups remain willing to serve as a resource to the Legislature, Governor, Judicial Branch, and state agencies for any juvenile justice related issue or initiative.

MISSION AND GOAL

- 1. Mission:** Design a comprehensive, accountable, culturally competent, continuum of care in the juvenile justice system that meets the needs of families and youth while maintaining public safety.
- 2. Goal:** To work collaboratively with the executive, legislative, judicial, and county branches of government, the Nebraska Children’s Commission (“Commission”), and other key stakeholders to establish and support the development of the ideal Juvenile justice System that will prevent children and youth from entering or becoming more deeply involved in the juvenile justice system.



Juvenile Services Committee

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, JSC/NCJJ was not able to formally vote on approval of this report. The report was sent to members for informal feedback and this final version reflects their input.

Workgroups

The three workgroups of JSC are: Transition Services, High Utilizers of Services and Youth & Family Engagement.

The Transition Services Workgroup worked on creating transition checklists for stakeholders, including consultation with providers, court professionals, the Administrative Office of Probation, and the Office of Juvenile Services. At this time, the workgroup determined it has completed the work that it set out to accomplish and will be looking to JSC strategic planning for further initiatives that may fall under its scope.

The High Utilizers of Services Workgroup determined that the initial task of this workgroup is beyond their scope. The work would need to involve data driven studies that are not currently available or within the resources of this workgroup.

The Youth and Family Engagement Workgroup has accomplished their goal with increased youth representation on JSC/NCJJ. There may be additional discussion on family engagement if that is determined to be a strategic priority for the Committee.

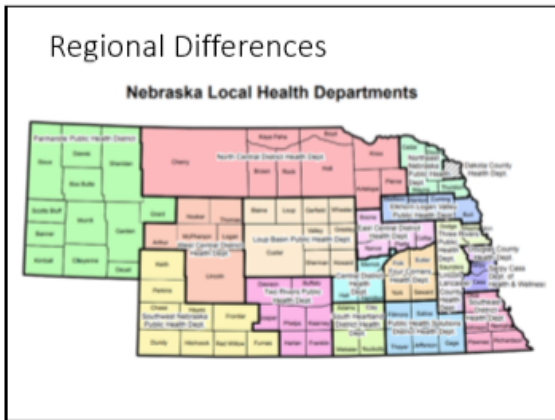
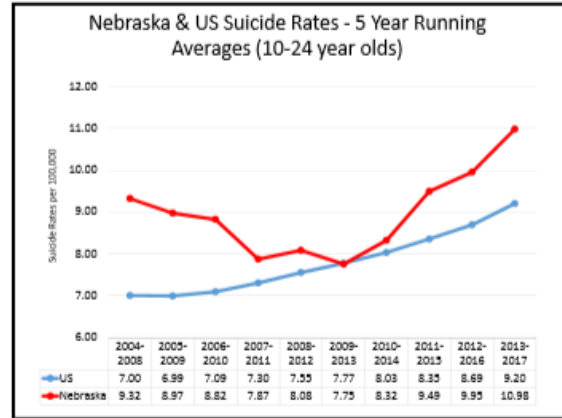
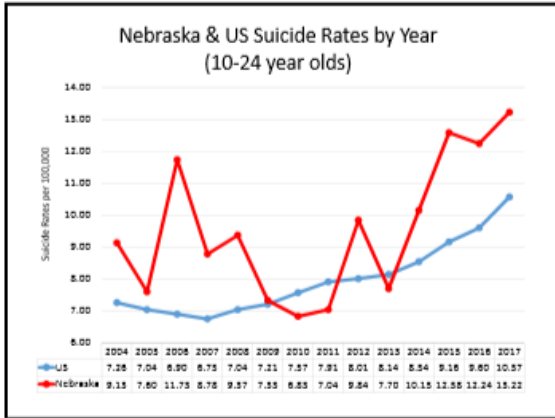
Legislative Activity

During the 106th Legislature, 2nd session, many bills and legislative resolutions were introduced related to the YRTC's. **To be updated after legislative session.**

Highlights

ZERO Suicide Presentation

Dr. Kate Speck from the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center presented on the ZERO suicide initiative at the January 30, 2020 meeting. The State of Nebraska has received two significant suicide prevention grants that have been distributed across the state. The Behavioral Health Regions have built solid infrastructure for suicide prevention. The most significant data point shared during this presentation was the increased rate of suicide in 10-24 year olds and the corresponding higher rate than national average. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth under the age of 24. Dr. Speck also noted that there are regional difference in suicide rates. Dr. Speck emphasized the importance of the working collaboratively as a system to address gaps in suicide prevention efforts. With the approval of NCC, a new workgroup will be started to look at a gap analysis on suicide prevention.



District	2011-2016
Public Health Solution	20.23
West Central	13.74
Sarpy Cass	13.63
Four Corners	12.73
Loup Basin	12.63
East Central	12.48
Southwest Nebraska	11.71
Southeast	11.45
Lancaster	9.97
State Rate	9.91
Panhandle Public	9.74
Three River Public	8.88
Central	8.75
South Heartland	8.74
Elkhorn Logan Valley	8.68
North Central District	8.42
Douglas County	7.90
Two River	7.82
Northeast Nebraska Public	6.70

Tour of Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility

Several committee members toured the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF) in October 2019. Overall, members who toured the facility had positive remarks. Highlights were an area where mindfulness classes are held as well as utilization of Moral Recognition Training and ART groups, which are best practice models.

Juvenile Justice Reform Initiative

Deputy Director of Juvenile Probation, Kari Rumbaugh shared the Juvenile Justice Action Plan for Juvenile Justice Reform with this Committee at the January 30, 2020 meeting. Part of the plan is focused on promoting individual behavior change through models such as Advanced Coaching 4 Excellence (AC4E), which was launched in 2017 in order to improve and streamline their work. Juvenile Probation officers will be trained on skill building and case plans are now referred to as success plans in order to emphasize youth driven plans for success.

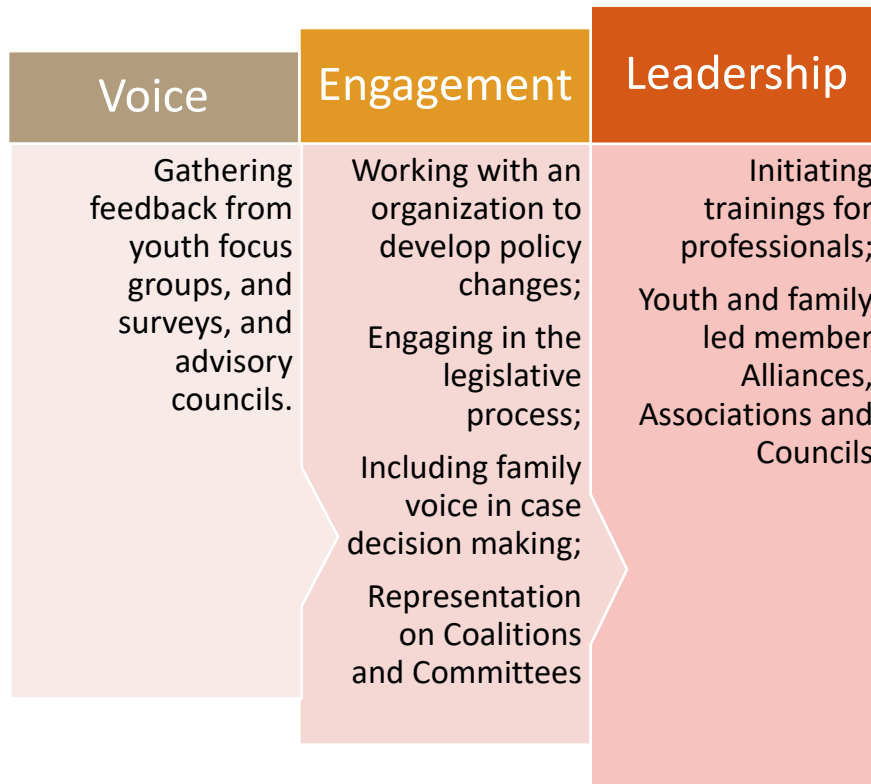
Transitions

This has been a year of transitions for leadership at Juvenile Services Committee and the Nebraska Children’s Commission. Former JSC chair, Kim Hawekotte transitioned out of her role as the FCRO Executive Director and vacated her seat as chair of JSC. Nick Juliano was appointed as chair in May of 2020 and **Deb VanDyke Ries’ chair appointment will go before NCC for a vote in August 2020.** With two new

Juvenile Services Committee

leaders at the helm of JSC, we will be focusing on strategic planning and re-prioritizing workgroups for 2021. In addition to changes in leadership roles, this year also brought a pandemic with the Covid-19 outbreak. The pandemic significantly impacted JSC members and the juvenile justice system as a whole. During the pandemic, JSC took a pause from meetings to allow members to focus on their respective agencies to ultimately ensure stability for the juveniles and families they serve.

The Youth and Family Engagement workgroup previously developed the three tiers of engagement. Each level of engagement requires different levels of commitment from the participants and supporting professionals. Across the spectrum of juvenile services and service delivery for youth and families, Nebraska is host to several of these groups that fall into each of these tiers.



Next Steps for the Juvenile Services Committee

1. Organize new workgroups related to priorities from NCC: Racial and Ethnic Disparities, Truancy and Status Offense filings, and Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers.
2. Provide gap analysis for suicide prevention services and supports for Nebraska youth.
3. Continue to gather feedback and direction from the NCC.

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) was created in 2000 by LB1167 and codified at [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2411](#) as an advisory committee to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Nebraska Crime Commission). The NCJJ was formed to recommend grant recipients to the Nebraska Crime Commission; identify juvenile justice issues, share information, and monitor and evaluate programs in the juvenile justice system; recommend guidelines and supervision procedures to be used to develop or expand local diversion programs for juveniles; and prepare an annual report including recommendations on administrative and legislative actions which would improve the juvenile justice system.

While the NCJJ is no longer federally mandated, due to the withdrawal from Title II funding, the NCJJ remains active with five standing subcommittees who meet in addition to quarterly NCJJ meetings: Executive, Grant Review, Disproportionate Minority Contact, Diversion, and Community Planning.

The goal of the NCJJ remains to improve all aspects of the juvenile justice system in the state of Nebraska by assisting communities and the state with the planning and implementation of systemic improvements, advocacy, education, and award recommendations of state funds for such purposes. It is hoped the lives and futures of children, youth, and families involved with the juvenile justice system will be improved.

Due to the desire to not duplicate efforts with other statewide commissions and coalitions, and to develop strong recommendations for juvenile justice in Nebraska, the NCJJ has joined forces with the Juvenile Services Committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission to hold joint meetings and provide annual recommendations.

During this fiscal year the NCJJ was able to secure a federal Title II grant to support the State Advisory Group (NCJJ) in meetings and training for members. The NCJJ was able to have four additional young adults appointed to represent lived experience in the juvenile justice system. [There is also a small group exploring Title II compliance in order to open up the opportunity for our state to be eligible for federal funding again.](#)

Grant Review Subcommittee

The Grant Review Subcommittee is responsible for making funding recommendations to the Crime Commission for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid grant (CBA) and the Juvenile Services grant (JS). Annually, funds are announced and distributed on a formula basis for CBA funds and on a competitive basis for JS funds. Any county or tribe not requesting their formula amount are put into a competitive pot of funding called Enhancement. Counties and tribes are also able to apply for these enhancement funds in addition to the formula allocation. If Nebraska were to receive federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds (Title II) in the future, the grant review subcommittee would also make the funding recommendations for this competitive funding.

Diversion Subcommittee

The Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee of the NCJJ is a working group established in 2013. The duties of the subcommittee, outlined in [Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1427](#), include assisting in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.

In January 2018, the subcommittee developed a strategic plan identifying priorities of the subcommittee in which goals and direction could be established moving forward. Those goals were then assigned to working groups to start the process of achieving those statewide goals. The Diversion Subcommittee Strategic Plan can be found [here](#). Over the last year, the diversion subcommittee was able to move

forward with modifying the Juvenile Diversion Case Management System where juvenile diversion data is compiled and maintained to incorporate the risk-need-responsivity model to design case plans to match the needs of the youth. The subcommittee was also able to make great steps towards contracting with a researcher with experience in developing screening and assessment tools for states to create one for Nebraska youth referred to diversion. These have been some very exciting steps and accomplishments with implementing evidence based practices in diversion and developing consistency between counties and programs.

For more information about Juvenile Diversion in Nebraska, please see the Annual Report [here](#).

Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Pursuant to [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2404.01](#), the Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program shall develop and coordinate a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the NCJJ to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The working group was developed in 2013 and is comprised of individuals from across Nebraska. This statewide working group is referred to as the Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee of the NCJJ. This year the community planning advisory subcommittee assisted in the review of Community-based Juvenile Services Aid grant requests in the amount of \$6,211,702. Future focus for this subcommittee will be working with the Juvenile Justice Institute to update the community planning manual and designating the requirements for the comprehensive juvenile services plan for counties requesting Community-based Juvenile Services Aid or Juvenile Services funds.

For more information about the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, please see the Annual Report [here](#). Other NCJJ Subcommittees

The Disproportionate Minority Contact (now referred to as Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) subcommittee has not been active over the last year. The hope is to have individuals come forward to chair the subcommittee and resume work on assessing and recommendations on addressing RED in Nebraska.

The NCJJ chair and vice-chair have develop a Young Adult subcommittee to work on bringing more youth and family voice to the forefront of juvenile justice issues and discussion. Members have joined and agenda and activity formation is underway.

Juvenile Services Funds

Juvenile Services funds are state funds appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature and administered by the Nebraska Crime Commission. Availability of funds are announced on an annual basis and applications are accepted through a competitive grant process. The purpose of these funds, as outlined in state statute, is to provide the implementation of programs that are considered to be evidence-based or working towards becoming evidence-based. These funds provide program development and evaluation consultation for projects funded through Juvenile Services. A variety of projects are funded through juvenile services such as programs for assessment and evaluation, family support services, alternatives to detention, delinquency prevention, community centers, mentoring, substance abuse, school programs, prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion and to address Disproportionate Minority Contact. Fiscal year 2019-2020 Juvenile Services funds were awarded to 19 counties or organizations for a total of \$564,300.

Juvenile Services Committee Membership

Member Name	Member Type	Title and Organization	Representation
Nick Juliano (Co-Chair)	Voting	Senior Director Community Impact, Nebraska/Iowa Region , Boys Town	Treatment placement representative
Deb VanDyke-Ries (Co-Chair)	Voting	Director , Nebraska Court Improvement Project	Representative of the Court Improvement Project
Breanna Anderson	Voting	Platte County Deputy County Attorney , Platte County Nebraska	Nebraska Children's Commission Member
Michele Borg	Voting	Education of Systems-Involved Students (ESIS) Coordinator , Nebraska Department of Education	Representative of the Department of Education
Nicole Brundo	Voting	Deputy County Attorney, Division Lead , Douglas County Attorney's Office, Juvenile Division	County attorney representative
A'Jamal Byndon	voting	Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator , Douglas County	Representative of the Entity Administering Title II Funds
Tamara Gavin	Voting	Deputy Director , DHHS, Division of Behavioral Health	Representative of DHHS, Division of Behavioral Health
Judge Larry Gendler	Voting	Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court , Sarpy County Juvenile Court	Judge representative
Amy Hoffman	Voting	Director of Juvenile Diversion and Community-Based Aid , Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice	Nebraska Crime Commission representative
Mark LaBouchardiere	Voting	Facilities Director , DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services	Representative of the office of juvenile services
Tom McBride	Voting	Executive Director , Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association	Advocate group representative
Patrick Sailors	Voting	Director of Crisis and Residential Services , Child Guidance Center	In-Home Service Representative
Kelli Schadwinkel	Voting	Director of Juvenile Placement , Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division	Representative of juvenile probation
Bobbi Taylor	Voting	Contract Consultant , Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	Young Adult with Previous Juvenile Justice Experience
Vicky Thompson Smith	Voting	Program Manager , CEDARS Youth Services	Group home/Shelter representative
Vacant	Voting		Defense Attorney Representative
Vacant	Voting		Representative of the office of juvenile services
Dr. Richard Wiener	Voting	Beddey Professor of Psychology , University of Nebraska, Lincoln	Data expert representative
Nicole Berggren	resource	Program Manager , DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services	Representative of the office of juvenile services
Lisa Neeman	resource	Administrator II, Health Services Delivery Systems , DHHS, Medicaid and Long-Term Care	Representative of DHHS, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks	resource	Senator, District 28 , Nebraska Legislative Council, District 28	Representative of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Membership

Member Name	Member Type	Title and Organization	Representation
Elaine Menzel (Chair)	Voting	Legal Counsel , Nebraska Association of County Officials	The Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials or his or her designee
Denise Kracl (Vice Chair)	Voting	Colfax County Attorney , Colfax County	One county attorney
Roma Amundson	Voting	County Commissioner , Lancaster County	One county commissioner or supervisor
Don Arp	Voting	Executive Director , Nebraska Crime Commission	The executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice or his or her designee
Colleen Barnes	Voting		At Large Member
Neleigh Boyer	Voting	Attorney , DHHS, Division of Legal Services	The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee
Stanford Bradley	Voting	Youth Program Coordinator , Malone Community Center	Youth Advocate
Patrick Connell	Voting	Vice President of Behavioral Health, Compliance and Government Relations , Boys Town	Community-based, private nonprofit organizations who work with juvenile offenders and their families (2nd District)
CesShandra Davis	Voting		Youth Advocate
Greg Gonzalez	Voting	Deputy Chief of the Executive Services Bureau , City of Omaha Police Dept	Representative from law enforcement
Monika Gross	Voting	Executive Director , Foster Care Review Office	The executive director of the Foster Care Review Office
Brian Halstead	Voting	Deputy Commissioner , Nebraska Department of Education	The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee
Janteice Holston	Voting		Youth Advocate
Justin Myers	Voting	Young Adult Representative ,	Young Adult Member
Sheli Schindler	Voting	Director , Lancaster County Youth Services Center	The director or his or her designee from a secure juvenile detention facility or a staff secure youth confinement facility;
Jill Schubauer	Voting	Youth Systems of Care Specialist , Region 3 Behavioral Health	One member of a regional behavioral health authority established under section 71-808
Amanda Speichert	Voting	Attorney , Lindemeier & Dawson Attorneys at Law	One public defender
Lorilei Stark	Voting	Family and Youth Stabilization Coordinator , Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska	Community-based, private nonprofit organizations who work with juvenile offenders and their families (3rd District)
Bobbi Taylor	Voting	Contract Consultant , Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	Youth Advocate
Amanda Speichert	Voting	Attorney , Lindemeier & Dawson Attorneys at Law	Public Defender
Lorilei Stark	Voting	Family and Youth Stabilization Coordinator , Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska	Community-based, Private Nonprofit Organization* Representative *Organization works with juvenile offenders and their families in the 3rd District

Hon. Vernon Daniels	Non-Voting	Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court , Douglas County Court	Separate Juvenile Court Judge
Hon. Joel Jay	Non-Voting	County Judge , 11th Judicial District Court	County Court Judge
Kari Rumbaugh	Non-Voting	Assistant Deputy Administrator for Juvenile Services , Nebraska Probation Administration	Probation Administrator of the Office of Probation Administration or Designee

Juvenile Services Committee Statutory Authority

Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4203(b)

The commission shall create a committee to examine the Office of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration.

Such committee shall review the role and effectiveness of out-of-home placements utilized in the juvenile justice system, including the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, and make recommendations to the commission on the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what populations should be served in out-of-home placements and what treatment services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately serve those populations.

Such committee shall also review how mental and behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in residential placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in the juvenile justice system.

The committee shall collaborate with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Center for Health Policy, the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations.

The recommendations shall include a plan to implement a continuum of care in the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of Nebraska families, including specific recommendations for the rehabilitation and treatment model.

The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature annually by September 1.

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Statutory Authority

Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2412

(1) Consistent with the purposes and objectives of the Juvenile Services Act and the federal act, the coalition shall:

- (a) Make recommendations to the commission on the awarding of grants under the Commission Grant Program to eligible applicants;
- (b) Prepare at least one report annually to the Governor, the Legislature, the Office of Probation Administration, and the Office of Juvenile Services. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically;
- (c) Ensure widespread citizen involvement in all phases of its work; and
- (d) Meet at least two times each year.

(2) Consistent with the purposes and objectives of the acts and within the limits of available time and appropriations, the coalition may:

- (a) Assist and advise state and local agencies in the establishment of volunteer training programs and the utilization of volunteers;
- (b) Apply for and receive funds from federal and private sources for carrying out its powers and duties;
- (c) Provide technical assistance to eligible applicants;
- (d) Identify juvenile justice issues, share information, and monitor and evaluate programs in the juvenile justice system; and
- (e) Recommend guidelines and supervision procedures to be used to develop or expand local diversion programs for juveniles from the juvenile justice system.

(3) In formulating, adopting, and promulgating the recommendations and guidelines provided for in this section, the coalition shall consider the differences among counties in population, in geography, and in the availability of local resources.