

## Three Year Plan

### Project Goals and Objectives

#### Priority 1: State Advisory Group (SAG)

**Program Goal:** The goal of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), the SAG for Nebraska, is to ensure the recommendations to the commission on the awarding of grants align with the priorities in the state plan, and to develop various recommendations for the state's juvenile justice system.

#### **Program Objectives:**

1. Members of the SAG will provide insight on juvenile justice issues in Nebraska as well as nationally.
2. Members of the SAG will use combined resources and information to make recommendations on Nebraska's juvenile justice policies, practices, and statutes.

#### Priority 2: Compliance Monitoring

**Program Goal:** The goal of Compliance Monitoring is to ensure compliance with the core requirements of Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Sight and Sound Separation, Jail Removal, and removal of juveniles charged as adults from adult facilities.

#### **Program Objectives:**

1. Achieve and maintain compliance with the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders.
2. Achieve and maintain compliance with the Sight and Sound Separation requirement.
3. Achieve and maintain compliance with the Jail Removal requirements.
4. Achieve and maintain compliance with the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) requirement.

#### Priority 3: Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED)

**Program Goal:** The goal of the R/ED core requirement is to address the disproportionate number of youths identifying with a minority group who come into contact with the juvenile

justice system by funding programs for youth and families and providing information and education to juvenile justice system stakeholders.

**Program Objectives:**

1. Identify what data is currently available and where additional data is needed.
2. Implement programming within the communities to reduce R/ED.
3. Provide education to juvenile justice stakeholders about R/ED.
4. Create a collaborative environment and decrease sub-committee silos and repetitive work.

*Priority 4: Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Positive Youth Development*

**Program Goal:** The goal of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Positive Youth Development is to make delinquency prevention and positive youth development programs, including mental/behavioral health services, more accessible to youth within their communities.

**Program Objectives:**

1. Determine gaps in delinquency prevention, positive youth development, and mental/behavioral health services in Nebraska and help to fill those gaps.
2. Identify and support existing programs in overcoming current barriers.
3. Provide support to allow youth to participate in delinquency prevention and/or mental/behavioral health services within their communities with priority going to those that focus on positive youth development.

**Project Design and Implementation**

*Priority 1: The State Advisory Group (SAG)*

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), the SAG for Nebraska, will:

- Review membership to confirm all vacancies are filled on a consistent basis.

- The Chair of the SAG and the Nebraska Crime Commission will work with the Governor's Office to fill and evaluate any vacancies, expired appointments, and reach out to minimally participatory members encouraging engagement in SAG activities.
- Recruit and maintain young adult members appointed before the age of 28. Utilization and collaboration with community stakeholders will assist in this aspect. Exploring a youth subcommittee to be convened during off work hours and days that may be more convenient to those without reimbursement for their time from their employer.
  - Explore avenues to allow for reimbursement of time and costs for the young adults who join the SAG and attend meetings.
- Meet at a minimum of twice a year.
- Work with the Juvenile Services Committee (JSC) of the Nebraska Children's Commission and other committees focused on juvenile justice in Nebraska to align efforts.
- Participate in the creation of a three-year plan.
- Review the three-year plan annually for changes and updates if warranted.
- Monitor Nebraska's compliance with the requirements of the JJDPA, reporting annually to the Governor and Legislature.
- The Grant Review Subcommittee will review grant applications and make recommendations.
- NCJJ members will review the recommendations made by the Grant Review Subcommittee.
- Submit annual recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

*Priority 2: Compliance Monitoring*

- To ensure compliance with the four core requirements of DSO, Jail Removal, Sight and Sound Separation, and R/ED, Nebraska will:
- Work with current jail standards staff at the Nebraska Crime Commission to identify any jurisdictions with potential violations.

- Review detention data monthly to investigate for JJDPa violations.
- Monitor court orders for status offenders that are detained.
- Inspect secure facilities statewide in person.
- Provide training and education to detention center staff, law enforcement, judges, and county attorneys on existing statutes and other alternatives available to them.
- Complete required federal reports accurately.

Priority 3: Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED)

To address R/ED among youth in the juvenile justice system, Nebraska will:

- Identify data readily available at the Nebraska Crime Commission.
  - Create Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and other data sharing agreements when needed with other agencies.
- Collaborate with existing R/ED committees and groups to formulate a central purpose and reduce committee silos.
- Gather and analyze data regarding R/ED.
- Create the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) plan.
- Provide education and training to juvenile justice stakeholders about R/ED in Nebraska using current data.
- Identify evidence-based, cultural-based, and other science-backed programs and strategies to reduce R/ED to share with communities and stakeholders.

Priority 4: Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Positive Youth Development

A survey of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) members found that prevention is the system point that most members believe needs to be addressed, and within prevention, mental

health was picked as the priority issue. Behavioral health was also the top disposition priority issue selected by the NCJJ members during the survey. To address this concern, Nebraska will:

- Support juvenile delinquency prevention, positive youth development, and mental/behavioral health services and programs for youth within their own communities when possible.
- Work with existing programs to determine current barriers they are facing and attempt to help overcome these barriers.
- Open discussion with rural program staff to identify what services in their area are still needed and what is available.
- Prioritize funding for programs that assist delinquent and at-risk youth with positive self-development if mental health services are limited or not warranted.
- Collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health on locating available services and sharing resources across the state.
- Encourage multiple system points to collaborate and communicate on the needs of the youth to provide comprehensive programming.