

# **OJJDP FY 2021 Title II Formula Grants Program State of Rhode Island**

## **2021 – 2023 Three Year Plan**

### **Program Narrative**

#### **Analysis of Juvenile Crime Problems**

Rhode Island (RI) is similar to much of the nation in that trends for juvenile crime are showing declines in many indicators. Juvenile arrests, based on reporting of juveniles arrested by law enforcement agencies, have decreased significantly since 2010, with reductions in drug offenses, larceny offenses, various disorderly behaviors, and status offenses.

Over the last few years, reductions in arrests are consistent between males and females. Arrests by age are consistent with the declining trend as are arrests by race and ethnicity.

RI Family Court petitions have also shown a downward trend in alignment with the trends for juvenile arrests. Overall, petitions have declined by 30% since 2010, with a very slight increase from 2018 to 2019. This seems to indicate that policy changes and program development are having an impact by creating alternatives for law enforcement and the court.

All statistics included in the youth crime analysis have been updated to include 2019 data.

#### **JUVENILE ARREST DATA**

In past years, arrest data was more specifically detention data collected by the Department of Public Safety Grant Administration Office from law enforcement agencies. This was data collected to adhere to certain core requirements of the JJDP Act when apprehending and detaining juveniles. These reports only focused on juveniles securely and non-securely detained by police. Other juveniles may have been released at the scene, transported home, brought directly to the RI Training School or to Court. Accordingly, these numbers did not show a full picture of juvenile arrests.

For the reporting of 2017 - 2019 arrest data, RI has moved to using Uniform Crime Reporting/ National Incident Based Reporting System data collected by the RI State Police from all local/state law enforcement agencies for reporting to the FBI. These arrest statistics report the number of arrests that law enforcement agencies made in a given year, not the number of individuals arrested, nor the number of crimes committed. Therefore, these numbers differ from other statistics such as court petition data, etc. RI is in the process of updating and enhancing the current data collection database to be able to drill down further into types of crime by race and ethnicity as well as by jurisdiction.

### Categories of Offenses

Juvenile arrests of youth **decreased** in total by 11% in 2019 over 2018. The largest category of offenses, **disorderly conduct**, represented 23% of all offenses for which youth were arrested and had a 7% decrease in 2019. Assault offenses represented the second largest figure at 21% of all arrests with a decrease of 9% from the prior year. Larceny offenses represent the third highest category of offenses with 10% of all arrests and had a decrease of 28%. Drug offenses and weapons offense only represent 4-5% of the overall number of arrests but showed slight increases from 2018 to 2019.

	2017	2018	2019	% of 2019	% Chg 2018-2019
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	467	552	511	23%	-7%
<b>Assault Offenses</b>	546	509	462	21%	-9%
<b>Larceny/Theft Offenses</b>	278	311	223	10%	-28%
<b>Des/Damage/Vand of Property</b>	215	175	190	9%	9%
<b>Drug/Narcotic Offenses</b>	139	105	112	5%	7%
<b>Weapon Law Violations</b>	119	85	95	4%	12%
<b>Burglary/Breaking &amp; Entering</b>	94	84	72	3%	-14%
<b>Stolen Property</b>	56	32	41	2%	28%
<b>Liquor Law Violations</b>	76	21	29	1%	38%
<b>Sex Offenses</b>	43	24	26	1%	8%
<b>Robbery</b>	42	44	25	1%	-43%
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	23	35	24	1%	-31%
<b>Trespass of Real Property</b>	52	21	19	1%	-10%
<b>Arson</b>	17	4	17	1%	325%
<b>Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Viol.</b>	12	18	14	1%	-22%
<b>Fraud Offenses</b>	15	16	12	1%	-25%
<b>Family Offenses/Nonviolent</b>	30	25	11	1%	-56%
<b>Pornography/Obscene Material</b>	11	16	11	1%	-31%
<b>Runaway</b>	14	18	10	0%	-44%
<b>Embezzlement</b>	3	3	6	0%	100%
<b>Driving Under Influence</b>	8	2	6	0%	200%
<b>All Other Offenses</b>	329	360	277	13%	-23%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2589</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>2193</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-11%</b>

### Sex

Sex	2017	2018	2019	% of 2019	% Chg 2018-2019
<b>Male</b>	1824	1674	1535	70%	-8%
<b>Female</b>	765	786	658	30%	-16%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2589</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>2193</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-11%</b>

Males continued to be arrested in far greater numbers than females in 2019. Overall, males continue to represent 70% of all youth arrested as compared to 30% of females arrested. This represented an 8% decrease in the number of males for the year and a 16% decrease for females.

## Age

Age	2017	2018	2019	% of 2019	% Chg 2018-2019
17	616	553	467	21%	-16%
16	624	587	422	19%	-28%
15	541	495	410	19%	-17%
14	359	361	386	18%	7%
13	262	259	295	13%	14%
12	118	132	148	7%	12%
< 12	69	73	65	3%	-11%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2589</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>2193</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-11%</b>

The majority of arrests in 2019 continued to be of youths in the age brackets 13 – 17. Comparing the change from 2018 to 2019, most of the age groups remained fairly consistent or showed a slight decrease. There were notable decreases in the number of 15 – 17 year olds. The younger age categories generally consist of juveniles brought in with an older offender or under protective custody.

## Race/Ethnicity

Race	2017	2018	2019	% of 2019	2018-2019
White	1832	1586	1424	65%	-10%
Black	711	836	741	34%	-11%
Asian/Pacific Islander	19	21	13	1%	-38%
Native American	2	5	5	0%	0%
Other	25	12	10	0%	-17%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2589</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>2193</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
Hispanic	568	525	507	23%	-3%

With respect to Race and Ethnicity demographics, the number of White juveniles arrested accounts for just 65% of the total youth arrested in 2019. From 2018 to 2019, both the number of White juveniles and Black juveniles arrested decreased by 10% and 11% respectively. There was also a 3% decrease in the number of arrested youth who also identified as Hispanic/Latino.

## Month of Year

Arrests by month in 2019 showed decreases in most months including notable decreases in February, April, May, and June. There were slight increases in other months such as September and November. November showed the largest increase of 30% from 2018 to 2019.

Month	2017	2018	2019	% of 2019	% Chg 2018-2019
January	210	198	186	8%	-6%
February	195	228	153	7%	-33%
March	242	221	202	9%	-9%
April	183	220	152	7%	-31%
May	247	254	204	9%	-20%
June	224	201	154	7%	-23%
July	202	138	123	6%	-11%
August	155	171	151	7%	-12%
September	198	164	187	9%	14%
October	237	303	265	12%	-13%
November	258	180	234	11%	30%
December	238	182	182	8%	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2589</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>2193</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-11%</b>

## RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT – PETITION DATA

A petition is submitted to the RI Family Court when a police or school department alleges that a youth is wayward or delinquent by reason that he or she has committed an offense in violation of state law or city or town ordinance. All petitions, except those that require emergency detention, are referred to the Juvenile Services Department of the Family Court. There, a preliminary investigation will determine whether the facts are legally sufficient to bring the child within the jurisdiction of the court; and if so, to determine whether the interest of the public or the child requires that further action be taken.

The RI Judiciary moved to a new computer system in 2017 which required the re-codifying of charges and the recreating of many data reports. The following is a summary of all petitions filed in the Family Court for 2017 through 2019, the percentage each category represents of all petitions for 2019, and the percentage change in the category from 2018 to 2019.

### All Categories

In 2019, status and disorderly offenses continue to be the largest categories of all petitions filed in the Family Court. Those categories represented 30% and 21% of all petitions filed. The next two categories with 19% and 9% of all petitions were property offenses and assaults. Violent crimes and miscellaneous constituted 4% and 6% of all petitions filed. In 2019, drug offenses and weapons offenses made up only 3% each while all other categories were less than 3% of the yearly totals.

Charge	2017	2018	2019	% of 2019	% Change 2018-2019
Assaults	567	464	451	9%	-3%
Computer Crimes	25	17	9	0%	-47%
Disorderly Conduct	1034	1012	1008	21%	0%
Drug Offenses	171	136	125	3%	-8%
Liquor Law Violations	50	28	22	0%	-21%
Misc Offenses	268	218	300	6%	38%
Motor Vehicle Violations	56	44	51	1%	16%
Neglect/Abuse	5	2	0	0%	-100%
Property Offenses	943	811	882	19%	9%
Sex Offenses	10	21	14	0%	-33%
Status Offenses	1472	1422	1447	30%	2%
Violations of Probation	164	0	0	0%	0%
Violations	110	104	79	2%	-24%
Violent Crimes	281	225	210	4%	-7%
Weapons Offenses	179	148	164	3%	11%
<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>5335</b>	<b>4652</b>	<b>4762</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2%</b>

In 2019 there was a slight increase in the overall number of petitions filed in the Family Court. This number was 2% more than the 2018 total.<sup>1</sup> When categories are examined individually over the last two years a few categories saw decreases compared to the prior year. Violations, Sex Offenses, Computer Crimes and Liquor Law Violations, experienced significant decreases. There were also small decreases in Violent Crimes, Drug Offenses and Assaults. There were small increases in the categories of Weapons, Property, Motor Vehicle and Miscellaneous Offenses from 2018 -2019.

The following sections and charts examine the individual categories of offenses filed in the Family Court for those categories with the highest number of charges. These four categories make up over 75% of the total charges for 2019. In almost every category several petitions have been collapsed into an “Other” line when their individual numbers were less than “5”.<sup>2</sup>

### Status Offenses

Charge	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2018-2019
Disobedient Child	114	110	89	-19%
Habitual Truant and School Offender	1327	1248	1313	5%
Juvenile Escape from Correctional Institutions	15	22	6	-73%
Loiter on Curfew Street - Child Under 16	7	24	13	-46%
Use of Tobacco by Person < 18	6	18	25	100%
Other Status Offense	3	0	1	100%
<b>Total Status Offenses</b>	<b>1472</b>	<b>1422</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Percentage of Yearly Total</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>30%</b>	

In 2019, this category represented the largest category of petitions filed. Status offense petitions increased by 2% for 2019. The number of petitions is highest for Truancy charges, however the increase from 2018 to 2019 was only 5%. The number of petitions for disobedient children decreased by 9% while those for violating a curfew and escape decreased by 46% and 73% respectively.

### Disorderly Offenses

This category represented the second largest number of petitions filed in the Family Court in 2019. From 2018 to 2019 it remained mostly unchanged. The largest number of offenses within this category, disorderly conduct, decreased by 6% in 2019. There were also increases in petitions for willful trespassing, obstructing an officer and disturbance of assembly.

Charge	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2018-2019
Disorderly Conduct	748	811	764	-6%
Disturbance of Public Assembly	6	3	11	267%
Interference with Fire Alarm Apparatus	9	3	1	-67%
Obstructing Officer in Execution of Duty	87	55	85	55%
Offenses Against Town or City Ordinances	11	1	7	600%
Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest	101	107	101	-6%
Willful Trespass	61	23	33	43%
Other Disorderly Charges	11	9	6	-33%
<b>Total Disorderly Conduct</b>	<b>1034</b>	<b>1012</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Percentage of Yearly Total</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>21%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Please be advised that this data is received from the Family Court Intake Unit each year. The data should always be viewed as a “snapshot” of the day the report was produced. Accordingly, if this report is compared with those numbers filed in previous applications there may be some variations.

<sup>2</sup> Some petitions, even though their numbers were very small, were kept on the charts because of their noteworthy nature.

## Assault Offenses

Overall Assault Offenses decreased by 3% from 2018 to 2019. The largest offense in this category, simple assault and battery decreased by 4% in 2019.

Charge	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2018-2019
Domestic Assault	2	1	3	200%
Domestic Violence - Simple Assault and/or Battery	6	1	6	500%
Simple Assault and/or Battery	559	462	442	-4%
<b>Total Assaults</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>Percentage of Yearly Total</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	

## Property Offenses

Charge	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2018-2019
Arson 1st Degree	8	0	5	100%
Arson 4th Degree	9	5	13	160%
Attempted Breaking and Entering Under 11-8-2	16	14	11	-21%
Attempted Larceny < 1,500	11	21	2	-90%
Breaking and Entering of Dwelling When Resident on Pre	3	11	6	-45%
Breaking/Entering Business Place/Public Building/Ship - 1	10	10	4	-60%
Breaking/Entering Other Buildings With Criminal Intent	13	22	12	-45%
Domestic Violence - Vandalism	18	4	2	-50%
Driving Without Consent of Owner or Lessee	13	18	17	-6%
Embezzlement and Fraudulent Conversion > 100	6	1	2	100%
Fraudulent Use of Credit Card <100 in 6 Month Period	5	17	6	-65%
Injury or Tampering With Vehicles	38	21	17	-19%
Larceny < 1,500	142	125	57	-54%
Larceny > 1,500	11	25	18	-28%
Larceny from the Person	8	9	8	-11%
Passing of Counterfeit Certificates, Bills or Notes	8	6	7	17%
Possession of Stolen Vehicle	57	50	55	10%
Receiving Stolen Goods < 1,500	57	18	24	33%
Receiving Stolen Goods > 1,500	8	7	7	0%
Second Degree Robbery	17	12	12	0%
Shoplifting	120	109	116	6%
Unlawful Breaking and Entering of Dwelling House	59	28	16	-43%
Vandalism	241	233	414	78%
Vandalizing Alarms or Call Boxes or False Alarms	14	12	4	-67%
Other Property Offenses	51	33	47	42%
<b>Total Property Offenses</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Percentage of Yearly Total</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>19%</b>	

Property offenses increased slightly by 9% from 2018 to 2019. The largest offense within this category in 2019 was for vandalism which had a significant increase of 78%. There were also a high number of petitions for shoplifting and possession of a stolen vehicle in 2019 which had small increases of 6% and 10% respectively. There continues to be a high number of larceny under \$1500 petitions in this category, however they did decrease by 54% from 2018 to 2019.

## RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT – 2019 JUVENILE OFFENSE REPORT

The following statistics come from the RI Family Court’s annual Juvenile Offense Report. The categories listed do not include the following offenses: probation violations, contempt of court, violation of valid court orders, no-contact orders, or restraining/protective orders.

2019 Offenses by Age Group									
	<10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Other
Alcohol & Drug Offenses	0	1	2	9	21	21	41	50	2
Disorderly Conduct	3	22	52	136	153	231	203	207	1
Motor Vehicle Violations	0	0	0	2	8	9	3	25	4
Property Crimes	2	34	76	125	156	128	202	141	18
Simple Assaults	1	14	28	51	74	94	88	95	3
Status Offenses	18	92	184	226	223	261	296	140	7
Violent Crimes	0	3	7	22	31	40	49	54	4
Weapons Offenses	1	2	11	13	38	33	33	31	2
Other Offenses	0	2	9	22	112	63	63	51	4
<b>Total Offenses</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>45</b>

Percentage of 2019 Offenses by Age Group									
	<10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Other
Alcohol & Drug Offenses	0.0%	0.7%	1.4%	6.1%	14.3%	14.3%	27.9%	34.0%	1.4%
Disorderly Conduct	0.3%	2.2%	5.2%	13.5%	15.2%	22.9%	20.1%	20.5%	0.1%
Motor Vehicle Violations	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	15.7%	17.6%	5.9%	49.0%	7.8%
Property Crimes	0.2%	3.9%	8.6%	14.2%	17.7%	14.5%	22.9%	16.0%	2.0%
Simple Assaults	0.2%	3.1%	6.3%	11.4%	16.5%	21.0%	19.6%	21.2%	0.7%
Status Offenses	1.2%	6.4%	12.7%	15.6%	15.4%	18.0%	20.5%	9.7%	0.5%
Violent Crimes	0.0%	1.4%	3.3%	10.5%	14.8%	19.0%	23.3%	25.7%	1.9%
Weapons Offenses	0.6%	1.2%	6.7%	7.9%	23.2%	20.1%	20.1%	18.9%	1.2%
Other Offenses	0.0%	0.6%	2.8%	6.7%	34.4%	19.3%	19.3%	15.6%	1.2%
<b>Total Offenses</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>

Percentage of 2019 Offenses by Sex		
	Male	Female
Alcohol & Drug Offenses	77.9%	22.1%
Disorderly Conduct	65.4%	34.6%
Motor Vehicle Violations	92.2%	7.8%
Property Crimes	75.8%	24.2%
Simple Assaults	64.3%	35.7%
Status Offenses	54.7%	45.3%
Violent Crimes	86.7%	13.3%
Weapons Offenses	93.9%	6.1%
Other Offenses	83.8%	16.2%
<b>Total Offenses</b>	<b>67.9%</b>	<b>32.2%</b>

Percentage of 2019 Offenses by Race					
	Asian	Black	White	Hispanic	Unknow
Alcohol & Drug Offenses	0.0%	18.4%	57.8%	6.8%	17.0%
Disorderly Conduct	0.8%	31.9%	36.3%	13.5%	17.5%
Motor Vehicle Violations	0.0%	17.7%	37.3%	29.4%	15.7%
Property Crimes	0.3%	24.0%	53.1%	8.6%	14.0%
Simple Assaults	0.5%	29.2%	34.6%	16.3%	19.4%
Status Offenses	1.5%	12.7%	43.5%	23.4%	18.9%
Violent Crimes	0.0%	29.5%	36.7%	19.5%	14.3%
Weapons Offenses	0.0%	29.9%	42.7%	14.0%	13.4%
Other Offenses	0.3%	27.9%	53.1%	7.7%	11.0%
<b>Total Offenses</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>23.2%</b>	<b>43.6%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>

## JUVENILE HEARING BOARD DATA

The following data was reported to the RI Family Court from individual juvenile hearing boards as of August 2020. Some hearing boards had not yet reported.

Hearing Board	Cases
Barrington	6
Bristol	5
Burrillville	24
Central Falls	21
Charlestown	2
Coventry	18
Cranston	35
Cumberland	6
East Greenwich	11
East Providence	12
Exeter	1
Foster	1
Glocester	3
Hopkinton	0
Jamestown	1
Johnston	20
Lincoln	7
Middletown	3
Narragansett	12
Newport	6
North Kingstown	
North Providence	8
North Smithfield	16
Pawtucket	23
Portsmouth	14
Providence	49
Scituate	
Smithfield	15
Tiverton	1
Warren	10
Warwick	21
West Greenwich	0
West Warwick	0
Westerly	11
Woonsocket	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>401</b>

Age	# cases	%
17+	1	0.2%
17	60	15.0%
16	75	18.7%
15	75	18.7%
14	61	15.2%
13	65	16.2%
12	44	11.0%
11	17	4.2%
10	3	0.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Violation	# cases	%
Disorderly Conduct	166	37.4%
Simple Assault	60	13.5%
Malicious Damage	54	12.2%
Drugs/Alcohol	47	10.6%
Other	42	9.5%
Shoplifting	33	7.4%
Larceny/Stolen Goods	15	3.4%
Status Offense	13	2.9%
Weapon Poss	8	1.8%
Trespassing	6	1.4%
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*\*Multiple violations can be charged*

Race/ Ethnicity	# cases	%
Black	79	19.6%
Latinx	71	17.6%
White	250	61.9%
Asian	4	1.0%
Other	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Sanctions Assigned	# cases	%
Community Service	153	24.9%
Essays	126	20.5%
Other	91	14.8%
Refer to Counseling	75	12.2%
School Report	70	11.4%
Apology Letter	56	9.1%
Restitution	30	4.9%
Drug Eval/Test	10	1.6%
Curfew	4	0.7%
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*\*Multiple sanctions are often assigned*

Sex	# cases	%
Male	269	67.1%
Female	132	32.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Re-arrests	# cases
Total cases 2019	401
Minus not reporting	25
Adjusted cases 2019	376
Rearrests 2019	44
<b>Re-arrest Rate</b>	<b>11.70%</b>

*Blank = no report*

*No hearing board in 4 communities*

Little Compton                      Richmond  
New Shoreham                      South Kingstown



## DCYF – JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY DATA

The RI Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) operates the RI Training School, the state’s only secure facility for adjudicated youth and youth in detention awaiting trial. There was a total of 364 admissions (83% male, 17% female) to the Training School at some point during 2019, down from 449 in 2018. This data represents both pre-adjudicated and post-adjudicated youth and is a duplicated count of the number of juveniles who traveled through the RI Training School during the calendar year. One juvenile may have been detained at the facility more than once.

Between 2018 and 2019, the number of females decreased by 34% and the number of males by 15%. On December 31, 2019, there were 73 youth in the care or custody of the Training School, 40 of whom were physically located at the Training School.

**Rhode Island Training School Population by Race and Ethnicity, Calendar Years 2017-2019**

	2017	%	2018	%	2019	%
White	193	36%	137	31%	105	29%
Black	174	33%	160	36%	147	40%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	5	1%	1	0%
Native American	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
Hispanic	151	29%	87	19%	71	20%
Other	10	2%	60	13%	39	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>529</b>		<b>449</b>		<b>364</b>	

**Rhode Island Training School Population by Gender, Calendar Years 2017-2019**

	2017	%	2018	%	2019	%
Male	424	80%	355	79%	302	83%
Female	105	20%	94	21%	62	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>529</b>		<b>449</b>		<b>364</b>	

Source: RI Department of Children Youth and Families. (2017 - 2019 from JDAI annual reports - admissions)

In RI, partnerships exist with several state and non-profit initiatives to improve the lives of children and youth. These initiatives include:

- \* Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)
  - Family Care Community Partnerships (FCCPs)
  - RI Care Management Network
    - Child and Family of RI
  - Ocean State Network for Children and Families

- Family Service of RI
  - Family Care Network
  - RI Youth Advisory Board
  - Urban Juvenile Hearing Board Pilot Partnership (DCYF, RICJ, JHBs)
- \* Department of Labor and Training
  - Workforce Development Service - Youth Program
- \* Department of Health
  - RI Youth Suicide Prevention Project
  - Youth Advisory Council
- \* Partnership to Address Violence through Education
- \* Providence Children and Youth Cabinet
- \* RI for Community and Justice (RICJ)
  - Youth Empowerment Programs (Leadership, Mentoring, and Workforce)
  - Juvenile Justice Programs, Community Advocacy Coalition (formerly the RED Advisory Committee)
- \* JDAI - RI KIDS COUNT and the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Each of these groups represent a cross-section of RI private and public partnerships committed to combine and share resources across agencies to avoid duplication of service and optimize the available resources in order to most effectively serve the youth and families of RI.

## **Needs and Problem Statements**

### **State Juvenile Justice Needs/Problem Statements**

RI's plan is built on principles found in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). RI's juvenile justice system treats youth equitably based on gender, race, family income, and disability. RI seeks to empower families and supports approaches that will strengthen the families of delinquent and other youth to prevent juvenile delinquency.

The current RI crime analysis data is used to support a continued focus on statewide delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement, including community-based alternatives to detention, services, and treatment. Available resources will be utilized to maintain compliance with OJJDP core requirements and maintain state level delinquency prevention/intervention initiatives, including

RED initiatives. After using required funding for Planning and Administration and the State Advisory Group program areas, RI plans to use remaining funding to address the following needs and problems in order of priority:

- **First Priority: Rhode Island must continue to invest resources to maintain compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP.**

In order to maintain compliance, RI requires resources for staff and/or consultant contracts to adequately monitor juvenile detention facilities, adult jails and lockups, and other facilities. RI must be able to adapt to varying guidance and standards for compliance with the DSO, separation, and jail removal requirements. RI continues enhanced effort to maintain compliance by providing education, training, technical assistance, and on-site support to law enforcement and juvenile justice system personnel. RI must also continue initiatives working towards the elimination of racial, ethnic, and gender-related disparities. Racial and ethnic disparities remain a problem in the RI juvenile justice system. In this state, as nationally, minority youth are overrepresented at multiple points in the system. Youth of color are more likely to be arrested, formally charged in court, placed in secure detention, and receive harsher treatment than white youth. In RI, youth of color are disproportionately more likely than white youth to be detained or sentenced to the Training School. In 2019, African American youth made up 41% of youth at the Training School, while making up 9% of the RI child population. Hispanic youth were 19% of the Training School population while making up 27% of the RI child population.

- **Second Priority: Rhode Island must provide juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs that meet the needs of youth through the collaboration of state and local services including courts, law enforcement agencies, mental health agencies, welfare services, municipalities and non-profit agencies offering youth services.**

According to the RI Family Court statistics mentioned above in the crime analysis, there was a slight overall increase of 2% in the RI Family Court petitions from 2018 to 2019. Petitions filed in

the Family Court are the highest for Status Offenses at 30% of all petitions in 2019. Disorderly Conduct Offenses also comprise about 21% of all petitions filed in 2019. Many of the charges in these categories, would be candidates for the various diversion programs, provided the youths record is also in line with a diversion recommendation. It is important to note that juvenile arrests saw a decrease of 11% in 2019. RI's juvenile arrest data reflects initial point of contact with law enforcement and would reflect only the most serious charge occurring for a particular arrest. Additional offenses charged would appear as individual petitions to the RI Family Court. Any perceived discrepancy between the juvenile arrest data and Family Court data should be viewed in light of this fact.

The Family Court's specialty courts including the Juvenile Drug Court, the Family Treatment Drug Court, Truancy Court, and the Mental Health Clinic continue to have positive impact in the area of reducing the number of repeat offenders while also fostering family engagement and promoting youth well-being.

The needs of the Family Court include funding to continue and expand treatment, support and other options for the children/families involved with these diversionary programs. These specialty courts serve children and parents throughout the State of RI involved with the state's child welfare system and juvenile justice system. The Family Court is looking to continue strengthening juvenile court services by providing additional services such as behavioral health screenings and assessments for court involved youth, alternatives to detention, comprehensive care coordination/case management, and support staff for the specialty courts program.

- **Third Priority: Rhode Island must pass through funding to address youth justice and delinquency prevention issues for Native American tribes.**

In addition to the required pass-through amount, RI supports programming to promote Tribal youth well-being and transition to adulthood. The Native American Tribal pass-through amount continues to play a part in Tribal prevention projects. The project consists of continuous

development of their juvenile justice program, including administering activities for Tribal youth at risk which focus around Tribal traditional values.

Funding from the Title II Formula Grant Program is distributed based on priorities with preference towards evidence-based approaches. Projects that do not demonstrate progress towards objectives will not be considered for future funding. Any funding that becomes available to the state under section 222 [42 USC §5632] will be equitable distributed within the state and no less than 75% of the funds will be used for programs discussed under item 9 of the requirements of the Title II program. Projects are designed to develop and implement programs to protect the rights of juveniles affected by the juvenile justice system. There are no officially recognized rural areas in RI. Therefore, there will be no discussion of delinquency prevention and treatment services available in rural areas.

## **Goals and Objectives/Implementation**

**The Rhode Island Family Court**, through its specialty court programs, has set goals to offer juvenile justice through diversion and treatment calendars and services. Specific program goals encompass reducing juvenile criminal justice involvement (recidivism), reducing youth substance abuse, improving individual and family functioning, and ultimately, increasing a youth's opportunities for success in life. These highly specialized calendars offer alternatives to formal proceedings and aim to provide families a holistic and comprehensive approach to treatment services. These calendars/services include: the Juvenile Drug Court; Family Treatment Drug Court; the Truancy Calendar; and the Mental Health Clinic. Within the last few years these programs have adopted more evidence-based practices through mental health and substance abuse screening. Most recently, the Mental Health Clinic has expanded from conducting screenings and comprehensive evaluations to also offering free, evidence-based individual and group treatment services for juvenile justice and child welfare involved youth. Additionally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, court hearings, informal intakes and diversionary screenings were temporarily moved to a remote format.

It is expected that this new model will continue to be an additional option for families to ensure expeditious access to justice for youth and families. Through these processes, as well as cross-system collaboration, the Court is focused on early identification and intervention. These, along with other evaluative measures, increase the likelihood that cases may be diverted and not rely on more involved and expensive measures through the formal juvenile and child welfare calendars.

Additionally, with greater emphasis on diversion, these programs aim to reduce the disproportionate contact that exists within juvenile justice systems. With funding under the Title II Formula grant program areas of (C) comprehensive juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs that meet the need of youth through system collaboration, (K) programs and projects designed to provide for the treatment of youth's dependency on or abuse of substances, (T) programs designed to provide mental health or co-occurring disorder services for court-involved juveniles, and diversion/juvenile justice system improvements, the Court seeks to maintain these diversionary and treatment calendars as well as expand their ability to provide case management on identified mental health needs.

The Family Court intends to provide services to over 1200 youth involved in the specialty court calendars. Case management and tracking is a central goal in order to ensure youth are diverted from the court in a timely manner with a focus on mental health and behavioral interventions. Juveniles who are handled informally are now receiving mental health screens in conjunction with the standard intake and, as a result, juveniles are receiving more mental health services at the "front end" of the system.

- Intake Department: This diversionary arm of the court is given the statutory task of screening cases in order to determine if they can be diverted or shall be placed formal for an arraignment. The Intake Department can decide to conduct an informal hearing where the family and the court reach a mutual decision to divert the case assuming certain conditions are met. Cross-system collaboration is a key component of this process and those conducting

intakes are often coordinating with schools and community mental health agencies to ensure youth are receiving necessary support.

- **Diversion Truancy Calendar:** A non-arraignment calendar specializing in truancy petitions. The Family Court Magistrate and court personnel travel to the schools and conduct on the record reviews to assist with attendance. This calendar requires the collaboration of local systems including schools, the court, mental health agencies, and at times our local child welfare agency, allowing a comprehensive approach to meeting youths' complex needs.

- **Juvenile Drug Court Diversion calendar:** A specialized calendar that frequently reviews cases that involve youth who are using substances. This program assists youth in accessing treatment to address dependence on or abuse of addictive or non-addictive substances. Treatment, frequent reviews, urinalysis, family involvement, academic monitoring, connecting families with local systems or resources through case management are all part of the standards for this juvenile justice population.

- **Mental Health Clinic (MHC):** Although not an actual court calendar, the Juvenile Mental Health Clinic serves as a resource for juvenile justice, crossover and child welfare involved youth, offering free comprehensive, trauma-informed mental health evaluations, screenings, consultation, and most recently, evidence-based treatment. MHC evaluations include individualized clinical recommendations for accessible programs and services meant to meet the complex needs of the youth and families. For youth in crisis, licensed psychologists and social workers can provide immediate mental health services to assess for risk of harm, diverting from costly emergency room visits. If a child is found to be at risk of harm, the MHC has relationships with local hospitals that serve children experiencing mental health crises, community mental health agencies, and DCYF to make accessing the appropriate level of care for a youth a seamless, expeditious process.

The goals of this program continue to include expanding the utilization of evidence-based measures to screen youth and families to inform referrals to treatment, specialty calendars and services. The program also looks to utilize case management services to ensure participants have access to services, and to monitor and track the length of time in treatment. For the past several years, Informal Intake and the Juvenile Drug Court have utilized evidence based mental health and substance use screens (MAYSI-2 and CRAFFT) for all youth entering their programs to help identify those in need of further evaluation or clinical services. After a successful pilot, the MAYSI-2 and CRAFFT were implemented in five Truancy Calendar program school districts, offering assessment and clinical referrals early on in the truancy process. As a result of this implementation, youth with mental health needs were identified and referred for treatment services earlier in the truancy process.

The Specialty Courts continue to collaborate and maintain positive relationships with providers and community resources to expedite the progress of referrals and maintain coordinated care. The integration of DCYF funded services into the repertoire of treatment offerings has been critical in supporting the needs of youth and families with high end clinical needs, while creating a seamless referral process. Staff and community resources are maximized to ensure improved service access, service delivery and retention in services. These Courts also use consumer input and program evaluation findings to inform service design and delivery for quality improvement.

The RI Family Court plans to use some funds for part-time psychologists in the Mental Health Clinic. The Mental Health Clinic provides comprehensive, trauma-informed mental health evaluations of youth in the juvenile justice system and guides them to the most appropriate treatment by creating a tailored list of recommendations to meet their individual needs. This court clinic represents an effort to reduce the rates of juvenile recidivism and prevent future adult involvement in the criminal justice system. The clinic provides immediate services for the Intake Department when a child presents as a safety concern through a standardized mental health screening process. Clinicians are also utilized for immediate emergency and consultation services to judges and



magistrates whenever a juvenile mental health need or concern arises. The Mental Health Clinic's treatment arm, called the Youth Wellness Center, provides free evidence-based treatment services for court involved youth. The Youth Wellness Center is able to offer their services either in person or virtually, offering a solution for when mild illness, weather or transportation is a barrier to attending treatment.

RI is, along with many states, experiencing a fiscal crisis with many cuts directly affecting programs that assist low-income families. Continuing and expanding these programs is a critical component in the Family Court's effort to strengthen families, divert youth from formal calendars, provide and recommend evidence-based treatment services and reduce juvenile reoffending.

**Rhode Island KIDS COUNT** is a statewide children's policy organization dedicated to improving the health, safety, education, economic well-being, and development of RI's children, with a commitment to equity and the elimination of unacceptable disparities by race, ethnicity, disability, zip code, immigration status, neighborhood, and income. RI KIDS COUNT collects and disseminates data on the well-being of RI's children and advocates for and facilitates the development of equitable policies and programs. RI KIDS COUNT has earned a reputation as a leader, nationally and in RI, for its effective work on children's policy issues, its ability to form and facilitate effective public-private partnerships, and in advancing juvenile justice reform in the state. By building consensus and cooperation among stakeholders with varied roles and responsibilities, RI KIDS COUNT has been able to foster a sense of shared responsibility for RI's system-involved youth. For over 25 years, RI KIDS COUNT has been the central source of data and policy information on youth in the juvenile justice system through publication of the annual *Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* which tracks Youth Referred to Family Court and Youth in the Juvenile Justice system (both youth at the Training School and Youth on Probation). RI KIDS COUNT also has been

actively engaged in reform efforts related to the Training School, including successfully advocating for a law passed in 2008 that placed a cap on the population of the Training School.

RI KIDS COUNT coordinates RI's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation which promotes the vision that youth involved in the juvenile justice system are best served using proven, family-focused, community-based interventions instead of secure detention/incarceration, developing alternatives to detention, reducing racial and ethnic disparities, and creating opportunities for positive youth development. RI KIDS COUNT convenes meetings and coordinates the efforts of the JDAI Steering Committee and Work Groups, serves as a liaison to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and accesses needed technical assistance from the Casey Foundation and the Center for Children's Law and Policy. This RI JDAI effort includes cross-system representatives from the RI Family Court, DCYF, the Attorney General's Office, the Public Defender's Office, Providence Police Department, Office of the Child Advocate, the Department of Education, RI for Community and Justice (RICJ) and other agencies and service providers.

RI KIDS COUNT has formalized a structure for work on juvenile justice issues that includes a cross-system, inside/outside government Steering Committee that sets priorities and standing and ad hoc work groups established to address specific components of juvenile justice reform, including Girls in the System, Risk Assessment Instrument, Racial and Ethnic Disparities Data, Schools as an Entry Point to the Juvenile Justice System, and Youth Voice.

The goal of JDAI in RI is to build a better and more equitable youth justice system by reducing inappropriate and unnecessary detention and incarceration of juveniles at the RI Training School. JDAI also addresses issues of systemic overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system, gender-specific treatment, expansion of community-based alternatives to secure detention, and improvements to the conditions of confinement at the Training School.

Overall objectives include:

- Convene quarterly meetings of the Steering Committee and regular work group meetings

- Regularly review data on racial and ethnic disparities in diversion, probation, and secure detention and discuss strategies for reducing and eliminating disparities
- Enhance data systems necessary to support quarterly and annual data reports
- Expand use of the Risk Assessment Instrument statewide
- Identify community-based alternatives to detention for girls and boys currently in secure detention and advocate for the establishment and expansion of trauma-informed mental health services that could better meet their needs
- Coordinate efforts to reduce and eliminate the overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system with RI for Community & Justice (RICJ), which shares JDAI’s goal to reduce glaring, persistent racial and ethnic disparities. Work with RICJ to promote the ongoing use of effective Juvenile Hearing Boards statewide with particular focus on the four core cities.

The JDAI initiative developed a data system designed to integrate data from DCYF and the Family Court on detained youth and adjudicated youth. This data helps juvenile justice stakeholders make data-driven decisions, measure progress and target areas for intervention. In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, DCYF also has been providing monthly data on the number of youth in secure detention broken down by race and ethnicity. RI KIDS COUNT continues to work with the JDAI to determine what data can best support data-driven decisions. 2020 data on youth at the Training School:

- Q1 2020, run on April 20, 2020: total of 41 youth (37 males and 4 females)
- Q2 2020, run on August 13, 2020: total of 33 youth (28 males and 5 females)
- Q3 2020, run on October 26, 2020: total of 27 youth (27 males and 0 females)
- December 31, 2020 point-in-time: total of 15 youth (12 males, 2 females, and 1 unknown)

The RI JDAI Steering Committee regularly reviews data on disproportionality by race and ethnicity in the juvenile justice system and works towards improving data quality and availability. Youth of color continue to be overrepresented at the RI Training School when compared to the racial

and ethnic composition of the state's youth population. The RI JDAI Initiative works to enhance the state's ability to track data across multiple data systems that can help identify decision points where disparities may be occurring. With additional resources through this Title II Formula grant, RI KIDS COUNT would like to dig deeply into specific decision points where Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) are occurring in the juvenile justice system, including probation. In addition to reviewing JDAI data reports, RI JDAI has developed a plan to work with the Training School intake staff to record residents' race and ethnicity more accurately when they are admitted to the facility. They would like to build on these efforts by identifying and targeting a specific area where disparities first appear and working to improve equitable treatment for all youth in that area. DCYF is doing data look-backs at youth who were detained in the last year to apply the RAI to determine if they would have been detained at the time of arrest. The JDAI Steering Committee is interested to see the results of DCYF's analysis to look particularly at racial and ethnic disparities that may appear in the data. The JDAI project will also look at data on the race and ethnicity of youth who are brought to the Family Court for emergency arraignments after an arrest to determine if cases involving youth of color are disproportionately defined as "emergencies." Youth brought before a judge on emergency arraignments are disproportionately more likely to be held in pre-trial-detention.

The JDAI Steering Committee oversees the development and implementation of the Risk Assessment Instrument which is a detention screening tool. RI passed a law that requires the development and use of a Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI), a written checklist of objective criteria used to screen each minor arrested to determine the need for either secure detention at the RI Training School, a non-secure detention alternative program, or release to their home. After overcoming logistical barriers including assigning roles and responsibilities for completing the RAI, technological issues with computers, and the sharing of confidential information across state departments and with the local police departments, the Providence Police Department began piloting the RAI. Some refinements were made and an electronic version was developed by Metis

Associates, a JDAI technical assistance provider, in collaboration with RI KIDS COUNT and DCYF. This project was delayed due difficulties identifying staff to field phone calls from police who are completing the RAIs and changes in leadership at DCYF. These issues have now been resolved, and key stakeholders are planning to re-launch the RAI, expand the effort, and implement it statewide.

One of the goals of the JDAI Initiative is to eliminate secure detention of girls. We know that girls in the juvenile justice system enter with different personal and offense histories and needs than their male peers. Girls are more likely to be detained for nonserious offenses, and many have experienced traumatic events, including physical and sexual abuse. Effective programs for girls use a developmental approach that addresses the social contexts that influence girls' behavior, including family, peers, and community, and these programs are best delivered in community-based settings rather than locked detention facilities. With fewer than five girls in secure detention on any given day, the possibility of eliminating secure detention of girls is achievable if appropriate community-based, trauma-informed mental health services are put in place. They are hopeful that funding for a Female Youth Project will be included in the FY 2022 budget, and this facility would provide psychiatric residential treatment for female youth with complex mental and behavioral needs, girls that are currently at the Training School or in out-of-state facilities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the RI Family Court noted a steep reduction in court petitions coming from schools. During the early part of the pandemic, this was largely because youth were not in school in person, but these numbers have remained lower than in previous years as students returned to in-person or hybrid learning. However, the Family Court is now seeing an uptick in school referrals, particularly for truancy. Over the next year, as students return to school in person, the JDAI Initiative will continue to monitor this data and work with the Department of Education (RIDE) and individual school districts to identify needed school-based and family-centered supports for youth and families that could reduce referrals, including referrals for status offenses such as truancy. In order to support this effort, RI KIDS COUNT recently invited a member of RIDE to serve

on the JDAI Steering Committee. RI KIDS COUNT/JDAI will also work with RIDE to ensure that education/instruction that juveniles at the Training School receive is loosely aligned with the instruction provided in school.

RI KIDS COUNT is planning to conduct focus groups with youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The results of these focus groups will be shared with DCYF and the JDAI Steering Committee to inform next steps in eliminating the need for secure detention and replacing it with family-based services and supports tailored to meet the needs of youth and their families and prevent or reduce juvenile justice system involvement. These focus groups will be an important step toward increasing youth voice. The JDAI team is also planning to invite at least one young person formerly involved in RI's juvenile justice system to join the JDAI Steering Committee.

Funding to RI KIDS COUNT under the Title II Formula grant would be used to continue the important efforts of JDAI and the reduction of overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system. Although youth are not served directly, the reforms achieved by this project significantly benefit all youth involved in the juvenile justice system. In 2020, 1,477 youth were referred to Family Court for wayward or delinquent offenses, and 207 youth passed through the RI Training School.

Funding to RI KIDS COUNT would also be used to work with JDAI partners including DCYF, the Family Court, RICJ and community-based providers to develop a greater number of community-based alternatives to incarceration and institutionalization including for status offenders and other youth who need temporary placement, crisis intervention, shelter, and after-care; and for youth who need residential placement, a continuum of foster care or group home alternatives. They will also focus on increasing community-based programs and services for status offenders, other youth and their parents and family members to strengthen families so that juveniles may remain in their homes, including programs/services for parents/families with limited English-speaking ability. RI KIDS COUNT and JDAI partners will work to increase the number and effectiveness of comprehensive

juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs that meet the needs of youth through the collaboration of many local systems before which a youth may appear, including schools, law enforcement agencies, child protection agencies, mental health and healthcare agencies, and private non-profit agencies offering youth services. Finally, RI KIDS COUNT will work with JDAI partners, including RI Family Court to encourage a continued decrease in detention/incarceration at the Training School through a range of strategies including expanded use of probation, mediation, restitution, community service, treatment, electronic monitoring, and tailored community-based services including health, mental health, education, and job training.

**Rhode Island for Community and Justice (RICJ)** is a statewide non-profit community organization with broad linkages to advocacy, service and educational agencies allowing more effective outreach into BIPOC communities. With support under the Title II Formula grant, RICJ convenes the Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC, formerly the RED Advisory Group), a statewide consortium of community, non-profit and youth programs, government, and professionals from across the justice system. The goal of the CAC is to decrease the racial and ethnic disparities (RED) in the RI juvenile justice system by improving systems and policies to help divert BIPOC juveniles into community alternatives that keep arrested youth out of the justice system, increase awareness and effectiveness of community alternatives, and build cultural competency of those working with juveniles at risk.

A major accomplishment and a continued goal of the RICJ is to strengthen community alternatives to incarceration with increased use of Juvenile Hearing Boards (JHBs) across the state. JHBs are comprised of community volunteers who review the circumstances of certain minor, non-violent offenses committed by youth. The hearing boards allow for early intervention, youth accountability, restorative sanctions, and the diversion of youth accused of status offenses and misdemeanors from the juvenile justice system. RICJ works closely with the Juvenile Hearing Boards, allowing them to share best practices through regional/statewide meetings and trainings;

connecting JHBs with networks of resources needed by juveniles, such as mental health, social services, mentoring, etc.; and collaborating to build capacity of urban JHBs in particular.

RICJ has examined Juvenile Hearing Boards in RI using data reports and survey studies to further investigate JHBs as an innovative and progressive model of community-based diversionary program that keeps youth from deeper involvement with the juvenile justice system. In 2013, RICJ first examined JHB re-arrest outcomes, asking juvenile detectives to review arrest records for youth seen by their JHB in 2008-2012. Since that initial study, re-arrest data have continued to be collected, first by RICJ and in the past three years by Family Court, which incorporated re-arrest into the annual report by JHBs to the Court. Consistently low re-arrest rates are found. In 2018, the 1-year rate was 8.1%, 2-year rate 10.9%, and 3-year rate 12.7%. The studies show the potential for positive outcomes of community diversion.

Data also shows that JHBs are underutilized. A recent study by DCYF Data and Evaluation Unit (2021) estimated how many juveniles petitioned to Family Court from Providence could have potentially been seen by the Providence JHB in 2018 and 2019, concluding that at least 275 youth petitions in 2018 and 288 in 2019 were eligible for the Providence JHB. 50% to 59% were first offenders. The majority of petitions were for Black Non-Hispanic, Hispanic any race and Other/multiracial Non-Hispanic youth, and most lived in Providence. Such analyses illustrate the unmet need for community-based diversion among BIPOC urban youth, and also how a lack of pre-Court diversion can contribute to racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system as a whole.

<http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/documents/data-valuation/Providence%20JHB%20Youth%20Analysis%2030DEC20.pdf>

Overall Goal: Given these findings and the potential of community-based diversion, RICJ's goal for this three year period is to expand access to community diversion alternatives for arrested youth at risk of system involvement, that prevent these youth from entering the justice system, hold the youth accountable, and provide access to needed services including: counseling/mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse care; positive youth development programs; mentoring,



tutoring and other education and enrichment activities; career and workforce programs; and a range of social supports. Our special focus is urban and metro settings where disproportionate numbers of BIPOC youth have become system-involved.

Overall objectives include:

- Convene the CAC/Community Advocacy Coalition to advise the initiative and enhance public awareness of community-based diversion for youth who are arrested.
- Build the capacity of Juvenile Hearing Boards to serve arrested youth through:
  - Convenings, consults, training, and networking to promote JHBs capacity to provide restorative and transformative justice.
  - Enhancing referrals by a) expanding sources for referral to the JHB and b) increasing JHB referrals to an array of mental health, youth development and other resources.
- Provide training to enhance the cultural competency of youth-serving professionals.
- Significantly reduce the numbers of urban youth petitioned to Family Court whose cases were eligible for community diversion.
- Continue the partnership of DCYF, RICJ and JHBs to provide resources for urban and metro JHBs serving BIPOC youth.
  - Continue to expand Family Care Community Partnership (FCCP) clinician participation at JHB hearings to refer youth for mental health and social services.
  - Support the partnership's longitudinal study of JHB youth outcomes, including sanctions completion, socio-emotional effects, and re-arrest rates.
  - Over the three-year period, expand the partnership to all urban JHBs.
- Continue to coordinate with RI KIDS COUNT, JDAI initiative which shares RICJ's goal of reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

In this work, particular focus will continue to be on re-examining and analyzing the number of JHB eligible cases referred to the Family Court and providing orientation and a restorative sanction

database for incoming juvenile detectives and JHB chairs to reference and utilize. This committee will continue to hold regional meetings of board members to share “best practices”, solutions to challenges and creative ideas for sanctions. Over the past few years, an additional six JHBs have become active, including one in the capital City of Providence and one in the City of Central Falls, both urban minority cities. RICJ plans to provide further assistance to these JHBs currently reactivating or municipalities starting up new JHBs.

RICJ works to enhance the ability of system professionals to reduce racial and ethnic disparities and work more effectively with juveniles of color. The program conducts trainings for youth-serving professionals, promoting their understanding of cultures, implicit bias, effective communication, restorative and transformative justice practices and effective police-youth interaction. Three day, one day and half day training modules and a TOT/training of trainers curriculum were previously developed. RICJ also prepares youth to provide basic instruction for their peers related to cultural understanding and restorative justice through their “Youth Facilitating Change (YFC)” summer workforce program which certifies youth as peer youth facilitators.

RICJ will also collaborate with law enforcement and police/community coalitions to promote best practices training on police/youth/community relations, cultural understanding, implicit bias, and conflict resolution. They have provided such training for each of the past several Providence Police Academy recruit classes. RICJ assists in organizing policy development and advocacy initiatives to promote these best practices in policing related to effective interaction, de-escalation, and human relations.

To promote cooperative policies between schools and police that help to keep minority juveniles from entering the justice system (with focus on Providence), RICJ collaborates with the Providence School Department, school resource officers, the Providence Police Department and RICJ youth. RICJ’s role has been to advocate for increased access by youth to counseling/mental health support and restorative justice practices in schools.

RICJ continues to promote equal access to services for non-English speaking juvenile offenders and their families by promoting access to qualified legal interpretation services. Curricula and internship were developed, and the RI Family Court implemented an expanded training for court interpreters a few years back. The Urban JHB Pilot Partnership project provides funding for (currently) Providence and Central Falls to hire interpreters when needed for youth whose case is being heard (or for the accompanying parent or guardian). They also seek to inform professionals and community about the issues of RED in the juvenile justice system and proven practices that can help address this issue, through information, dialogue, media messaging and building awareness among at-risk youth.

RICJ fosters accountable policies that promote diversion to best-practice community alternatives for BIPOC juveniles and allow tracking the effects of these policies. They will continue collaboration with the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) program at RI KIDS COUNT, the RI Family Court and the Department of Children, Youth and Families to promote routine data collection required for reporting on RED. The new Urban JHB Pilot Partnership project includes a longitudinal study by DCYF that will begin in 2021-22, examining outcomes for youth seen by the participating JHBs, including measures such as the successful completion of sanctions, Strengths and Development Assets assessments, re-arrests, and future encounters with the formal justice system. RICJ will also continue to collect data on JHB use and recidivism outcomes to summarize and disseminate to juvenile detectives, JHB members, justice agencies and the public.

RICJ recently partnered with the United Way of RI, DCYF, Urban JHBs, FCCP agencies and the Policy Department of Brown University to apply for a Kellogg Foundation's Racial Equity 2030 grant which if won, could provide an up to 10-year, \$20 million support for a partnership initiative to transform RI's justice system to prioritize prevention and community diversion. While winning the large grant may be unlikely, RICJ is hopeful the initiative may receive a planning grant, allowing the

partnership to take more strides toward building enduring structural change in the state's juvenile justice system.

RICJ has the Community Advocacy Coalition group to provide important oversight and advice to RICJ and expand its community outreach, critical to the success of this RED project. This group meets quarterly and includes representatives from Family Court, Social and Mental Health Services, Juvenile Hearing Boards, Law Enforcement, Education, Youth Programs and Community.

Funding through the Title II Formula grant under these program areas would be used by RI for Community and Justice (RICJ) to continue working towards these goals of narrowing the entry into the juvenile justice system, improving systems and policies, and achieving equity in decision-making by reducing racial, ethnic, and gender-related disparities. The various areas in which RICJ is working address OJJDP FY2021 Title II Program and Budget Areas of: (A) community-based alternatives; (B) community-based programs and services for juvenile offenders; (E) educational programs or supportive services for at risk or delinquent youth; (H) counseling, training and mentoring programs; (L) programs for positive youth development, (M) programs for a continuum of pre and post adjudication alternatives; (Q) afterschool programs for at risk juveniles. Other priority activities addressed include Deinstitutionalization, Diversion, Juvenile Justice System Improvement and Racial and Ethnic Disparities.

**Monitoring for Compliance** goals continue to include maintaining compliance with the first three core requirements of the JJDP Act. To ensure that youth are not unlawfully being held in secure facilities, including jails and lockups, RI will use Title II Formula grant funding under the program area of Compliance Monitoring to support salary and benefits of a compliance monitor, or under a contract with a consultant, to audit, site visit and provide technical assistance to all police lockups, secure court holding facilities and the juvenile detention center in the state.

The number of non-compliant incidents has steadily decreased. It is the ultimate goal to attain full compliance through the process of continued improvement of RI's compliance monitoring

system along with increased training and technical assistance. The RI Department of Public Safety Grant Administration Office previously contracted with TrueCore Behavioral Solutions, LLC to assist with compliance monitoring activities. This contract improved RI's compliance monitoring process by leveraging the experience and expertise of their staff to train our compliance monitor, update manuals and forms, and overall improve the juvenile justice system by increasing and maintaining compliance with the Core Requirements.

RI continues to maintain compliance with the DSO, Jail Removal and Sight and Sound separation requirements. Site visits are conducted annually to all police department lockups, court holding facilities, the juvenile detention center, as well as a few nonsecure juvenile residential facilities, shelters, and group homes. These site visits are used to appropriately classify facilities, verify any data submitted, and conduct a walk-through of holding areas. Policies are reviewed regarding the arrest and holding of all juveniles whether delinquent offenders, status offenders or non-offenders. Technical assistance is offered with procedures, record keeping and state and federal statute requirements. Site visits and reports are currently being completed by the compliance monitor.

The Public Safety Grant Administration Office also continues to collect monthly reporting sheets from all secure facilities. The compliance monitor, and any potential consultant, review all submitted data sheets and follow up on any possible violations. This increased training and communication with local police departments has resulted in better reporting of juvenile data along with an increased understanding at the local level of JJDP core requirements. However, with any new guidelines and definitions from OJJDP, RI will need a phase-in process with training. Under new guidelines, all law enforcement will be notified of changes when OJJDP has provided both an updated manual on monitoring for compliance and training for state specialists and compliance monitors. At that time, the Public Safety Grant Administration Office also hopes to update their *Juvenile Standards: Guidelines for Handling of Youthful Offenders and Non-offenders*.

**Native American Tribal** pass-through allocation is targeted at programs to address youth justice and delinquency prevention issues for Native American Tribes. In RI, this funding goes to the eligible, federally recognized Narragansett Indian Tribe for their tribal police and community policing activities for tribal at-risk youth. Their juvenile justice program includes tribal police officers who develop and administer activities for at-risk tribal youth that continues to focus around tribal traditional values. Programs and activities address topics such as tutoring, drug and alcohol prevention, conflict resolution, child safety and anger management.

With the Title II funding, the tribal police continue to expand activities that specifically address prevention and positive behavior with their tribal youth. They have expanded a tutoring program working with parents and children. They continue to establish and nurture good working relationships with the police departments and juvenile officers in all 39 cities and towns in RI. They have hosted several activities such as youth basketball tournaments, programs on youth violence, bullying and underage drinking, and a Prevention & Safety Day with local police and fire departments. They hope to expand their youth sports program which combines teamwork, self-discipline, and respect. The Tribal Police continue to work to develop more innovative ways to assist tribal at-risk youth in a unique Native American way including re-establishing family relationships and Tribal heritage.