

COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES

PLAN UPDATE

JANUARY 2026 – DECEMBER 2026

GUIDELINES



*NEW JERSEY
YOUTH JUSTICE COMMISSION*

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Executive Board

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*Comprehensive County Youth Services Plan Update
January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026*

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I. INTRODUCTION

This plan update provides each of the 21 New Jersey counties with a coordinated process to plan for State/Community Partnership Grant Program Funds and Family Court Services Program Funds.

The Plan Update must be received at the Youth Justice Commission on or before **October 10, 2025, at 3:00 pm.** Electronic submission of the Plan Update must include a cover letter from the Co-Chairs, on behalf of the County Youth Services Commission, indicating that all sections of this Plan Update have been reviewed, discussed, and approved. The letter must include the date the Plan Update was approved via a vote by the County Youth Services Commission.

Applications should be submitted electronically to:

[jjcvsgrants@jjc.nj.gov](mailto:jicvscgrants@jjc.nj.gov)

II. Planning Process

County

Instructions:

For this Plan Update, each County Youth Services Commission (YSC) should describe its process for identifying the needs of youth in its respective county. The answers to each of the following questions should describe the YSC's planning process and activities since the completion of their Comprehensive Plan. Please complete the questions below. Comment sections have been added to allow for additional narrative.

1. Briefly describe your county's planning process for determining funding decisions for the upcoming year.
2. Provide an update on how the county's planning process continues to include participation by and input from youth, families, and the community.
3. Using your responses from the Analysis Questions in your 2024-2026 Comprehensive Plan, provide an update for each recommendation section.

<i>Select continuum point</i>	<i>Restate the problem or county trend identified to be addressed in your 2024-2026 Plan and how it was to be addressed.</i>	<i>Provide an update on how the county has addressed the problem or county trend.</i>	<i>Application Program Profile #</i>	<i>If applicable, describe any change to the problem or county trend and the data used to support the change.</i>

4. What additional information was helpful to the YSC in completing this Plan Update?

5. Describe efforts made by the YSC to seek additional funding to supplement the funding received through the YJC. Complete the below chart to show what funding the YSC has reviewed as a potential funding opportunity. (An example is provided in the first row).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Grantor and Name</i>	<i>Eligible</i>	<i>Applied</i>	<i>Approved or Denied</i>	<i>Comments</i>
6/1/2023	OVC FY 2023 Enhancing Community Responses to the Opioid Crisis: Serving Our Youngest Crime Victims	Yes	No	n/a	The county did not apply but forwarded it to YSC membership
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

6. As a JDAI site, list topics and discussion points that were shared between the Youth Services Commission and the County Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement and any activities that helped to facilitate the completion of this Comprehensive Plan.
7. How does the CYSC stay informed of best practices or evidence-based programming for serving young people and families? Does the CYSC mandate that funded programs implement best practice and or evidence-based programming? Please describe CYSC efforts to ensure funded programs follow best practices or evidence-based programming, if applicable.

III. MONITORING RESULTS FOR FUNDED YSC PROGRAMS

Instructions: List the Youth Services Commission programs funded in 2025. Give a brief description of the program and identify their contractual level of service. Provide the date and the overall monitoring rating (1: 90% or higher, 2: 89%-75%, or 3: 74% or below). Include copies of the program monitoring results forms (e.g., team, final, etc.)

CURRENTLY FUNDED PROGRAMS			
AGENCY AND PROGRAM NAME	BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION/ TARGET POPULATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	Date and Monitoring Rating 1,2 or 3 (if applicable)

Additional comments regarding monitoring of currently funded programs:

IV. CONTINUUM OF CARE

- A. Definitions: Defines and describes each Point of Intervention on the Continuum.
- B. Instructions for Completing Work Sheet
- C. CY 2025 Continuum of Care - Points of Intervention

POINTS OF INTERVENTION DEFINITIONS

PREVENTION

Delinquency prevention programs are strategies and services designed to increase the likelihood that youth will remain free from initial involvement with the formal or informal juvenile justice system. The goal of delinquency prevention is to prevent youth from engaging in anti-social and delinquent behavior and from taking part in other problem behaviors that are pathways to delinquency. For the purposes of this plan, *primary delinquency prevention programs* are those directed at the entire juvenile population in a targeted area like a specific school, neighborhood or town/community where delinquency risk factors are prevalent. *Secondary delinquency prevention programs* are those directed at specific youth who are at higher risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system than the general population, based on exhibited behaviors associated with delinquency. Given this goal, delinquency prevention programs that are developed annually through the comprehensive planning process must serve a clearly identified target population of at-risk youth and services must address the known causes and correlates of delinquency.

Delinquency prevention data describe trends in juvenile delinquency and in factors that reflect the causes and correlates of delinquent activity. By understanding the nature and extent of delinquent behavior and the factors associated with involvement in delinquency, counties can better identify the content and scope of prevention programs needed. This information will help counties make informed decisions regarding the allocation of resources to delinquency prevention programming.

The Delinquency prevention data required for the Comprehensive Plan is meant to become the foundation for prevention program planning. However, it should be noted that the typical prevention planning process requires an in-depth analysis of communities, families, peer associations, and education factors that identify problem areas in a specific school, neighborhood, or town/community in the County.

This Comprehensive Plan requires only a small portion of the data that could potentially inform the need for delinquency prevention programming. Counties are encouraged to utilize additional local data in the planning process.

DIVERSION

Diversion is a broad term referring to “exit ramps” that move young people away from the juvenile legal system, offering alternatives to arrest and alternatives to prosecution. The goal of diversion programming is to target the underlying problems that led to the alleged delinquency behavior in the first place. By addressing the root causes of community instability diversion programs help improve long-term community safety. Youth who do not successfully complete a diversion program may ultimately have their case referred for formal processing by the juvenile court. Given this goal, diversion programs developed through the comprehensive planning process should clearly focus on developing diversion programs that include strategies to address the issues leading to delinquency, including restorative strategies for mitigating harm and increasing healing.

Diversion Process

In New Jersey, juveniles are dealt with informally through one or more of the following: Law Enforcement Station House Adjustments (Attorney General Directive 2020-12), Family Crisis Intervention Units (FCIU), Family Court Juvenile Conference Committees, or Family Court Intake Service Conferences.

Diversion Programs

Diversion programs are the activities young people are required to perform to avoid a formal arrest or to avoid a formal prosecution. Diversion programs may be operated by a law enforcement agency, the court, or by a contracted service provider.

The diversion data describe trends in the extent and nature of cases diverted in your county. This information will help counties begin to make informed decisions regarding the allocation of resources to diversion programming. When reviewing these data, note any differences in the use of diversion by race. Planning should include ways to level the playing field so that all youth, regardless of race, have an equal opportunity for diversion. The Comprehensive Plan requires only a small portion of the data that could potentially be collected at the County or municipal level.

DETENTION ALTERNATIVES

The detention decision making point includes 1) police referral for detention, 2) court remands to detention, and 3) the issuance of warrants requiring detention placement/due to technical violations.

“Detention” is defined as the temporary care of juveniles in physically restricting facilities pending court disposition (N.J.A.C. 13:92-1.2).

The statutory detention criteria require a finding that the young person poses a “threat to the physical safety of the community and/or whose confinement is necessary to insure their presence at the next court hearing (N.J.A.C. 13:92-1.3).” Counties may plan to use a limited amount of funding to support court ordered evaluations for adjudicated youth who reside in the detention center, only when all other resources are exhausted.

Detention alternative programs provide community supervision to juveniles who would otherwise be placed in a secure detention facility, while awaiting final disposition of their case. Detention alternative programs expand the continuum of programming options for Family Intake decisionmakers and for the court. Detention alternative programs are not to be provided in the detention center. The programs are designed to link to the middle category of the detention screening tool and to also provide options to judges that allow for the safe pre-dispositional release of youth admitted to detention. They provide short-term (30 – 60 days) community supervision to ensure that youth remain arrest free and attend court hearings until the final disposition of their case. As such, these programs help to safely reduce the detention population and eliminate the trauma of secure detention placement on young people, particularly youth of color.

Detention data describe the number of juveniles placed in detention, the characteristics of detained juveniles, and the types of alleged charges/technical violations for which they are detained. By understanding the use of secure detention and the characteristics of the detained population, planners can better identify the continuum of detention alternative programs needed in their counties. As such, counties will be better equipped to make informed decisions regarding the allocation of resources to detention alternative programs.

DISPOSITION

Disposition is the phase of the juvenile justice system that occurs after a young person is adjudicated delinquent. At this decision point, young people are ordered by the court to comply with specific sanctions, supervision, and services as a consequence for their delinquent behavior and as a means to redirect behavior,

promote rehabilitation, and support youth on a path to success. In New Jersey, the range of dispositions available to the court includes but is not limited to restitution/fines, community service, probation, and commitment to the Youth Justice Commission. For youth disposed to a term of probation supervision, among the conditions of probation that might be imposed by the court is the completion of a disposition program. The structure of these programs are varied, but common among these options are intensive supervision programs, day and evening reporting centers, and structured day and residential programs. Given this goal, disposition programs developed through the comprehensive planning process should clearly focus on providing incentives, sanctions, supervision, and services that are aligned with rehabilitation, so that young people are better off for having the programming experience.

When determining the appropriate disposition in each case, the court faces the complex task of considering multiple goals, including promoting public safety, ensuring offender accountability, and providing juveniles with opportunities for personal growth and skill development through rehabilitative efforts. By developing and enhancing local disposition programs, counties can center young people's well-being by providing the court with the range of options that matches best their supervision and service needs. Research and experience indicate that well developed community-based disposition programs can effectively reduce the likelihood of continued delinquency, improving the lives of the youth they serve, and improve the quality and safety of the local community and its citizens.

The disposition data provided describe the number of youth adjudicated delinquent and disposed by the court, as well as the characteristics of these juveniles that reflect the causes and correlates of delinquent activity. By understanding the nature and extent of the juvenile population facing disposition and the factors associated with involvement in delinquency, planners can better identify the content and scope of Dispositional Option Programs needed in their counties. As such, counties will be better equipped to make informed decisions regarding the allocation of resources to disposition programs.

REENTRY

In the juvenile justice system reentry generally refers to the period of community-based supervision and services that follows a juvenile's release from a secure facility, residential program, or other structured dispositional placement.

However, for the purposes of this application, the use of the term reentry only applies to committed youth paroled from a Youth Justice Commission (YJC) facility and supervised by the YJC's Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services and to juveniles disposed to a YJC program as a condition of probation and supervised by the Juvenile Probation Division. Reentry is a transitional period where young people need additional support to foster their successful reintegration home. Given this goal, reentry programs developed through the comprehensive planning process should clearly focus on providing supports and services to youth, regardless of their age, that address the common issues young people face when returning home. .

By developing reentry services that complement the supervision provided by the YJC and Probation, counties can increase the likelihood that juveniles returning to their communities will reintegrate successfully. This type of cooperative effort in the delivery of reentry services and supervision improves each youth's chance of becoming productive, law-abiding citizens, which in turn enhances the safety and quality of the local communities in which these juveniles reside.

The reentry data provided describe the number of committed youth and probationers returning to the community from YJC facilities and programs, as well as the demographic and offense characteristics of these

juveniles that reflect the causes and correlates of delinquent activity. By understanding the nature and extent of the population released to the community and the factors associated with involvement in delinquency, planners can better identify the content and scope of reentry services and programs needed in their counties. As such, counties will be better equipped to make informed decisions regarding the allocation of resources to reentry services.

<p>CY 2025 Existing Services Continuum of Care - Points of Intervention</p>

CY 2025 Continuum of Care - Points of Intervention

1. List the programs/services your county considers a part of its continuum of care regardless of funding. *List the name of the program and/or agency. Also indicate the annual level of service and funding source in parenthesis.* Additional pages may be utilized.
2. Programs/services should include those funded through the Youth Justice Commission (State/Community Partnership & Family Court, JJDP, JDAI and RTJ Pilot Program) and all other programs/services considered a part of the county's continuum.

CY 2025 CURRENTLY FUNDED PROGRAM AND SERVICES

Continuum of Care (Points of Intervention)

County of _____

Delinquency Prevention Programs

Name/LOS/Funding Source

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Law Enforcement Diversion Programs

Name/LOS/Funding Source

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Family Crisis Intervention Unit

Name/LOS/Funding Source

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Family Court Diversion Programs

Name/LOS/Funding Source

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Detention Alternative Programs (Pre-Adjudicated Youth)

Name/LOS/Funding Source

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

FUNDING SOURCES:

SCP: State/Community Partnership,
FC: Family Court,
JDAI IF: Juvenile Detention Alternatives
Initiative – Innovations Funding,
RTJ: Restorative & Transformative Justice
O: Other,
U: Unknown

Community Based Disposition Options (Post-Adjudicated Youth)

Name/LOS/Funding Source

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Reentry Programs

Name/LOS/Funding Source

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____