

Kansas News

New Juvenile Crime Community Prevention Grant Announced

KDOC will be seeking applications for the new Juvenile Crime Community Prevention Grant for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. Funds for this grant were made available in [House Bill 2007](#) during the 2021 Kansas Legislative Session. Funding obtained will serve to support communities to provide [evidence-based programs or services](#) to youth that are at risk for juvenile delinquency, victimization, and juvenile justice system involvement.

To meet the requirements specified in HB 2007, the grant will have two tracts.

- There will be \$500,000 available with a \$1-for-\$1 matching fund requirement. These funds will be designated to support local communities in providing programs or services to help prevent juvenile crime. This fund will not be limited to any specific priority area.
- There will be \$1,000,000 made available without a matching fund requirement. These funds will be designated to support local communities in providing programs or services to help prevent juvenile crime while targeting one of four priority areas:
 - Crossover youth
 - Homeless youth
 - Jobs and workforce development for youth
 - Runaway youth

Both governmental agencies (i.e., counties, judicial districts etc.) as well as community-based agencies and service providers (i.e. non-profits) may apply. Finalized applications along with required supporting documents and completed signature pages will need to be received by October 29, 2021 and should be sent by email to KDOC_JS_Grants@ks.gov.

If you have questions or to receive the Juvenile Crime Community Prevention Grant applications, contact Jim Johnson by phone at 785-940-1156 or by email at james.johnson2@ks.gov.

Juvenile Justice Reformers Seek Return of \$21M Cut from Kansas Intervention Program Fund

Juvenile justice reformers pleaded for reversal of a decision by Kansas lawmakers to divert \$21 million earmarked for community intervention programs and recommended allocation of more funding to innovative grassroots organizations involved in projects to diminish incarceration of children. "Bureaucratic roadblocks remain to fully implementing many important supports and services for young people in local communities," said Mike Fonkert, of the nonprofit advocacy organization Kansas Appleseed. "We must highlight the voices and experiences of directly impacted people." [Read more . . .](#)

Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex - Update Abigail Phelps, ReEntry Coordinator DOC - Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex

The Day Everything Changed for the JOs at KJCC

It was an unseasonably cool day, August 3, 2021, when the new Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) Mobile Unit came to the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) for the first time. It was a day that changed *everything* for certain members of the Juvenile Offender (JO) population. They were about to get their very own Kansas REAL ID as one of them asked, "With the star, and everything?" Yes, with the star, all official.



(L) KDOR staff set up their equipment and are ready to help JOs attain their REAL ID. (R) JO M.Y. from Olathe completes paperwork to receive his Kansas REAL ID prior to his release in early August.

The story began when Abigail Phelps, the KJCC ReEntry Coordinator contacted Gayle Culberth, KDOC Statewide Offender Community ID Contact to inquire about how KJCC JOs could obtain a Kansas REAL ID. while still incarcerated. Culberth responded with a list of requirements and very helpful guidance. Culberth then collaborated between KJCC and KDOR so that KDOR had the information they needed on the KJCC youth prior to their visit as well as KJCC's guidelines and security protocols in order to operate the mobile unit within the facility. After much vetting and culminating of paperwork, the day finally arrived when the energetic KDOR staff set up their remote unit in the Shawnee Building kitchen at KJCC.

Then it was time for the JOs to begin arriving. It was quite an undertaking. As a result of KJCC's response to COVID-19, only one Living Unit at a time could go through the process which included maintaining proper social distancing and proper mask protocol (although they were

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The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

Years ago, I attended a training session on the topic of working with youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. One message that the instructor made clear for those of us working in these systems was the importance of "*working to put ourselves out of business*". For youth that enter the juvenile justice system, having effective interventions to reduce recidivism is critical to reduce rearrests and reincarcerations. But that is only part of the picture. To truly drive down the numbers of justice involved youth our communities need effective and robust prevention interventions. This will enable us to reduce the number of youth that are on a trajectory for involvement in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

With the announcement of the new Juvenile Crime Community Prevention Grant we at KDOC have an additional opportunity to partner with and support local communities to provide [prevention and early intervention](#) programs that can address gaps within the local community. The funds provided in these grants will follow one of two tracts. The first tract is targeted to address one of four priority areas (i.e., crossover, homeless or runaway youth along with jobs/workforce development for youth). The second tract has a matching fund requirement but will allow for you to target one of a variety of areas of prevention identified within your community. So in addition to the four topics listed in tract one, other interventions can be explored such as antisocial behavior, family relationships, school attendance, substance abuse, life skills, prevention education on sex-trafficking, restorative justice interventions, targeted mentorship programs and alternatives to detention etc.

Another feature with this grant is that it is not solely restricted to governmental agencies or community corrections agencies to apply. Any community-based agency or service provider such as an established non-profit agency that serves youth in Kansas or a group of established agencies that serve youth in Kansas can apply directly to KDOC for this grant.

I am reminded of the wisdom shared with us by Megan Milner (currently the KJCC Superintendent) in an article she crafted a few years ago for the Weblines. Megan wrote "in order for us to succeed at improving juvenile justice in Kansas, there must be true and genuine collaboration at all levels of our system, because this is "*the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results*." (To read the full article [click here](#)). I encourage you to explore, to collaborate, to invest, to seek an uncommon result and to see if there is something more that can be done to help put ourselves out of business.

The Crossover Youth Practice Model - Update Michelle Montgomery, CYPM Coordinator Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services

As the Kansas State Policy Team (SPT) begins the task of discussing protocols and processes that can be implemented on a statewide level, the team invited Assistant Director, Leigh Housman, and Juvenile Services Supervisor, Robin Rooks, from the Douglas County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) to attend the July SPT meeting.

During the meeting, Robin and Leigh provided team members with a better understanding of the processes and protocols currently used by intake workers when a young person walks through the doors of a JIAC. In addition to explaining the step-by-step process taken, they also provided some insight into a challenge that most JIACs face.

Typically, when a youth has run away from a local, Douglas County, placement, that placement has made a report to law enforcement. Since the placement made the report, intake staff can quickly and easily connect with the appropriate agency and workers to return the youth to the placement or take any other necessary steps to keep the youth safe. The challenge comes when youth are not from a local placement and cannot or do not inform intake staff of which child-placing agency provides them with services. Leigh explained that she developed an internal Excel spreadsheet with contacts within each child-placing agency; however, with staff turnover and changes in phone numbers, maintaining the list is difficult, and making contact after hours with the appropriate staff/agency may take hours and require multiple phone calls. Once contact with the child-placement agency has been established, staff may have to travel a distance to pick up youth and many JIACs do not have a physical space, or enough space to accommodate youth for an extended time.

To assist with the challenge of outdated phone lists, Ashley Brown, DCF Statewide Coordinator, shared a Contact Process Map, which she developed. This is a resource that provides a listing of all on-call provider contacts, as well as steps to take if on-call staff cannot be reached. Robin and Leigh reviewed the map with the SPT and provided feedback on additions such as color coding of providers by region and including contact information for tribal on-call and law enforcement. Once the additions are made, and a process for maintaining the list is identified, the Contact Process Map will be piloted. *Continued next page . . .*

2021 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zoom	Saturday	September 18 th , 2021
Zoom	Tuesday	October 19 th , 2021
Times	10 am – 4:00 pm	

All intake workers, supervisors and anyone who approves intakes and placement decisions must be trained in administering the KDAI. These trainings are reserved for intake workers and supervisors. Due to COVID-19 precautions, KDAI trainings are being provided via the zoom platform. For more information on KDAI training or to register contact Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov

Juvenile Justice Basics

Zoom	Tuesday	September 28 th , 2021
Times	9 am – 4:00 pm	

The **Juvenile Justice Basics** class will be held online via zoom on Tuesday, September 28th from 9:00 am till 4:00 pm.

Participants can enroll through the **Learning Management System (LMS)**. For more information email KDQC_JS_Training@ks.gov.

KJCC – Update *continued from page 1*

permitted to remove their face masks while getting their photos taken). 19 JOs participated. They were all happy to have this opportunity as they filed in, took care of their business, politely thanked the workers, and then went on with their day's program activities. Several JOs had general questions about what to expect next, and specific questions such as "What is an organ donor?" and "What do you mean I have to register for Selective Service?" It was a learning experience for everyone while being very pleasant, positive, peaceful, and productive.

Due to the success of this project we plan to bring KDOR back in December and then every two to three months in the future. *Best of all*, these youth will now have a critical piece of their required documentation which they need to function as responsible adults. For more information regarding ReEntry services at KJCC or to contact Abigail Phelps email abigail.phelps@ks.gov.

National News

Juvenile Justice Reform: CT Lawmakers Considering Changes after Public Outrage

A 2018 federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act lawmakers passed says juveniles cannot be held in custody for more than six hours. State Lawmakers say that ties the hands of judges who oversee juvenile justice cases. Recent increases in teens stealing cars and violently crashing across **Connecticut**, [in one case killing a runner](#), have shined a light on gaps in the system. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

New State Law Removes Court Fees for Juveniles

When Julissa Soto's son was a teenager, he found himself in trouble with the (CO) law. From smoking weed to stealing toothpaste, Soto said they faced several challenges. Soto, at the time, was a single mother working multiple jobs to provide for her family. When her son was sent to court, fees and fines ranging from \$200 to \$1,000 would come with it. "Every time he would get in trouble it was more and more penalties," Soto said. The financial cost became an additional [Read more . . .](#)

Youth Recidivism Halved by San Francisco Program

Juveniles who participated in a youth incarceration alternative program were less than half as likely to be referred to the justice system for a new felony offense, compared to juveniles who did not participate in the program, according to the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ) in San Francisco (CA). [An independent evaluation](#) of the Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP) run by the CJCJ found it was significantly effective at reducing youth recidivism compared to incarceration. [Read more . . .](#)

Juveniles Granted Same Access to Lawyers as Adults Under WA Reform

The law enforcement community and youth justice advocates in **Washington State** are at odds over a new law requiring juveniles to have access to an attorney before police can question them. Advocates claim [House Bill 1140](#), signed by Gov. Jay Inslee this spring and set to go into effect in January, will prevent false confessions forced under pressure. But police say it will hinder their ability to investigate crime, [reports the Yakima Herald](#). The law was one of a dozen [Read more . . .](#)

Indiana Launches Review of Juvenile Justice System

Indiana leaders are taking a comprehensive look at the state's juvenile justice system. That includes broad data analysis, interviews with key stakeholders and recommendations for improvements. The goal is reform – and maybe even transformation – of the system. The [Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force](#) is made up of members of all three branches of government, as well as outside groups that work with children. Task force co-chair, [Read more . . .](#)

Crossover Youth Practice Model *continued from page 1*

Being able to quickly identify and connect youth with their supporting child-placing agency and workers is critically important. Without the ability to do this, youth may experience additional trauma, as they spend long hours sitting, waiting, and wondering where they will go and what they will face next.

To learn more about the Crossover Youth Practice Model and information regarding past and upcoming meetings of the State Policy Team [click here . . .](#)

National News – Dual Involved Youth

Dual System Youth: At the Intersection of Child Maltreatment and Delinquency

In a perfect world, a push of a button would connect all juvenile court judges and authorized staff to relevant local child welfare files for each young person summoned before the court. The imperfect reality is that in many American juvenile court systems, there is no button, no data linkage - no way to readily retrieve the often-instructive personal histories found in child welfare data. Many jurisdictions lack even a culture of collaboration between child welfare services and juvenile justice, an interagency [Read more . . .](#)

How Prioritizing Family First Can Narrow the Group Home-to-Juvenile Justice Pipeline

You've probably heard about the school-to-prison pipeline, and if you're in a child welfare space, you know of the many factors that can cause foster youth to become incarcerated at some point in their lives. One discussion that hasn't gotten much attention, however, is the link between placing foster youth in group homes and the adverse effects of the juvenile justice system that often follow. According to the [Juvenile Law Center](#), youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved with the juvenile justice system than those placed with foster families. Now more than ever, I believe that many of the foster youth I lived with throughout group home care should have never [Read more . . .](#)

New WA Law Hopes to Weaken Foster Care-to-Prison Pipeline

According to the latest data, there are close to 450,000 children in America's foster care system - all of whom face a disproportionate risk of being incarcerated. The problem is so severe that [the Juvenile Law Center \(JLC\)](#) has found that one-quarter of foster care alumni will become involved with the justice system within just two years of "aging out" of the system. A Washington [state law](#) that took effect July 25th aims to interrupt that pipeline, acknowledging the need to expand "trauma-informed, culturally relevant, racial equity-based, and developmentally appropriate therapeutic placement supports" in less-restrictive community settings by providing \$11.2 million for a "community transition" program for young people serving time in one of the state's three juvenile detention centers, [according to The Imprint News](#). [Read more . . .](#)

National Resource Center Reframes How Local Governments Can Serve Dual-Status Youth

As the U.S. emerges from more than a year of [uprising over racial injustice](#) and the over-policing of youth and people of color, state and local governments looking to better serve young people who are in foster care or the juvenile court system can draw on a thoroughly researched guide to improve outcomes for youth, families and the systems that serve them. The workbook, created by the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, offers proven successful results for youth known as "dual status" from across the country — from reduced recidivism rates to stabilizing home placements. [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Juvenile Cases in 2019 Dropped to the Lowest Level in Last 14 Years, Federal Data Show

Juvenile offenses involving property, drug and public order offenses, combined, declined in 2019 to their lowest levels since 2005, according to recently released National Center on Juvenile Justice [data](#) also showing that probation, rather than detention, increasingly was assigned in five categories of juvenile crime. In each of five crime categories, the likelihood of cases being tried in court declined from 2005 to 2019, with a 12% drop among drug cases being the largest of all. [Read more . . .](#)

Disruptive students, often facing challenges at home and in their communities, deserve acts of "restorative justice"

This is how practitioners of restorative justice approach things: First, focus on building strong, authentic relationships in a community, including schools that now are reopening. Then, if and when community members or students make a mistake or cause harm, rather than simply looking at which rule was broken and which punishment should be prescribed, collaborate to help ensure that the erring individual has the space and support to hold herself or himself accountable. Strive to ensure that damaged relationships are repaired and action is taken to prevent future harm. [Read more . . .](#)