

Maryland Juvenile Justice Reform Council

Notice of Technical Assistance Provider Application and Funding Availability

Submission Deadline:

Monday, October 21, 2019 3:00 pm

Funded Through:

**The Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention &
the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services**

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

120 West Fayette Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21201

www.djs.maryland.gov

410-230-3101

Getting Started

Thank you for applying to be the Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC) technical assistance provider. The primary purpose of the JJRC is to 1) using a data-driven approach develop a statewide framework of policies to invest in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism of youth offenders; 2) research best practices for the treatment of juveniles who are subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems; and 3) identify and make recommendations to limit or otherwise mitigate risk factors that contribute to juvenile contact with the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

If you need application assistance, please contact:

Andrew Tress
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
Legislative and Policy Administrator
410-230-3239 (O)
443-509-6038 (C)
andrew.tress@maryland.gov

I. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Non-profit – 501(c)(3)

An organization must provide proof of this status by submitting a copy of its status letter from the IRS with the application. The requirements for obtaining 501 (c)(3) status can be found on the Internal Revenue Service website (www.irs.gov); search for Publication 557, “Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization.” If the IRS letter is not available, a letter from your organization’s authorized official listing officers, bylaws, and/or articles is permissible until such time that a copy can be obtained from the IRS.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION OVERVIEW

A. Opportunity Title

Maryland Juvenile Justice Council – Technical Assistance

B. Submission Date

October 21, 2019 by 3 pm

C. Anticipated Period of Performance

November 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020

D. Program Requirements

The Maryland Juvenile Justice System is comprised of many stakeholders, all have an important role in supporting youth, families and the community. With certain exceptions, Maryland’s juvenile justice system addresses the needs and risk of persons younger than the age of 18 who commit illegal acts. The system of stakeholders that address the needs of justice involved youth include law enforcement, state’s attorney’s, public defenders, the judiciary, community service providers, and multiple state agencies. The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) is an executive agency charged with the responsibility of appropriately managing, supervising and treating youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system in Maryland. DJS provides individualized care and treatment to youth who have violated the law or who are a safety risk to themselves or

others. Objective screening and assessment tools are utilized to manage youth with the guidance of the data collected. DJS works with partners in the community to achieve meaningful improvements to the outcomes of the youth served¹.

During the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly the legislature passed and Governor Hogan signed Senate Bill 856/House Bill 606² establishing the Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC or Council), which is to be staffed by the Department of Legislative Services.

The JJRC is charged with, 1) using a data-driven approach to develop a statewide framework of policies to invest in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism of youth offenders; 2) research best practices for the treatment of juveniles who are subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems; and 3) identify and make recommendations to limit or otherwise mitigate risk factors that contribute to juvenile contact with the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Additionally, the JJRC is directed to convene an advisory stakeholder group that includes representatives from organizations with experience in juvenile justice policy reform, advocating for groups with disproportionate contact with the criminal and juvenile justice system, advocating for victims of crime, and restorative justice. The JJRC will work with the advisory stakeholder group to conduct roundtable discussion forums to seek public input regarding juvenile justice system reform in all geographic regions of the state. Lastly, the JJRC is required to utilize a technical assistance provider to help carry out the mission of the Council. By December 1, 2019, the council must submit an interim report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly; a final report is due by December 1, 2020.

Specific Information Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

The legislation establishing the JJRC specifically requires the membership of the JJRC to select and utilize a technical assistance (TA) provider to carry out the mission of the Council.

The TA provider will support the JJRC's efforts to develop planning tools and resources that will support system-wide juvenile justice reform strategies.

The TA provider will work with the JJRC to:

- Use a data-driven approach to develop a Statewide framework of policies to invest in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism of youth offenders;
- Research best practices for the treatment of juveniles who are subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems;
- Identify and make recommendations to limit or otherwise mitigate risk factors that contribute to juvenile contact with the criminal and juvenile justice system; and

¹ See *Maryland Department of Juveniles Services – Data Resource Guide FY 2018* for more information regarding departmental functions and related data.

https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/Data_Resource_Guide_FY2018_full_book.pdf

² HB 606/SB 868 – Juvenile Justice Reform Council - <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/bills/hb/hb0606E.pdf>

- Work with the advisory stakeholder group to conduct roundtable discussion forums seeking public input in all geographic regions of the state.

The selected TA provider will engage in the following activities:

- Attend all JJRC scheduled meetings and regional roundtable discussion forums. The Council and the advisory stakeholder group are comprised of critical stakeholders, including state-level or local-level decision makers, juvenile court judges, juvenile justice agency leaders (including juvenile probation, detention, and corrections), policymakers, academic institutions and researchers, behavioral health professionals, community advocates, schools, State’s Attorney’s, law enforcement, youth- and family-serving community-based or faith-based organizations, justice involved youth and their families, and others concerned with the administration of juvenile justice.
- Assist in facilitating Council discussions regarding policy options and forge consensus on recommendations for a system-wide juvenile justice reform plan.
- Develop strategies to ensure that the policy recommendations are transparent and thoroughly vetted across essential stakeholder groups.
- Develop a juvenile justice system reform plan and policy recommendations that identify clear and measurable performance outcomes.
- Collect, examine and present data and decisions related to juvenile arrest, prosecution, detention, referral to court, diversion, adjudication, disposition to probation, out-of-home-placement, other sanctions or services, and aftercare as part of a formal and transparent review of the juvenile justice system. The data examination should include data from all juvenile justice stakeholders including, but not limited to, law enforcement, DJS, County State’s Attorneys, the Office of the Public Defender, Maryland Judiciary, service providers, local education agencies, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, and any other governmental agency or unit that provides services to justice involved youth.
- Identify data gaps and provide recommendations to improve the quality of data collection and measurement practices.
- Develop tools and systems that will assist jurisdictions with collecting and sharing data.
- Assess the capability of juvenile justice system stakeholders to collect, analyze, and share information for purposes of making data-driven policy decisions related to each critical stage of the juvenile justice system.
- Assess state agency policies and develop recommendations to promote a cross-systems approach to serving justice involved youth, and identify barriers to interagency collaboration.
- Conduct a system-wide, multicomponent assessment to ascertain the extent that policies, procedures, and practices adhere to the principles of effective juvenile justice interventions, and promote principals of equity and fairness for youth of color.
- Present findings to the JJRC in a comprehensible, clear and concise manner.
- Subject to approval by the JJRC, develop materials to communicate the mission, recommendations and findings of the JJRC to the public and other relevant stakeholder groups.

The program narrative should reflect how the applicant will accomplish these activities and deliverables, including specific plans and capabilities for assessing the efficacy and efforts to ensure equitable treatment of all justice-involved youth. The program narrative should demonstrate the applicants' commitment to working closely and sharing information with a diverse group of juvenile justice system stakeholders.

III. Award Information

The JJRC members will assess applications based on the following areas:

- Project Summary
- Program Narrative
- Proposed Timeline
- Proposed Budget and Justification

The JJRC estimates it will award one JJRC Technical Assistance grant for a performance period of 13 months, to begin on November 1, 2019. The Technical Assistance provider should provide an estimated budget and justification if funds are required to accomplish the activities and deliverables contained in the program narrative.

IV. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Documents: Scanned PDF submitted by email
Email: Subject Line: "JJRC – 2019 – TA Provider"
Delivery Address: Andrew.Tress@maryland.gov

Application Submission Checklist:

- _____ Cover Sheet
- _____ Project Summary
- _____ Narrative
- _____ Proposed Timeline
- _____ Proposed Budget and Justification (if applicable)
- _____ Proof of 501 (c)(3) Status (if applicable)