



Iowa - FY2019

Title II Application

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Iowa Department of Human
Rights,
Division of Criminal and
Juvenile Justice Planning

Statistical Analysis Center

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PREAMBLE

The Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) serves as the State Planning Agency (SPA) for the State of Iowa for the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). CJJP also houses the State of Iowa's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). Iowa's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) serves as the State Advisory Group (SAG), for the OJJDP Title II Formula Grants Program.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Iowa is proposing two additions to the Title II Application submitted in 2018. Both will enhance the juvenile justice efforts detailed in the original application. These additions include:

- An expansion to the collection of input from system involved youth.
- An addition to the Female Equity priority that includes the federal Family First legislation.

System Youth Input

In November 2018 the CJJP, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Iowa Foster Care Youth Council, through the Iowa National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) effort initiated "The Talking Wall" project. This project's goal is to provide youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems the chance to speak out and provide ideas to improve Iowa's juvenile justice and child welfare systems. The Talking Wall project allows youth to voice their ideas, and to learn about ways to appropriately communicate ways to make a positive change within these systems.

Youth write their ideas on post-it notes on a prepared board that is available for a period of time at their facility or during a community-based program, see Appendix 1. These post-it notes are

provided to CJJP and the collected data is then used to inform interested parties and stakeholders at the local, community, county, state, and legislative levels of the issues expressed by Iowa's system-involved youth. These interested parties will include, but are not limited to, chief juvenile court officers, juvenile court officer supervisors, DHS Service Area Managers, county boards of supervisors, legislators, state agency department heads, and Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (SAG), along with other interested parties. As of February 2019, ideas have been collected from twelve locations, with 216 sticky notes submitted. The top five categories have included communication, Foster Care education, managing relationships, juvenile justice system, and education; see Appendix 2.

The SAG, through CJJP, will partner with this project to expand the project to additional programs, agencies, and facilities that serve youth in the juvenile justice system (e.g. community-based programs, residential treatment, juvenile detention centers, state training school). The "Talking Wall" project will be the major contributor to Iowa's ongoing efforts to collect youth input on how to improve the juvenile justice system.

Female Equity Priority

The Iowa Task Force for Young Women requested that the JJAC update the priority on Female Equity. The request addressed expanding the monitoring of the Iowa foster care and juvenile justice systems regarding the equitable treatment of young women when compared to the treatment of young men, specifically related to the implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) Act. This request included expanding the Female Equity priority; Goal 2, Objective 3, and Goal 3, Objective 3. These additions include the following underlined intents:

Goal 2, Objective 3: Monitor and provide ongoing assessment of how the change in out of home group care has impacted girls. Specifically, the new contracts in place from DHS which emphasize proximity to home over specialized treatment based on youth profile, risk and needs. Additionally, any impact of the federal Family First legislation.¹

Goal 3, Objective 3: Monitor and provide ongoing assessment of how the change in out-of-home group care has impacted girls as well as any impact of the federal Family First legislation the practical application of it develops.

During its March 7, 2019 meeting, the JJAC approved the addition to the Priorities to monitor any impact of the federal FFPS Act on the foster care and juvenile justice system residential and community-based treatment of females.

¹ The federal Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) Act