

**NC Department of Public Safety  
Governor's Crime Commission**

**PROPOSED**

**2022 JUVENILE JUSTICE PLANNING COMMITTEE PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

**Report Date: September 2, 2021**

**Juvenile Justice Planning Committee funds projects through two Federal grant programs:**

1. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – Title II Formula Grant Program
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) – **Children's Justice Act priority ONLY**

**The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee has also introduced funding caps for projects funded through the OJJDP Title II Grant Program.**

**COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS - NEW**  
**FUNDING CAP: \$200,000.00**

The Governor's Crime Commission acknowledges violence as a public health issue impacting communities across the State of North Carolina. Research shows that exposure to firearm violence—including as a victim or witness—makes it twice as likely an adolescent will commit a violent act within two years. There are proven community violence intervention (CVI) strategies for reducing community violence through tools other than incarceration.

The CVI Program priority is designed to address multiple forms of violence impacting adolescents and young adults, particularly in communities with high rates of violence. Examples of the types of programs appropriate for consideration under the CVI Program priority may include, and are not limited to, the following:

- Community-based alternatives to incarceration for status offenders and other youth who need temporary placement, crisis intervention, shelter, and after-care;
- Counseling, training, and mentoring programs which may be in support of academic tutoring, vocational and technical training, and drug and violence prevention counseling;
- Positive youth development programs for delinquent and other at-risk youth who are exposed to violence;
- Programs and initiatives to focus on prevention of juvenile gang activity, with specific interest in evidence-based programs to reduce gang recruitment in communities and schools;
- Community-based re-entry programs that aim to reduce youth offender recidivism and successfully reintegrate an offender back into the community;
- Street outreach, violence interrupters, and hospital-based violence intervention services;
- Programs that address the needs of justice involved or at-risk youth who are survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and/or domestic sex trafficking

In addition, applications should address risk factors such as social determinants of health (e.g., concentrated poverty, limited educational/employment opportunities) and racial inequity (e.g., structural, systemic, and institutional racism). Proposals considered under this funding priority should demonstrate a strong understanding of public health approaches to violence prevention.

The GCC encourages multi-sector, collaborative approaches to CVI programming in this priority.

### **RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES (R/ED) UPDATED**

**FUNDING CAP: \$200,000.00**

Students of color are more likely to be disciplined, suspended, and expelled from school as compared to their white counterparts for the same behaviors. Both national and local evidence suggests that racial and ethnic disparities cannot be explained by individual-level actions by youth, law enforcement, attorneys, judges, etc. but we must also examine systemic/structural-level factors. As compared to white youth with the same offenses, youth of color are less likely to be diverted, more likely to be held in secure detention, and are overrepresented at key points throughout the juvenile justice system, as described in the [2019 NC DMC Assessment Study](#). The Governor's Crime Commission supports efforts to reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) in the juvenile justice system, previously referred to as Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), through grant funding for initiatives that address disparate outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and other children of color in/or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system. Applicants for funding from the RED program priority must disaggregate their data by race and ethnicity, explain how their project aims to reduce disparities and/or promote racial equity, and assess and provide measures of their program's impact on youth of color to determine if disparate outputs/outcomes were improved.

Applicants for funding from the RED program priority must:

- Disaggregate their data by race and ethnicity
- Explain how their project aims to reduce disparities and/or promote racial equity
- Assess and provide measures of their program's impact on youth of color to determine if disparate outputs/outcomes were improved

### **SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS**

**FUNDING CAP: \$200,000.00**

The Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (S.L. 2017-57), aka "Raise the Age," requires the creation of School Justice Partnerships across North Carolina. The Governor's Crime Commission will prioritize grant requests that create safer school environments by creating more effective alternatives to suspension or the filing of juvenile petitions for minor discipline problems. These practices have been shown to do more harm than good at changing student behavior. Effective alternatives such as Teen Court, crisis and assessment services, academic coaches, school-based community service and restitution, and restorative justice practices could be funded under this priority. In addition, local communities who need support to coordinate the planning process associated with the school justice partnership could be funded under this priority.

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE – DISCRETIONARY PRIORITY - NEW**

**FUNDING CAP: \$100,000.00**

Proposals will be considered for new and innovative programs for at-risk and justice-involved juveniles that are allowable under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, as amended by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018. The GCC is especially interested in programs for historically underserved communities, rural areas, LGBQ/GNCT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning/gender nonconforming, transgender) youth, and for girls in or at-risk of entering the juvenile system, including

pregnant girls, young mothers, survivors of commercial sexual exploitation or domestic sex trafficking, girls with disabilities, and girls of color, including girls who are members of a Native American tribe.

Proposals should include a plan of action and a statement of collaboration to provide services to youth.

## **CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT**

### **FUNDING CAP: N/A**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – CAPTA

Funding under this priority is intended for systems change to improve the handling and outcomes of cases of child maltreatment in North Carolina. Programs which may be funded include those which are designed to:

**I. Improve Investigative, Administrative, and Judicial Handling of Cases, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, in a manner which reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family and which also ensures procedural fairness to the accused.**

A.1. Transform the way children and families who enter the court system are treated, by creating a “trauma-informed” courthouse:

- Support the dissemination of best practices, including procedures to limit the number of people in a courtroom during each hearing.
- Support the creation of family friendly waiting rooms.
  - ✓ Partnership with local libraries to allow books to be checked out
  - ✓ Book donations
  - ✓ Age appropriate toys
- Support training on how a parent's own trauma history impacts his/her experience with investigative and judicial systems and ability to engage in services.
- Support trainings on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and resiliency.

A.2. Support efforts to reduce trauma to children appearing in court proceedings:

- Develop trauma informed tools (video, booklet) to explain court processes and court preparation for the child victim and their adult support persons, including mental health providers.
- Ensure video testimony technology is easily available throughout the state and provide training for attorneys, judges and clerks on availability and use of video testimony technology.
- Support training for law enforcement, judges, clerks, and attorneys on issues specific to child testimony including identifying the intellectual, linguistic and emotional maturity of the child and identifying appropriate courtroom modifications for the child.

A.3. Support improved integration and collaboration between Child Fatality Review Teams, Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams and Community Child Protection Teams, the State Child Fatality Prevention Team and the Child Fatality Task Force.

A.4. Support efforts to create a culturally responsive court:

- Trainings on how racial, cultural, social, and economic differences may impact a person's reaction to the court system.
- Trainings that enhance the ability of law enforcement and court personnel to effectively identify and meet the social, cultural, and linguistic needs of child victims and their families.
- Ensure sufficient interpreters and translators.
- Ensure resources and information available to English speaking population is available to non-English speaking population (videos, booklets, forms).

A.5. Support involvement of law schools and other graduate programs in the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases through:

- Law Clinics that represent parents or children (consistent with G.S. 7B-601),
- Evaluation of programs and practices, and
- Publications on practice improvements such as tool kits or concept papers.

A.6. Identify, support and promote agencies who provide training and classes on recognizing, responding to and reporting child abuse and neglect:

- Training for school personnel including school administrators and School Resource Officers on child abuse signs and symptoms, including signs of maltreatment that may be overlooked and/or explained, and training on mandatory reporting laws.
- Peer counseling models that include child abuse and neglect signs and symptoms and understanding mandatory reporting laws.
- Training for likely reporters and responders around special population victims such as children with disabilities and LGBTQ+ youth.

A.7. Support statewide efforts of Child Advocacy Centers

- Training, technical assistance and specialization of local CACs
- Expansion and development of CACs in underserved counties.

A.8. Support the efforts of the multidisciplinary workgroup to standardize forensic interviews of children who have been abused or neglected through: 1) Implementation of Forensic Interviewing Standards; 2) Implementation of Statewide Training and Peer Review System; and 3) Growth and Enhancement of CAC's and Local Child Welfare Capacity.

**II. Support of Experimental, Model, or Demonstration Programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation cases, including the enhancement of performance of court appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem for children, and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused;**

B.1. Support the efforts of the Conference of District Attorneys' to provide dedicated staff, training and resources for child abuse and neglect cases.

B.2. Support efforts to expand the multidisciplinary approach to parent representation in civil abuse, neglect and dependency cases including the use of social workers and parent peer partners as part of the parent attorney's resources.

B.3. Increase the use of data to improve judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

B.4. Increase the use of technology to increase efficiencies in child abuse and neglect cases:

- Allow service by publication via internet
- Allow court participation via internet (Skype, WebEx, etc.) for children, therapists, incarcerated parents
- Allow parties to check upcoming court dates

**III. Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children, which may include those children involved in reports of child abuse or neglect with a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, from child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.**

C.1. Support the creation of a state-wide hotline to report possible child abuse, neglect or trafficking.

C.2. Continue to support procedures and protocols, to include local administrative orders, which allow the sharing of information between agencies:

- Support the development of technology necessary to allow file sharing between agencies.

- Support integrated data systems among local courts, child welfare agencies, and other child welfare system stakeholders.
- C.3. Support legislation to mandate the use of the child advocacy centers for sexual abuse and severe physical abuse investigations when available.
- C.4. Support legislation, policies or protocols that address the responsibilities of and participation in court cases involving child abuse and neglect by regional LME/MCOs.
- C.5. Support the creation of a uniform training curriculum for School Resource Officers to include:
- Child abuse signs and symptoms, including signs of maltreatment that maybe overlooked and/or explained away.
  - Issues pertinent to special population victims such as children with disabilities and LGBTQ+ youth.
  - Mandatory reporting laws.
- C.6. Support legislation and policies that increase the use of permanency mediation and other dispute resolution techniques in abuse, neglect and dependency cases.
- C.7. Support legislation and other efforts to address NC Tribes' concerns in abuse and neglect cases.