

OJJDP Cooperative Agreements with Tow Youth Justice Institute/ University of New Haven



This is a summary of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention OJJDP funds received by the University of New Haven in 2018, 2019 and 2020/2021.

2020/2021 - Restoring Connecticut youth in and out of the juvenile justice system

- Federal award date 12/22/21
- Project Start Date 5/1/22
- Grant completion 09/30/24
- Sub-grantees: Connecticut Youth Services Association and Center for Children’s Advocacy.

Goal #1	Implement restorative justice practices in pre-trial detention programs, secure post-disposition juvenile justice facilities, step-down juvenile justice residential facilities, youth shelters, therapeutic residential programs and probation services and community-based programs.
Objective #1	Implement the deep end restorative justice program at three DOC and CSSD pre-trial detention programs, four secure post-disposition juvenile justice facilities, one post-adjudication residential facility for girls, and two step-down residential facilities, providing training, coaching and implementation plan development for staff and leadership.
Objective #2	Provide Restorative Justice Practices training and technical assistance to Department of Children and Families (DCF) residential programs, including five youth shelters, one residential treatment facility for girls and therapeutic group homes to introduce and support the implementation of restorative justice practices in these agencies to help foster a culture of community and develop new practices that reduce punitive disciplinary responses to youth.
Objective #3	Implement restorative justice practices in community-based juvenile justice programs and probation, providing training and technical assistance for staff and leadership.
Objective #4	Facilitate cross-agency and cross-program communication and support to build a community of restorative justice practice and support the development and maintenance of restorative principles and practices in a continuum of facilities and programs.
Objective #5	Develop sustainability plans with DCF and CSSD, including mechanisms for sustaining restorative justice practices and conducting ongoing data collection and analysis to evaluate the fidelity of facilities’ practices to implementation plans and restorative justice principles, and the impact of facilities’ restorative practices on youths’ behavior.
Objective #6	Recruit youth with juvenile justice involvement and support youth participation in the JJPOC and CEW by facilitating preparation meetings, providing youth with training on juvenile justice issues, facilitating youth attendance at meetings, troubleshooting barriers to attendance and providing youth with stipends.
Goal #2	Inform system-wide and organizational design and change to support Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) and Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs) capacity to drive and achieve Connecticut’s juvenile diversion goals.
Objective #1	Collect and analyze relevant data from all YSBs and JRBs across Connecticut to develop a picture of the current landscape of both the capacity and functioning of each organization to develop a clear picture of the variation that exists across all organizations.

Objective #2	Collect and analyze relevant data from all YSBs and JRBs across Connecticut to develop an understanding of how each YSB and JRB is currently functioning relative to existing state mandates, to develop a clear picture of each organization's role in current juvenile justice reform.
Objective #3	Collect and analyze relevant data from all YSBs and JRBs across Connecticut to identify root causes surrounding potential variation in relation to alignment of organizational functioning and existing state mandates.
Objective #4	Develop a comprehensive report, containing a series of recommendations and rating system that addresses the current landscape of YSBs and JRBs and their role in juvenile justice reform.
Goal #3	Strengthen Connecticut's network of Restorative Practices offerings by building up the infrastructure so they are more easily accessible to youth and families.
Objective #1	Identify and map Restorative Justice practices, programming and training happening in the state of Connecticut by engaging statewide, restorative individuals and organizations.
Objective #2	Convene practitioners to discuss their work and build connections for strengthening offerings and ability to refer and creating a profile landscape of restorative work in the state.
Objective #3	Build an online interface to hold information about services available so that youth, families, and service providers can find Restorative supports utilizing national support and organizations.
Objective #4	Test efficacy with a variety of audiences and promote the new website resource through statewide campaign.

Accomplishments to date – Grant activity began May 1, 2022

- CCA has held
 - 33 RJ trainings in facilities
 - 7 technical assistance requests
 - 17 youth leaders have been trained
- Dillinger RAD landscape analysis has completed:
 - # of questions in YSB survey 156
 - # of questions in JRB survey 167
 - # of surveys administered to YSBs 104
 - # of surveys administered to JRBs 88
 - # of surveys collected 182 (99 YSB 83 JRB)
 - # of data points established 29305 (surv resp x quest)
- TYJI/UNH RJ Infrastructure
 - UNH College of Engineering has begun building the infrastructure for the backend database for the website.
 - Steering Committee of Restorative Justice experts established to provide feedback on planning activities.
 - Dates and locations being finalized for information sessions throughout the state.



2019 - Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities through Local and Statewide Strategies

- Project Start Date 4/1/21
- Project Completion Date 9/30/2023
- Sub-grantees – Center for Children’s Law and Policy and Regional Youth Adult Social Action partnership

Goal #1	Comply with 2019 OJJDP Required Deliverables for Non-participating States
Objective #1	Conduct a Nonparticipating States Profile assessment
Objective #2	Develop Nonparticipating State Plan
Objective #3	Monitoring Workplan to aid in evaluating the effectiveness of the program activities as the grantee works to implement its Nonparticipating States Plan
Goal #2	Utilize Restorative Practices (RP) to improve the school climate and resolve conflict in BPS
Objective #1	Conduct Restorative conferences for Tier 3 level issues that arise.
Objective #2	Build the capacity of BPS to implement the full continuum of RP
Objective #3	Support and strengthen existing Restorative practices being implemented at a tier 1/tier 2 level
Goal #3	Develop a roadmap for the JJPOC’s RED Workgroup to address and implement strategies that reduce racial and ethnic disparities that still exist in many decision points in the juvenile justice system.
Objective #1	Ensure the collection, review, and public reporting of race and ethnicity data at each important point of contact in the juvenile justice system.
Objective #2	Ensure that race and ethnicity data and the strategies to address disparities are interpreted and developed in true partnership with communities of color.
Objective #3	Enhance and support opportunities for localized review (community oversight) of school and police practices.
Objective #4	Promote the use of racial justice assessments of policy proposals that impact school discipline and juvenile justice.
Objective #5	Identify opportunities where inequities within the juvenile justice system can be effectively addressed and support local efforts to reduce those disparities.

Accomplishments to date

- TYJI/UNH
 - All required publications have been submitted and approved by the OJJDP.
- RYASAP
 - Circles 37
 - Impromptu Conferences 403
 - Surveys completed 76
 - Staff trained 203
 - Technical assistance 34
- CCLP
 - # of oversight mechanisms 75
 - # of technical assistance 36
 - # of potential solutions 3
 - # of recommendations 2
 - # of resources identified 3

2018 - Achieving Positive Youth Outcomes for Safer and Healthier Communities

- Project Start Date 5/1/19
- Grant completion December 2022
- Sub-grantees: Connecticut Youth Services Association and Center for Children’s Advocacy.

Goal #1	Divert Youth from the Juvenile Justice System by Appropriately Serving them in the Community
Objective #1	Build the capacity of Youth Service Bureaus to successfully implement the Community-Based Diversion System
Objective #2	Assess the progress of the implementation of the Community Based Diversion System
Goal #2	Reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Hamden, Norwalk and Waterbury.
Objective #1	Co-chair Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Reduction Committees in Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven
Objective #2	Co-chair the Waterbury RED Reduction Committee
Objective #3	Engage Hamden stakeholders and Norwalk stakeholders
Goal #3	Assess prevention and intervention approaches focused on justice-involved youth in Connecticut
Objective #1	Create a detailed profile of 8-10 cities that offer either a greater array of services to diverted and justice-involved youth in the state of Connecticut and/or that have a high rate of racial and ethnic disparities among the youth served.
Objective #2	Inventory the continuum of services and the approaches to addressing youths’ needs available through the juvenile review boards in the profiled cities.
Objective #3	Examine individual and program characteristics related to outcomes such as recidivism while exploring racial and ethnic disparities
Objective #4	Explore the feasibility of a study to track youth throughout their diversion experiences and into their late teenage years

Accomplishments to date

This project is in its final year and will be concluding on September 30, 2022. Some of the metrics achieved include:

- Number of RED agency policies or procedures created, amended, or rescinded 97
- Number of cross-sector partnerships 604
- Number of people trained during the reporting period 885
- Number of program materials disseminated 314
- Number of training events 53
- Number of training activities 48
- Number of technical assistance events held 106
- Number of organizations served by TTA 350

Final report is due December 31, 2022.