



2003-2004

NEBRASKA COALITION
FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
GOVERNOR AND
NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE**

JANUARY 2005

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2003-2004 NEBRASKA COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT

Issued by:

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, . .

During 2004, the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice was very active. This group is assigned such varied tasks as administering juvenile justice grants, juvenile justice program development and monitoring compliance with federal mandates originating at the U.S. Department of Justice. Together, with the expert assistance of Nebraska Crime Commission staff, comprehensive juvenile justice programs were well established within Nebraska.

Through the diligence of Crime Commission staff and oversight of the Coalition, Nebraska experienced a record low number of violations of the JJDP Act in 2004. Because of these low numbers, Nebraska retained all allotted formula grant funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Through the prudent administration of the available grants, Nebraska also saw improved and enhanced technology as it relates to juvenile justice reporting and data gathering capability. In addition to providing on-going support to some established and proven juvenile justice programs, the Coalition also ensured there was the ability to develop new and innovative programs at the local level.

We would invite you to visit the section of this report where we have identified some specific accomplishments in 2003-2004. We believe our job is to remain aware of the needs within the juvenile justice system in Nebraska and supply the resources available to us in meeting those needs. The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice is a group of informed, active and caring citizens of Nebraska. Thank you for joining us in our efforts to retain The Good Life for all the citizens of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. McBride, M.S.
Chairperson, Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report to the Governor and the Nebraska Legislature outlines the activities of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) for the years 2003 & 2004. This committee is an advisory group to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Nebraska Crime Commission) and advises the Commission on statewide juvenile justice issues and juvenile justice grant funding. The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice is a required advisory group to comply with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and is required by Nebraska Statute to oversee the state Juvenile Services grant funds.

The Coalition members are appointed for three year terms by the Governor, based on membership guidelines established by the JJDP Act and State Statute. They meet on a quarterly basis at various locations across the state. There are four standing sub-committee's: Executive, Grants, Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and Youth, that also meet outside of the regular quarterly meetings.

GOAL

The Coalition's goal is to improve all aspects of the juvenile justice system in the State of Nebraska by assisting communities and the state with planning and implementation of systemic improvements, advocacy, education and recommending award of JJDP Act, Juvenile Services and other federal funds for such purposes.

PURPOSE

It is hoped that the lives and futures of children, youth, and families involved with the juvenile justice system will be improved.

THE FEDERAL JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act is a federal law that declares it a policy of Congress to provide necessary resources, leadership and coordination to (1) develop and implement effective methods of preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency, including those with a special focus on preserving and strengthening families so that juveniles may remain in the home; (2) develop and conduct effective programs to prevent delinquency, divert juveniles from the juvenile justice system and provide critically needed alternatives to institutionalization; (3) improve the quality of juvenile justice in the United States; (4) increase the capacity of state and local governments and public and private agencies to provide juvenile justice, delinquency prevention and rehabilitation programs and conduct research, evaluation and training in delinquency prevention; (5) encourage parental involvement in treatment and alternative disposition programs; and (6) promote interagency cooperation and coordination of services between state, local and community-based agencies.

The JJDP Act also governs the secure confinement of juveniles in detention and correctional facilities, including jails, lockups, juvenile detention centers and prisons. The JJDP Act is designed to protect juveniles in custody by regulating where, when, and how long they can be securely confined or locked up in these types of environments.

Congress originally enacted the JJDP Act in 1974 to require the deinstitutionalization of status offenders and non-offenders as well as separation of adult and juvenile offenders in detention and correctional settings. In 1980, Congress found that detaining juveniles in adult jails and lockups resulted in a variety of adverse effects, including high suicide rates, physical and mental abuse, sexual assault, inadequate care and programs, negative labeling and exposure to serious offenders and mental patients. Congress responded by passing an amendment to the JJDP Act requiring the removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups. In 1988 and 1992, Congress turned its attention toward the disproportionately high number of minority youth arrested and confined in secure detention and correctional facilities. Responsive to a growing concern that minority juvenile offenders are over represented within the juvenile justice system, the Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) amendment was added, requiring states to determine if minority youth are disproportionately confined in secure detention facilities, and if so, examine the causes of over representation and develop initiatives at the state and local levels to address this issue. In 2002, Congress re-authorized the JJDP Act. Very few changes were made, however, the "C" in DMC was expanded to mean contact in the system not just confinement. Several other minor changes will be discussed in Compliance Monitoring and JAIBG.

NEBRASKA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE JJDP ACT

In 1981, the Governor and Legislature authorized Nebraska's participation in the federal JJDP Act's Formula Grant Program. Nebraska's eligibility for receiving Formula Grant Program funding is determined by its compliance with the following requirements of the JJDP Act:

a) removal of status and non-offenders from secure detention facilities; b) separation of adult and juvenile offenders throughout incarceration; and c) removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups. Additionally, the state must collect and analyze data to identify and address any disproportionate numbers of minority youth at specific decision points throughout the juvenile justice system.

With the Nebraska Legislature's passage of LB1073 in April of 1998, state law is now consistent with the requirements of the federal JJDP Act, resulting in the state being eligible for the Act's Rural Exception. The Rural Exception allows adult jails and lockups in rural areas to securely detain juvenile criminal type offenders (misdemeanants and felons) awaiting initial court appearance for up to 48 hours, excluding holidays and weekends. Prior to being granted use of the Rural Exception, Nebraska's rural jails and lockups were only able to detain an accused juvenile criminal type offender for up to six hours prior to initial court appearance unless adult felony charges were formally filed.

COMPLIANCE MONITORING SUMMARY

On an ongoing basis, Crime Commission staff review all juveniles securely confined in correctional and detention facilities throughout the state to determine if their confinement is in compliance with federal and state law. As required by the JJDP Act, an annual Compliance Monitoring Report is submitted to the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) detailing the number and type of juveniles held in violation of the Act.

Based on monitoring results from 2003 and the first half of 2004, Nebraska has continued to maintain compliance with the JJDP Act. In 1994, Nebraska had a total of 1,849 violations of the first three core requirements of the JJDP Act. Through coming into compliance, the state has reduced the total number of violations to 9 in 2003-2004. Compliance with the Act resulted in Nebraska's eligibility for the full annual federal award of \$762,000 in 2003 and \$761,000 in 2004. Noncompliance with one or more of the four core requirements would result in the state losing a 25% of the allocation for each requirement that was not found in compliance. Compliance equates to a significant amount of dollars for the state and, more importantly, it means that the State of Nebraska has raised the standard for how youth are treated in the juvenile justice

system. To promote and maintain Nebraska's compliance with the JJDP Act, Crime Commission staff work actively with local jurisdictions to remedy potential noncompliance issues through technical assistance, training, juvenile justice planning and ongoing monitoring of detention practices.

NEBRASKA JUVENILE SERVICE'S ACT

The Nebraska Juvenile Services Act was created in July of 1990 with the passage of LB663. The Act is designed to assist communities in providing programs and services that create alternatives to incarceration for juveniles in the justice system. In July of 1992, responsibility for administration of the Juvenile Services Act was transferred to the Crime Commission via LB447. The original Juvenile Services Grant Committee established working groups to develop bylaws, rules and regulations in an effort to meet state requirements. This group was combined with The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice in 2000. The Coalition works to focus funding on current juvenile justice issues. The current appropriation for the Juvenile Services Act funds is \$681,238.

STATE OF NEBRASKA COMPREHENSIVE THREE YEAR PLAN

As a requirement to receive federal JJDP funds, a state must have a comprehensive three year plan. This plan must address the status of the state's compliance with the four core requirements and include plans to achieve and/or maintain compliance. Once a state is in compliance with the core requirements, there are other program areas that states can address with federal funds such as mental health, substance abuse, gangs, education, serious crime, rural programming, or other state specific issues.

The Coalition gathers community input on current juvenile justice issues by accepting public comment at quarterly NCJJ meetings, conducting public forum meetings, reviewing local comprehensive three year plans and members personal experiences in their communities. Input is used to develop the priorities for the Three Year Plan. In the development of the 2003-2005 Three Year Plan a report completed by the Juvenile Justice Institute was also considered. This report reviewed numerous task force reports, Governor commissioned reports, etc. for the past 25 years and developed recommendations for the juvenile justice system based on common recommendations throughout these reports.

The priorities of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice for 2003-2005 are as follows:

(1) Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders and Non-offenders:

While the state is in compliance with this core requirement, many community based services and programs need to be maintained and developed to insure ongoing compliance. The goal is to help communities develop programs and services to meet the needs of youth while maintaining them in their community and holding them accountable. Examples of programs would be: staff secure holdovers, diversion, tracker, day reporting, electronic monitoring, mediation, restorative justice programs, etc.

(2) Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in the Juvenile Justice System:

DMC exists in different ways in different communities. It is the goal of the Coalition to continue to collect data on this issue statewide and then assist communities in addressing DMC issues at the local level. Local solutions may vary depending on the problem, but could include: change policies/procedures; developing prevention or early intervention programs; alternatives to detention or graduated sanctions; training; community collaboration and education.

(3) Expansion of Community Based Programs:

Many communities statewide have done comprehensive planning for juvenile services. While most utilize LB640 funds, they are not enough to address all the needs identified in their plans. Juvenile Services funds are targeted at primary prevention needs of communities focusing on mentoring, after-school and truancy initiatives. Title II and JABG funds help target other community needs such as alternatives to detention and graduated sanctions, diversion, community assessment centers, wraparound programs, etc. The Coalition works to make sure funds are distributed statewide, with priority to rural areas in great need of resources.

(4) Program Evaluation:

Evaluation is necessary to determine if programs are reaching their goals, making an impact with the dollars, and identify program modification that are needed. In addition, helping programs build evaluation capacity into their program from the beginning will help them gain the information needed to seek other long term funding sources.

(5) Standardized Risk/Needs Assessment:

Different state and local youth serving agencies have different means of screening youth at key points in the system such as diversion, probation and commitment to HHS/OJS. Initiatives are underway at local at state levels to coordinate using common tools.

(6) Statewide Juvenile Justice Data Collection/Information Sharing

There has been great success at the criminal justice level with information sharing through the development of NCJIS (Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System). The Coalition, Crime Commission and CJIS committee recognize that information sharing and data collection is scattered at the juvenile justice level. State and local initiatives to remedy the problems are underway.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Juvenile Diversion:

Diversion has been proven to be an effective deterrent for first time offenders from entering deeper into the juvenile justice system. Establishing effective diversion programs gives communities options to work with youth so that more expensive resources are not needed later. In the past two years the legislature has also recognized juvenile diversion by expanding the statute to give more guidance on what juvenile diversion can include as well as require data collection on juvenile diversion programs across the state.

To promote effective diversion programming, the Crime Commission worked with a contractor to develop the "Nebraska Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Guidelines and Resources" manual. This manual was made available to county attorney's and diversion programs statewide and is available on the Crime Commission website. Grant funds over the past two years have been used to start four new programs and assist with continuation or expansion of six programs. Grant funds have also been used to start programs that are now self sufficient through county or other resources.

As a requirement of LB43 passed in 2003, the Crime Commission is responsible for collecting data from diversion programs statewide. While there is guidance in state statute on what diversion programs can include, the structure and volume of clients within programs varies widely across the state. The Crime Commission partnered

with the Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI) at UNO to work with programs and develop a free case management system that will allow programs to more efficiently and effectively manage their cases as well as submit data to the Commission electronically through NCJIS. The final version of the case management system has been completed and installations nearly completed in many counties. The rules and regulations are in the process of being completed and data collection is anticipated to begin in December of 2004. The Crime Commission will complete an annual report on the status of diversion in Nebraska per the statute.

One of the things heard statewide from diversion coordinators is the need to network and learn from each other. In October of 2004, the Crime Commission in conjunction with the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice and the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association sponsored the first Juvenile Diversion Conference in Kearney. Approximately 80 people attended including diversion coordinators, county attorney's, service providers, people from existing programs, and counties interested in starting programs. Information provided ranged from the basics of diversion to more advanced programming ideas and assessment/screening tools. There was excellent feedback from participants and a desire to continue this opportunity on an annual basis. The Crime Commission and Coalition will be exploring ways to make this a reality.

2. Disproportionate Minority Contact:

The DMC committee of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, with assistance from contractor Anne Hobbs, continues to make progress on this issue. Over the past two years, more than 325 people were trained statewide on Cultural Diversity using the "Passport" curriculum previously developed through the sub-committee and contractors. Training is available by request through the Crime Commission.

The committee also continues to work on improving awareness of the DMC issue. An informational brochure was developed and has now been expanded into an informational packet for the DMC coordinator and/or committee members to use when speaking to groups about DMC. Informational brochures entitled "Guide to Juvenile Court" continue to be available to agencies and are in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Anne wrote several informational articles on DMC and promising programs that were submitted and published in approximately 10 different newsletters statewide.

The primary initiatives for the committee for the next year are data collection and fostering local initiatives. The Crime Commission is required to collect data at various points in the system to determine if DMC exists. Anne has done this for approximately 4-5 counties so far and presented them with the findings. Based on the data, communities can determine where problems lie, build collaboration to begin

addressing the problem and determine solutions. To date, Lancaster County has initiated a team and has begun to address several issues with low cost solutions as well as continuing other initiatives such as graduated sanctions and minority outreach diversion. They are also exploring ways to diversify the work force of youth serving agencies. Douglas County has many initiatives going such as being a national pilot site for graduated sanctions and implementing a juvenile assessment center at the front end of the system. The latest county to begin meeting on the issue is Dakota County. They are in the beginning phases of looking at the data and determining what points to look at first.

3. Expanding Community Based Programs:

A listing (located at the end of the report) of all grants funded over the past two years will illustrate the impact grant funds have had in communities all over the state by creating after school options, mentoring programs, diversion programs, etc. Many communities have developed creative solutions to local problems. Two funded programs have been highlighted at the national level at the end of 2004. The Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center presented at the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Fall Conference in Los Angeles and Cedars Youth Services' Truancy Prevention and Intervention program was highlighted at OJJDP's National Truancy Conference in Washington D.C.

4. Evaluation of Programs:

This year as part of grant management training for all funded programs, Hank Robinson and Leigh Culver of the Juvenile Justice Institute provided a five hour basic evaluation training. A pilot evaluation project is also underway with funded after school and mentoring programs. We are using this to determine how we can incorporate a basic evaluation/data collection into all funded programs to help us better see the impact of the dollars being granted.

5. Standardized Risk/Needs Assessment:

Over the past two years, the Crime Commission has been assisting a Small Policy Work group comprised of Administrators and line workers from the Probation Administration and Health and Human Services/Protection and Safety as well as UNL, UNO and JJI. This group began as a sub-committee of the Governors Probation, Detention and Diversion Implementation Task Force that has since dissolved per statute. This sub-group had been looking at how to better serve youth in the two state systems and chose to start with risk and needs assessment. Through Challenge Grant funds from the Crime Commission a pilot was done with the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) to validate this researched based tool

for Nebraska. From the results it was determined that this tool would be a good fit for the two agencies to adopt. Training was provided in June, 2004 to probation ISP officers and some HHS/ICCU workers. Probation has implemented the tool in the ISP division and will work toward implementation in the rest of standard probation. HHS is fine tuning their implementation plan and hopes to begin implementation by January 2005.

6. Statewide Data Collection:

There have been several projects that have moved forward in this arena. The Crime Commission received a small grant from the Justice Research Statistics Association (JRSA) to automate the juvenile detention centers in Madison and Gering. Lincoln and Omaha have been automated for some time. This now allows the detention centers to submit detention data to us electronically.

The second major project has been a contract awarded to MTG, who was the contractor for the CJIS plan, to help develop a strategic plan for a juvenile justice statewide information system. The contract has been awarded and interviews and focus group meetings are in process. A preliminary plan should be presented by March 2005.

7. Training and Technical Assistance:

Training and Technical Assistance is available to the state and local communities through two avenues. The staff of the Nebraska Crime Commission provides training and technical assistance to local communities on planning, grant writing, grant management, program development, compliance, and various other topics as requested by communities. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention also provides training and technical assistance on a multitude of issues at no cost to states and localities who request it.

During the past year technical assistance was accessed from OJJDP for the Office of Juvenile Services for gender programming at Geneva, Nebraska Crime Commission, Probation Administration, Cedars Youth Services and Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association. More information on technical assistance can be obtained by calling the Nebraska Crime Commission.

OVERVIEW OF GRANT PROGRAMS

The Nebraska Crime Commission is the designated agency to facilitate the functions of the State Juvenile Services funds and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Prevention Funds. While each grant program has different guidelines and rules, the process of granting the awards is the same for each program.

Funds are distributed on a competitive basis annually. An announcement for the availability of funds is released once a year and applicants have approximately two and a half months to complete the required grant application kit. After the deadline, applications are put through a rigorous review process. A staff review is conducted, followed by a review from the Grant Review Subcommittee of the Coalition. Recommendations from these two reviews are then forwarded to the full Coalition for consideration. The full Coalition makes its final recommendations to the Nebraska Crime Commission who has final authority over all grant decisions. This review process lasts approximately five months from beginning to end.

Programs receiving funding are required to attend Grant Management Training and have a project period of one year. Continuation funding is not guaranteed and applicants must compete for funds annually. The Coalition recognizes the issues that come with implementing new programs and implemented a Step Down Policy. The policy states that contingent upon a program following the rules for reporting, meeting goals and objectives and managing funds, a program will be recommended for the same level of funding for two years and a step down in funds of 25% in the years to follow. Due to the limited amount of funding, such a policy is necessary to continue to support new programs and initiatives statewide.

JUVENILE SERVICES GRANT FUNDS

Since 1997 there have been \$625,000 available for award. However, due to budget cuts \$593,750 were available in 2003 and \$587,812 in 2004. Total requests were more than \$1.5 million each year.

Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services:

2003: \$25,269

This regional detention and staff secure co-located facility is located in Madison, Nebraska. Funding was designated specifically for the staff secure facility. The staff secure has a 16 bed capacity and offers a variety of programs and services for the youth in custody there.

Contact: Mike Applegate, P.O. Box 50, Madison, NE 68748 (402) 454-3955

Lancaster County - Minority Outreach Diversion Project:

2003: \$25,600 2004: \$19,008

Lancaster County contracts with Cedars Youth Services to operate the Juvenile Diversion program in conjunction with the County Attorney's Office. The program has been extremely successful as shown in the 82% success rate, however evaluating the

program data showed that those youth not participating in diversion were predominately minority youth. This project focuses on more intensive outreach to get those youth involved in diversion.

Contact: Petra Smith, 770 North Cotner, Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505 (402) 437-8988

Blue Valley Community Action, Inc.:

2003: \$45,000 2004: \$33,412

Blue Valley works in conjunction with the County Attorney's office to operate the juvenile diversion program in Fairbury. They provide a comprehensive curriculum including restitution, life skills, speakers and panel presentations, and community service.

Contact: Carmen Grummert, 620 5th Street, P.O. Box 273, Fairbury, NE 68352 (402) 729-2278

WECAN Regional Consortium:

2003: \$43,188

This regional non-profit group of counties is working with the Cooperative Extension Office in Clay Center to provide the Parents Forever/Kid's Companion Course. They currently provide the court ordered Parents Forever Course to parents who are getting a divorce. They identified the need for a course for the youth of the parents getting divorced. The curriculum addresses a wide range of topics including how to deal with the feelings that youth experience as their parents separate. It includes time together with parents to work on skills that both youth and parents have learned in the class time. Increased funding in 2003 allowed the program to expand into 11 new counties.

Contact: Cindy Strasheim, 111 W. Fairfield, Suite 6, Clay Center, NE 68933 (402) 762-3644

Active Community Team of Saunders County:

2003: \$22,500 2004: \$16,145

This non-profit community team implemented a mentoring program in most communities in the county. They are currently merging the program with Teammates and are creating after school programming opportunities.

Contact: Pam Lausterer, 426 N Broadway, Wahoo, NE 68066, (402) 443-8169

Cedars Youth Services:

2003: \$25,000

Cedars Youth Services operates Richardson House in Broken Bow, Nebraska. Richardson House provides a 6-8 bed staff secure placement option for the community and surrounding counties.

Contact: Suellen Koepke, P.O. Box 96, Broken Bow, NE 68822 (308) 872-5455

YWCA of Adams County - The Zone:

2003: \$47,235 2004: \$37,053

The Zone is an after school program for middle school youth in Hastings, NE. The Zone operates five days a week and is located in a section of the police department. The Zone provides recreational and educational opportunities to all youth who participate.

Contact: Lisa Marvel, 604 N. St. Joseph, Hastings, NE 68901, (402) 462-8821

Lancaster County - Community Integration Team (CIT):

2003: \$46,500 2004: \$30,690

Cedars Youth Services operates the CIT project, which incorporates a wraparound concept and works with youth and their families in a holistic manner.

Contact: Petra Smith, 770 N. Cotner, Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505 (402) 437-8988

Seward County Bridges:

2003: \$26,060 2004: \$20,349

The Bridges organization utilizes these funds to further enhance the after school programs available for youth in Seward County. Programming includes mentoring, tutoring, educational and pro-social activities.

Contact: Terri Siebert, 216 South 9th, Seward, NE 68434, (402) 643-2608

Lancaster County- Project SEEK:

2003: \$35,000 2004: \$25,987

Lancaster County contracts with Cedars Youth Services to work with children whose parents are incarcerated. Cedars identified the need to work with these children based on evaluations of their other youth programs. The project is designed to reduce risk factors for these youth through mentoring, family interventions, pro-social activities and reintegration of families.

Contact: Petra Smith, 770 N. Cotner, Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505 (402) 437-8988

Sidney Public Schools- Youth As Resources:

2003: \$40,518 2004: \$40,095

The Youth As Resources program in Cheyenne County is coordinated through the school. The Project Director coordinates the Youth As Resource board and groups interested in doing projects. The Project Director also serves as a mentor in the classroom.

Contact: Brenda Haller, 2103 King St., Sidney, NE 69162 (308) 249-2395

Cedars Youth Services- Broken Bow:

2003: \$50,000 2004: \$49,500

Through Cedars Richardson House in Broken Bow, staff provide wraparound services for youth in the shelter as well as court referred youth in Custer and surrounding counties.

Contact: Suellen Koepke, P.O. Box 96, Broken Bow, NE 68822 (308) 872-5455

Lutheran Family Services- Four County Mentoring:

2003: \$45,000 2004: \$ 44,550

Lutheran Family Services works with Johnson, Richardson, Nemaha and Pawnee Counties to recruit, train and provide on-going support to mentoring matches in these four counties.

Contact: Vanessa Emlich, 612 G St., Pawnee City, NE 68420, 866-384-8226

Ord School District #5:

2003: \$20,000 2004: \$21,780

The District contracts with Sandhills Center for Services to provide after school programming for youth in the community.

Contact: Shelley Boyce, P.O. Box 113, Ord, NE 68862, (308) 728-7099

Lutheran Family Services-Omaha:

2003: \$47,005 2004: 46,530

The funds have been utilized to expand the current community based program for sexually aggressive children. This is an outpatient program that works with youth who are offenders, victims and their families.

Contact: Marti Wilson, 124 S. 24th St., Suite 100, Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 978-5621

Lancaster County- YVAP:

2003: \$14,625

The Youth Violence Alternatives Program is a 9-12 month restorative justice program operated through the Lincoln Action Program as part of their Educational Outreach Program. YVAP helps youth learn the impact of their crime on the community and helps them learn they have the power to make positive or negative choices.

Contact: LeeAnn Pancharoen, 210 'O' Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 471-4515

Sherman County:

2004: \$19,800

Funds are used for a staff person who organizes alternative youth programs in the community for ages 8-17 and provides juvenile diversion services through the County Attorney's office.

Contact: Sheila Eloie, P.O. Box 621, Loup City, NE 68853, (308) 745-1513 ext. 110

Lancaster County- Youth Excelling in School:

2004: \$61,823

Funds are used in the Juvenile Diversion program to provide specific services for chronically truant youth. Funds are also used for the truancy prevention program working with youth and families at the elementary school level.

Contact: Petra Smith, 770 N. Cotner, Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505, (402) 437-8988

Otoe County:

2004: \$30,195

The funds for this project are being used to develop various prevention activities throughout the county such as: Youth Leadership Council, Character and Resistance education and parental activities and education.

Contact: Jackie Schmitz, 920 Central Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 (402) 873-6343

Cuming County:

2004: \$30,690

Funds were utilized to develop a comprehensive accountability based juvenile diversion program for first time offenders.

Contact: Daniel Bridges, 200 S. Lincoln St., Room 51, West Point, NE 68788, (402) 372-6010

Omaha Fire Department:

2004: \$ 34,031

The Omaha Fire Department will work in cooperation with the County Attorney's office to provide a specific diversion option for juvenile fire-setters.

Contact: Laura Weaver, 1516 Jackson St., Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 444-3849

Camp Fire USA Midlands Council-Omaha:

2003: \$35,250 2004: \$26,174

This organization utilized funds to expand a current program into South Omaha. Action Pact South works with at risk youth in South Omaha through mentoring, prevention and educational activities and parenting forums.

Contact: Megan Lassek, 2801 Harney St. Suite 120, Omaha, NE 68131 (402) 397-5809

<p>JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION TITLE II FORMULA GRANT FUNDS</p>
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In 1974 Congress passed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The Act requires the deinstitutionalization of status offenders and non-offenders, separation of juvenile and adult offenders in detention and correctional settings, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and assessment of disproportionate minority confinement and over-representation in the juvenile justice system. These are known as the four core requirements of the Act. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is the federal office designated to oversee the grant funds related to the Act.

States must be in compliance with all four requirements in order to receive the full Title II grant allocation. Title II is a formula grant, thus the allocation is based on a formula using the states population, juvenile population, and various other factors. States must use these funds to gain compliance with the core requirements. Once compliance is attained, states can focus on other issues relating to juvenile justice such as substance abuse, mental health, gangs, rural issues, education, and other related topics.

Title II funds are awarded on an annual basis through a competitive grant process. The requests for Title II funds far exceeded the amount available. There were \$653,750 available in 2003 and \$652,850 in 2004. The following programs were selected:

Sarpy County:

2003: \$45,666 2004: \$34,250

Sarpy County operates a staff secure holdover facility in conjunction with the Sheriff's office. Grant funds are utilized for the Assessment Center connected to the staff secure facility.

Contact: Richard Shea, 1303 West 6th, Papillion, NE 68046 (402) 537-7021

York County Extension Office:

2003: \$7,500

York County Attorney's office utilizes the York County Extension Office to operate the juvenile diversion program. They provide a very comprehensive program including parent participation, educational classes, speakers, and community service.

Contact: Tasi Bell, Courthouse-510 Lincoln Ave., York, NE 68467 (402) 362-2270

Nebraska Crime Commission - Compliance Monitoring:

2003: \$46,000 2004: \$43,786

These funds are utilized for the Compliance Monitor at the Crime Commission. This staff position monitors all jails, lockups, detention centers, and any other facilities that may be required, to ensure that juveniles are being held according to the JJDP Act.

Contact: Eli McBride, P.O. Box 94946, Lincoln, NE 68509-4946, (402) 471-3133

Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska, Inc.:

2003: \$30,000

This agency provides pre-adjudicated electronic monitoring services statewide with these grant funds. Electronic monitoring services often correspond with communities where the agency operates Staff Secure facilities.

Contact: Jeff Golden, 1327 'H' Street, Suite 220, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 435-5080

Family Services-Omaha:

2003: \$40,000 2004: \$30,000

Funds are used for a tracking program for youth on probation. The goal is to hold youth accountable to their probation orders, but also help the youth complete probation successfully.

Contact: Joanna Lindberg, 2101 S. 42nd St., Omaha, NE 68105, (402) 552-7409

Merrick County:

2003: \$24,000 2004: \$16,000

The county has utilized the funds to enhance their juvenile diversion program by hiring a diversion coordinator and further developing their diversion curriculum.

Contact: Mary Ingram, P.O. Box 147, Central City, NE 68826 (308) 946-3861

Cedars Youth Services- YAR:

2003: \$65,000 2004: \$48,750

Cedars oversees the Youth As Resources projects in the diversion programs in York, Seward, Jefferson, Otoe, and Saunders counties. Youth As Resources is a meaningful community service program that is designed to reconnect youth and their communities.

Contact: Vicki Thompson, 770 North Cotner, Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505, (402) 323-7522

Uta Halee Girls Village:

2003: \$52,163

Uta Halee Girls Village operates a day reporting center for juveniles on probation and parole. They identified the need to add a substance abuse component to their program to address the issues of the youth they serve who may come out of placements without having their substance abuse issues addressed.

Contact: Theri McCarville, 10625 Calhoun Rd., Omaha, NE 68112, (402) 453-0803

Douglas County- Juvenile Assessment Center:

2003: \$197,185 2004: \$183,795

Funds were used to assist in the implementation of a Juvenile Assessment Center. This has allowed for standardized screening of youth coming into the system, streamlined referrals to diversion and the courts, more comprehensive information for the courts and act as a resource for referrals for youth and their families.

Contact: Kim Culp, 1941 South 42nd St., Suite 504, Omaha, NE 68105 (402) 444-5213

Omaha Tribe:

2003: \$33,000 2004: \$33,000

The Omaha Tribe has re-opened it's emergency shelter/staff secure facility. Funds are utilized to fund a mental health counselor on site.

Contact: Jay Bazemore, P.O. Box 309, Macy, NE 68039 (402) 837-4195

Alliance Boys Ranch:

2003: \$101,530 2004: \$85,000

The Boys Ranch provides re-entry services to boys in their custody as well as boys from the panhandle coming out of Kearney or other out of home placements.

Contact: Daman Heitz, P.O. Box 639, alliance, NE 69301 (308) 762-6370

Buffalo County:

2003: \$45,000 2004: \$41,000

Buffalo County utilized funds to re-establish a juvenile diversion program for first time offenders.

Contact: Doug Kramer, P.O. Box 67, Kearney, NE 68848 (308) 233-3751

University of Nebraska- Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute:

2004: \$61,769

Funds were utilized to support a state DMC coordinator and resources to further data collection on DMC. Funds were also used to support the grant evaluation efforts of the Crime Commission.

Contact: Hank Robinson, Dept. of Criminal Justice, 6001 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68182-0149 (402) 554-3493

Otoe County:

2004: \$36,000

Otoe County utilized funds to contract with People United for Families to establish a structured juvenile diversion program for first time offenders.

Contact: Jacki Schmitz, 920 Central Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, (402) 873-6343

Cedars Youth Services- McCook:

2003: \$40,000 2004: \$39,500

This agency collaborates with the County Attorney to operate the juvenile diversion program. Funds will be used to further the program and the curriculum being offered to the youth.

Contact: Mary Rachel Parsons, P.O. Box 62, McCook, NE 69001 (308) 345-7783

TITLE V INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR LOCAL DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Title V grant funds are awarded annually from amounts appropriated by Congress to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The goal of this program is to reduce delinquency and youth violence by supporting communities in providing their children, families, neighborhoods and institutions with the knowledge, skills and opportunities necessary to foster a healthy and nurturing environment which supports the growth and development of productive and responsible citizens.

To be eligible for Title V funds the sub-grantee must be a unit of local government,

certify they are in compliance with the JJDP Act, submit a comprehensive 3 year Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Plan, and form a Prevention Policy Board. Title V programs are limited to three years of funding under the federal guidelines.

While all programs that have a prevention focus are eligible to apply, the Coalition is focusing on serving those youth and families with multiple risk factors who are truly at-risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. Programs should address issues such as parenting, substance abuse, mental health problems, economic issues, education issues, development of resources in rural areas, etc.

There was approximately \$157,700 available through this program in 2003 and \$0 funds were available in 2004 due to Congressional earmarks that left no funding for formula grants to states. Grants are awarded annually through a competitive process. The following communities were funded with Title V funds:

Sherman County:

2003: \$20,122

Funds are used for a staff person who organizes alternative youth programs in the community for ages 8-17 and provides juvenile diversion services through the County Attorney's office.

Contact: Sheila Eloie, P.O. Box 621, Loup City, NE 68853, (308) 745-1513 ext. 110

Lancaster County:

2003: \$59,603

Funds are used in the Juvenile Diversion program to provide specific services for chronically truant youth. Funds are also used for the truancy prevention program working with youth and families at the elementary school level.

Contact: Petra Smith, 770 N. Cotner, Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505, (402) 437-8988

Omaha Fire Department:

2003: \$47,475

The Omaha Fire Department will work in cooperation with the County Attorney's office to provide a specific diversion option for juvenile firesetters.

Contact: Laura Weaver, 1516 Jackson St., Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 444-3849

Otoe County:

2003: \$30,500

The funds for this project are being used to develop various prevention activities throughout the county such as: Youth Leadership Council, Character and Resistance education and parental activities and education.

Contact: Jackie Schmitz, 920 Central Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 (402) 873-6343

TITLE II, PART E, CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM

The Challenge grant program is a supplement to the Title II Formula Grant fund. The purpose of these funds is to develop, enhance and improve Juvenile Justice programs and policies within the specified Challenge Grant Activities established in the federal guidelines. The intent is to make systems change in the Challenge Activity areas. There are a total of ten activities and states must choose a minimum of two to participate in. There was \$87,500 available in this grant fund each year. 2004 is the last year for these funds. They were merged into a Delinquency Prevention Block Grant that has yet to be funded by Congress.

Nebraska Crime Commission:

2003: \$43,000

This project will provide training to Probation and HHS/OJS workers on the Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLSI) as a follow up to the pilot study. Both agencies are working on implementation plans for the YLSI.

Contact: Monica Miles-Steffens, P.O. Box 94946, Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-3998

Lancaster County:

2003: \$26,920

The County will utilize funds to provide training statewide on the Try Another Way gender specific curriculum developed with past grant funds.

Contact: Kit Boesch, 555 S. 9th, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 441-6868

Lancaster County:

2004: \$19,300

The County will use these funds to enhance the juvenile justice management information system within the Juvenile Assessment Center and Lancaster County.

Contact: Kit Boesch, 555 S. 9th, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 441-6868;

Lancaster County- HUB:

2004: \$82,549

Funds will be used to develop a transitional services network for young adults about to age out of the juvenile justice system. Contact: Kit Boesch, 555 S. 9th, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 441-6868;

JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT

The Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) Program began in 1998 with an appropriation from Congress. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was charged with developing the guidelines for the program. The purpose of the program is to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. The guidelines established twelve Program Purpose Areas by which states are supposed to be able to develop greater accountability. These purpose areas include construction of juvenile facilities, development of accountability based programs and sanctions, hiring of juvenile justice personnel, technology, and specialized courts.

In 2002, Congress included the program in the re-authorization of the JJDP Act and changed the name to the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG). Under the new legislation the JABG program expanded its purpose areas to 16 and set a minimum grant award of \$10,000 to a locality (it had previously been \$5,000). Based on a formula developed by OJJDP, cities and counties are given a pre-determined sum of money. Twenty-four cities and counties in Nebraska received a sum of \$5,000 or more in 2003 and 2004. This formula is based on juvenile population, law enforcement expenditures and a variety of other factors. In order to receive the pre-determined sum of money, the community must develop a three year plan, establish a Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition, and provide a 10% cash match. Cities and counties are allowed to work together and pool their funds to better utilize the money. The Crime Commission is the pass through agency and awards the pre-determined awards on an annual basis to those communities who wish to receive their pre-determined award and who meet the established criteria. There are many communities who receive less than \$5,000. OJJDP recognized that generally this is not enough money to meet the purpose of the program, therefore, the state retains those funds and is responsible for providing services in those areas that did not receive pre-determined awards.

The following communities met the criteria and accepted their pre-determined funds for 2003 and 2004:

City of Omaha/Douglas County:

2003: \$600,953 2004: \$450,936

The City of Omaha and Douglas County agreed to merge their funds to maximize the use of the dollars. They are doing a variety of things, but the major focus is on technology. They have developed a network linking the key justice agencies that work with juveniles to have a comprehensive management information system. Funds are also being used for the Drug Court and Project Impact and graduated sanctions.

Contact: Gail Braun, 1819 Farnam Street, Suite 300, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-5286

Hall County:

2003: \$43,285 2004: \$33,353

Hall County and the City of Grand Island combine their funds for an intake probation officer that assists with the intake function as well as tracking youth on probation and diversion.

Contact: Troy Chandler, 117 East 1st Street, Grand Island, NE 68801, (308) 385-5124

Sarpy County:

2003: \$57,470 2004: \$43,704

Sarpy County and the city of LaVista pool their funds to operate the Juvenile Drug Court housed in Sarpy County. They are the first of the three Juvenile Drug Courts to be in the implementation phase and currently have 8-15 youth in the program.

Contact: Dan Nedrow, 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68046 (402)593-2222

Scotts Bluff County:

2003: \$25,326 2004: \$19,712

Scotts Bluff County and the City of Scottsbluff work together with their funds to provide a tracker for the probation office.

Contact: Crystal Newton, 1825 10th Street, Admin. Bldg., Gering, NE 69341 (308) 436-6655

Madison County:

2003: \$22,986 2004: \$18,084

These funds were used for Accountability Officers who worked with the Probation Office, County Attorneys Office, and the schools to act as trackers and compliance monitors for youth on diversion, probation, bond, or those who display a truancy problem.

Contact: Joseph Smith, P.O. Box 269, Madison, NE 68748, (402) 454-3311 ext. 205

Lincoln/Lancaster County:

2003: \$230,708 2004: \$188,887

The city and county are pooling their funds. They are continuing to use funds to build a continuum of sanctions for youth in the system that includes mediation, evening reporting, and diversion related services. The second main portion is developing the Juvenile Drug Court, and the third is developing a county-wide management information system.

Contact: Kit Boesch, 555 South 10th Street, Room 110, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 441-6868

City of Beatrice:

2003: \$7,867 2004: \$6,279

The City of Beatrice utilizes the funds to assist the County Attorney's office in operating a juvenile diversion program.

Contact: Bruce Lang, 201 N. 5th, Beatrice, NE 68310 (402) 223-4080

Buffalo County:

2003: \$22,780 2004: \$21,751

Funds are being utilized to develop a truancy intervention program in conjunction with juvenile diversion, county attorney, schools and other stakeholders.

Contact: Doug Kramer, P.O. Box 67, Kearney, NE 68848, (308) 233-3751

Dakota County:

2003: 6,861 2004: \$5,373

The county uses these funds to provide electronic monitoring and substance abuse classes for youth in the juvenile court system.

Contact: Nicole Sims, P.O. Box 126, Dakota City, NE 68731 (402) 987-2122

Nebraska Office of Juvenile Services:

2003: \$713,164 2004: \$523,121

These are the state retained funds that are to serve all areas without pre-determined awards. The Office of Juvenile Services is partnering with the state Probation Office to provide and expand direct care services not previously available to youth on probation or parole. The services that were implemented or expanded to serve both populations of youth include mediation, day/evening reporting, electronic monitoring, trackers, and drug testing.

Contact: Peg Barner, P.O. Box 95044, Lincoln, NE 68509-5044, (402) 471-8404

2003-2004 NEBRASKA COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Linda Benjamin
County Commissioner
Dawson County

Ed Birkel
State Probation
Lincoln

Jim Blue
CEO Cedars Youth Services
Lincoln

Charles Brewster (2004)
Crime Commission Member
Kearney

John Clark
Dept. of Education
Lincoln

Christopher Connolly
Deputy County Attorney
Wayne

Allen Curtis
NE Crime Commission
Lincoln

Myles Davis (2004)
Youth Member
Lincoln

Tim Dempsey (2003)
Chief of Police
Elkhorn

Hon. Tom Dorwart
Cheyenne Co. Judge
Sidney

Jen Dozler (2003)
Youth Member
Norfolk

Linda Dubs (2003)
Mental Health Counselor
Alliance

Brandon Ferguson (2003)
Youth Member
Chadron

Hon. Larry Gendler
Juvenile Court Judge
Papillion

Kylee Hoffmaster (2004)
Youth Member
Lexington

Jamie Janssen (2004)
Youth Member
Norfolk

Allen Jensen
HHS/OJS
Lincoln

Ron Johns
West NE Juv. Services
Gering

Haley Koozer (2001)
Youth Member
Alliance

Edwin Leon (2001)
Youth Member
Lincoln

Audra Liebig (2004)
Youth Member
North Platte

Tom McBride, Chair
Epworth Village
York

T.J McDowell
Lighthouse
Lincoln

Terry Medina
Winnebago Tribe
Winnebago

Elaine Menzel
NACO
Lincoln

Justin Mickles
Region VI
Omaha

Mark Montgomery
Police Chief
Cozad

Kathy Moore
Voices for Children
Omaha

Nancy Oates
Boys & Girls Home
North Platte

Tim O'Dea
YRTC- Kearney
Kearney

Elaine Pflepsen
Mental Health Counselor
Bancroft

Gerard Piccolo
Hall Co. Public Defender
Grand Island

Alfredo Ramirez
Odyssey III Counseling
Norfolk

Raymond Ramirez (2003)
Youth Member
Grand Island

Danielle Reinke(2004)
Youth Member
Kearney

Brenda Smith (2003)
Deputy Chief, OPD
Omaha

Dawn Swanson (2003)
HHS/OJS
Lincoln

Jerry Watson
Hall Co. Sheriff
Grand Island

William White (2003)
Crime Commission Member
Grand Island