



**Cross-Systems Data Sharing and Transparency Project
to Reduce Juvenile Justice System Involvement
Request for Information**

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) is seeking two sites with interest in promoting safer communities and reducing juvenile justice system involvement through better system coordination, data transparency, and the use of predictive analytics to target continuum of care services to at-risk children and youth. This project will enable jurisdictions to assess the needs of youth who are involved or at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system and create multi-system interventions to help system-involved youth transition successfully into adulthood.

Through an award from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, NCCD will combine system data from school districts, child welfare agencies, and juvenile probation agencies to gain a better understanding of involved youth, their backgrounds, and their progress through the juvenile justice system and its services.

For more than 100 years, NCCD has been dedicated to improving social services practices. The mission of NCCD is to promote just and equitable social systems for individuals, families, and communities through research, public policy, and practice. NCCD works to create lasting impacts by leveraging data, stakeholder engagement, and evaluation to support best practices in child welfare, juvenile justice, criminal justice, and other social services.

Focus on Juvenile Justice System Involvement

Barriers to information sharing and transparency often exist between systems, yet many of the same youth cross over from one system to another. Empirical research shows that child welfare system involvement can increase the likelihood of youth becoming involved with the juvenile justice system, and the prevalence of youth with prior school suspensions and expulsions among juvenile justice populations is extraordinary.

Young people of color are overrepresented among those who receive school disciplinary action and those who end up in the juvenile justice system. In particular, Black youth are suspended and expelled at higher rates than White youth, and this disparity is similarly true for juvenile justice system involvement. Black youth account for 17% of the US youth population; yet they represent 28% of juvenile arrests, 37% of the detained population, 38% of those in secure placement, and 58% of youth committed to state adult prison.

Preventing juvenile justice involvement has manifold benefits. Juvenile justice system involvement is costly for communities, youth, and their families. Research has shown that juvenile justice system involvement has long-term negative impacts on a host of life outcomes, including the likelihood of adult criminal justice system involvement. Ultimately, preventing juvenile justice involvement leads to the success of more young people and safer communities.

Currently, most US school districts, child welfare agencies, and juvenile probation agencies have incomplete views of their whole communities. By bringing these fragmented views together, those working in each system can understand how youth and systems intersect when youth become involved with multiple agencies and often experience uncoordinated interventions.

NCCD will engage two sites to pilot a project that works with schools, child welfare agencies, and the juvenile justice system to promote better outcomes for youth through better system coordination, data transparency, and targeting continuum of care services through predictive analytics. While communities across the country work to reduce juvenile justice involvement, this project will provide a much-needed missing piece that focuses on coordinating data and resources.

The potential impact of this work for communities is twofold. First, it will help ensure that resources are applied in the most effective way to youth who need them most. Second, it will allow these systems, other stakeholders, government, and the public to better understand the problem and ensure accountability for system improvement.

Key Project Activities

- Establish a data-sharing platform in a jurisdiction that integrates key school, child protection, and juvenile probation data.
- Mine these data and perform predictive analytics to (1) show how these systems intersect and (2) identify which factors are most predictive of future juvenile justice system involvement.
- Develop a publicly available data portal to report aggregate, non-identifiable trends in risk factors related to juvenile justice system involvement and in crossover between the three systems.
- Use the data-sharing platform and predictive analytics to create a secure alert system that helps agency staff identify high-risk youth so they can provide appropriate interventions to prevent future juvenile justice system involvement.
- Bring together relevant stakeholders to discuss data trends and intervention services.

NCCD-Provided Services

Stakeholder Engagement, Facilitation, and Project Planning

NCCD will provide onsite and remote-based assistance to bring stakeholders together for the purposes of focusing the project; discussing data needs and data transparency; developing agreement on project goals, objectives, and work plan; working with local leadership to establish broad commitment and buy-in; and developing data-sharing arrangements. NCCD will provide content-area knowledge and expert facilitation of stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders may include but are not limited to: probation, education, and child welfare system leaders; government leaders; nonprofit organizations/service providers; and leaders from affected communities.

Data-Sharing Platform

NCCD will work with local partners to assess any existing infrastructure, identify available resources, and develop a detailed design to implement a data-sharing system for integration among existing systems.

NCCD will establish a platform for integrating data, develop data transfer protocols, and implement data sharing.

Data Mining and Predictive Analytics

NCCD will conduct predictive analytics for understanding system intersections and pathways to juvenile justice system involvement. NCCD will consider algorithmic, machine learning, predictive analytics, and traditional approaches. Algorithm development will be data driven and include considerations from local practice, policy goals, and broad system-improvement efforts.

Predictive analytics work will result in the identification of existing data elements across systems that can be combined to describe intersections among the three systems, understand pathways to juvenile justice, and identify youth most likely to become involved in the juvenile justice system.

Data Transparency Portal

The data portal will present data representing how the systems intersect and the pathways to juvenile justice from child welfare and schools. The portal will show the mechanisms at work in a community that lead to increased likelihood of future juvenile justice system involvement, time trends in those intersections and pathways, and opportunities for system improvement.

Secure Alert System

A core element of the portal will be an application programming interface that allows existing case management systems to access analyzed information. This will allow seamless integration of the analytical information into case management practice. In particular, the portal will support a secure alert system that uses predictive analytics results to identify youth most at risk of juvenile justice system involvement and share that information with schools, child welfare agencies, and juvenile justice case management systems.

Eligible Applicants

Each applicant must be a state, local, or tribal government entity. NCCD is interested in partnering with entities that (1) desire to engage in prevention efforts involving system-involved youth; (2) demonstrate inter-agency/county-wide collaboration; (3) can enter into and provide examples of previous data-sharing arrangements; and (4) intentionally focus resources on youth, families, and communities who are most at risk of or most impacted by involvement with the school suspension and expulsion, child protection, and justice systems.

Applicants are encouraged to describe the following.

- The jurisdiction's interest in a collaborative, data-sharing, and analysis project. This information may include the current and historic needs of children and youth in the jurisdiction who are involved or at risk of further involvement with the juvenile justice system. Jurisdictions also are encouraged to state why creating a data system that targets dually involved children and youth is necessary to improve outcomes for this population in their jurisdiction.
- Existing/prior collaborative activities among jurisdiction agencies. Applicants should describe previous or current collaborative activities undertaken by jurisdiction schools and social service agencies to improve outcomes for this population—specifically, any interventions directed at reducing system involvement for dually involved youth and/or youth at risk of deeper involvement with the justice system. If no such projects exist, describe how you will ensure active participation among all involved agencies.
- Existing/prior data-sharing efforts among jurisdiction agencies. This includes, if applicable, any current or prior collaborative projects that focus on data sharing and cross-system data analyses within the jurisdiction. Describe any existing data-sharing agreements and/or groups convened to foster and supervise data sharing. If no data-sharing agreements are in place, describe the steps you will take to create them.
- Desired outcomes for the project. Applicants are encouraged to explain how their jurisdiction will use the outcome data in prevention and intervention tools for children and youth who are involved with, or at risk of entering, the juvenile justice system. State how the project's data transparency will help improve prevention and intervention methods, system collaboration, and community involvement.

Letters of Interest

Jurisdictions with interest in this project may submit a letter of interest by March 25, 2016. NCCD will review all letters of interest and provide follow-up communication with agencies, if needed.