

Delivering High-Quality, Responsive Resources and Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Juvenile Justice Policy and Practice

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS) is to provide responsive resources and training and technical assistance (RTTA) to support states, territories, tribal units, and communities in developing a continuum of juvenile justice services—ranging from prevention to intervention to reentry—that aligns with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s (OJJDP) Title II Formula Grants Program.

Scope of Work

For the last seven years, the American Institutes for Research (AIR), under the leadership and guidance of OJJDP, and in partnership with the **Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR)** and the **Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA)**, has worked to develop a trusted relationship with OJJDP, its State Relations and Assistance Division (SRAD), National Partnership for Juvenile Services, Designated State Agency (DSA) professionals in the states and territories, and State Advisory Group (SAG) members through the delivery of timely and responsive RTTA.

As an established center, we understand the importance of being flexible and responsive to the needs of OJJDP and state, territories, and tribes, as evidenced by continuous adaptation of curricula, training materials, and communication with OJJDP and TTA sites. Our agile RTTA approach focuses on ongoing implementation and stability, and is responsive to the goals of each site or event. It is grounded in research and innovation that focuses on enhancing public safety by holding youth accountable in ways that produce positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities. Our collective work is framed by and accomplished through a variety of strategies that fall under the center’s main objectives.

MEET THE TEAM

Lisa Hutchinson, Ph.D., CCAS Project Director

Barbara Broman, CCAS Senior Advisor

Roger Jarjoura, Ph.D., CCAS Senior Advisor

Simon Gonsoulin, M.Ed., CCAS Senior Advisor

Katie Penkoff, Ph.D., CCAS Deputy Director of Resource Development and Dissemination

Cassy Blakely, M.A., CCAS Deputy Director Training & Technical Assistance

Deborah Grant, M.A., CCAS Budget Manager

Mark Ferrante, B.S.,
CCAS Certificate Program Coordinator

Okori Christopher., M.S
CCAS Project Technology Lead

What We Do

CCAS Community of Practice

The CCAS Information Hub is a virtual community of practice, welcoming all stakeholders who are interested in developing a continuum of juvenile justice services, ranging from prevention to intervention to reentry.

OJJDP SRAD Monthly State Calls

The monthly state calls are opportunities for OJJDP to: share information and keep states and territories informed, provide a forum for states and territories to ask OJJDP questions and serve as a platform for states and territories to connect with peers.

Designated State Agency (DSA) Staff Certificate Programs

Certificate programs are designed for DSA staff, Juvenile Justice Specialists, Compliance Monitors, and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Coordinators who have been in their roles for less than two years. The virtual programs provide opportunities to: (1) enhance the supports, tools, and training available related to adhering to the requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act/Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) and administering the Title II Formula Grants Program, and (2) establish a cohort community for ongoing support. Certificate programs for RED Coordinators and SAG Chairs are being developed and will be offered in the next year.

Tools and Resources to Aid States, Territories, and Governments With JJRA Implementation

In consultation with OJJDP, materials are generated according to the needs of the field; these materials include the latest knowledge- and evidence-based practices.

CCAS has developed resources that assist DSA staff and SAG members in understanding the additional information and requirements that must be addressed in their state plans. **The resources cover the following JJRA topics:**

- JJRA-driven changes for juvenile crime analysis, and a collection of strategies and resources for eliminating the use of restraints on known-pregnant females.
- JJRA-driven changes in screening and identification of victims of domestic human trafficking and a collection of strategies and resources for screening, identifying, and diverting victims.
- JJRA-driven changes in reentry planning, and a collection of strategies and resources for reentry planning.

CCAS develops or updates a number of additional tools and resources on a quarterly basis. Example topics include the following:

- State compliance with JJDP Act core requirements
- Understanding and using RED data to inform RED efforts
- SAGs
- Title II Formula Grants Program
- Crosswalk Analysis Toolkit
- Individualized training and technical assistance (TTA) processes and planning
- Three-year planning
- Juvenile justice systems improvement
- Decision-making on placement for juveniles treated as adults
- Needs specific to urban and rural jurisdictions
- Ensuring use of evidence-based practices
- Focusing on and providing opportunities for positive youth development

Who We Serve

54

STATES AND TERRITORIES

175+

INDIVIDUALIZED TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

500+

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED

Individualized Training and Technical Assistance to States and Territories

Relationship-Based Delivery of TTA

CCAS delivers a customized TTA experience. Staff have extensive practitioner experience in the fields of juvenile justice and Title II funding. Our familiarity with TTA needs, coordination with OJJDP, and awareness of systems improvement initiatives result in a TTA plan that addresses the needs of the recipient and builds capacity.

CCAS staff maintain contact with OJJDP, states, and territories to identify TTA needs, share resources and information, provide notification of TTA opportunities, and ensure that TTA needs are met in a comprehensive, effective manner that maximizes system improvement efforts.

“The workshop was a welcome, fresh step toward building trust between KCY Service’s departments; sharing experiences, strengths and hope, ... and improving the juvenile department, per state mandate. We have the opportunity to be a shining forerunner as a youth services department.”

- KITSAP COUNTY DETENTION STAFF

Through staff, consultants, and peer mentors with practical experience, CCAS provides RTTA in three key areas:

TAILORED TTA

Application of expertise, facilitation, resource development, and/or data analysis focused on a locality or state-specific need. Some tools may be able to be generalized, but most are individualized.

Examples: literature reviews, on-site/virtual facilitation, data analysis, complex resource/tool development and/or review

TARGETED TTA

Development of virtual or in-person training or tools to meet a common need under CCAS’s scope of work. May be adaptable to individual requests; however, core content is consistent and relevant to a broad audience.

Examples: SAG 101 training and planning, cross-walk tool creation, in-person/virtual roundtables, and webinar series on serving tribal populations

UNIVERSAL TTA

Provision of information, virtual training, or conference information to a general audience.

Examples: Universal SAG 101 webinars for states and territories on roles and responsibilities and 3-year planning and Identification and referral to information or partner



OJJDP National Training Conferences

Each year, the national conference provides critical training to DSA staff, SAG members, and Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) members in administering the Title II Formula Grants Program in implementation of the JJRA. The conference provides training and workshops where states and territories can share their questions, strategies, and lessons learned on several topics related to the JJRA and the Title II Formula Grant program.

Professional Development Opportunities for State and Local Juvenile Justice System Stakeholders

Each year, through CCAS, CJJA facilitates a seminar for new directors of youth corrections agencies; a training for deputy directors to build their capacity as leaders; and webinars focused on topics such as maintaining staff wellness, promoting treatment-based youth engagement strategies, and using multi-tiered systems of support to provide positive behavioral intervention with youth in justice facilities.

Rural Chats

Through CCAS, CJJR is hosting rural chats on topics such as access to counsel, access to services, addressing trauma, commercial sexual exploitation of children, girls, supporting LGBTQ+ youth, positive youth development, RED, re-entry, restorative justice, the school-justice pipeline, serving crossover youth, substance use, transitioning-age youth, use of diversion, youth/family engagement, and youth in custody.

What Makes the Center Unique?

In 2020, OJJDP hosted the first virtual OJJDP SRAD National Training Conference on November 16-18, 2020. A total of 382 individuals logged into the conference platform (6Connex) during the 3-day period. Thirty-four interactive sessions and two groups of roundtable discussions were held. Plenary and breakout sessions featured the FACJJ, Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), OJJDP staff, Tribal Youth Resource Center (TYRC), youth SAG members, and DSA staff. The event was the largest national

conference held by OJJDP, and used innovative technology to facilitate OJJDP connecting to the field despite the challenges of COVID-19. Feedback from the conference indicated that 76% of participants felt the conference was worth their time and the information presented was relevant to their work, 71% felt that the conference provided opportunity for interaction with other participants, 65% said their knowledge was increased in a meaningful way, and 56% felt that there were opportunities to network with others.



Need Training and Technical Assistance?