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OJJDP Update on Programs

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OJJDP funds 17 new projects to combat juvenile delinquency

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was created by Congress in 1974 to address the increasingly serious problem of juvenile delinquency.

Although some of the problems remain the same, today's juvenile justice practitioners find themselves facing new issues, such as missing and sexually exploited youth, increasing drug and alcohol abuse by juveniles, emerging gang problems, and private sector corrections programs.

OJJDP designed a research and development program that addresses many of these topics. Several of OJJDP's new programs emphasize preventing and controlling juvenile drug abuse. Others are aimed at improving the juvenile correctional system.

To ensure that results from the activities make it into the field, OJJDP initiated a new policy that any project it funds must produce a complete, useful product that can be distributed to juvenile justice practitioners. These products are to be made available at various milestones during the program.

The following is a summary of new projects funded by OJJDP.

Drugs

OJJDP is extremely concerned about the staggering problem of illegal drug use by this country's young people. Besides the devastating effect drugs have on youth, communities have another reason to be concerned: drug use and crime often go hand in hand. OJJDP initiated six new programs to deal with the juvenile drug problem.

Promising Approaches for the Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment of Illegal Drug and Alcohol Use Among Juveniles. \$500,000 to Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 805, Bethesda, MD 20814.

This program is designed to answer an important question: What works in preventing and treating drug and alcohol abuse among high-risk youth? While many promising programs exist, it is important to develop program models that effectively address the factors that pose the greatest risks for youths' initia-

tion or continued involvement in substance abuse. Once identified, these approaches will be tested in selected communities. Training, technical assistance, and detailed program manuals will be developed to help other communities implement programs that work.

Effective Parenting Strategies for Families of High Risk Youth. \$349,422 to University of Utah, Social Research Institute, Room 130, Graduate School of Social Work, Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

It is widely believed that poor or inadequate parenting may contribute in part to juvenile delinquency. However, the juvenile justice field seldom takes advantage of family skills training programs. This project will assess existing parenting programs to determine their effectiveness in reducing delinquency and juvenile drug abuse.

Based on these assessments, operation manuals and training and technical assistance will be developed and provided to community agencies to help them implement programs that teach parenting skills to parents of high-risk youth.

From the Administrator:

It is no secret that budgets—whether they are Federal, State, or local—are tight these days. And the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's budget is no exception.

That's one of the reasons OJJDP took special steps this year to ensure that our new programs make the best possible use of Federal dollars. To do this, not only did we assess our current programs, but we went to the field and actively sought—for the first time, I believe—the advice of juvenile justice experts.

Several major issues emerged during our discussions, including serious juvenile crime, drug abuse, the exploitation and kidnapping of children, removal of juve-

niles from jails, effective supervision programs, victims' rights, and the role of family in preventing delinquency, to list a few.

We listened to experts in the field, studied our existing programs, then developed a plan of action we believe best addresses the needs of the juvenile justice community. But more important, we *acted* on this plan. We initiated and awarded grants for 17 new projects.

Because we believe there is no need to reinvent the wheel at the Federal or State level, we designed several of these projects to help us gather information about effective juvenile justice programs. We will then pass this information on to local communities so that they can take projects

that work, replicate them, and thereby avoid costly duplication.

Getting this information out to the field quickly and in a readable format is one of our primary goals. We intend to distribute more and better information about project results, statistics, and research findings. This announcement of new projects is a first step in that direction.

I am confident that these new programs can help communities prevent delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and combat crime committed by juveniles.

Verne L. Speirs
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention



Research on Drug Use Among Juveniles. A total of \$145,181 was awarded to five grantees to reanalyze existing data to determine the nature, extent, and patterns of drug use by juveniles. The results will help practitioners develop effective drug abuse and prevention programs. The grantees are:

- New York City Criminal Justice Agency, 305 Broadway, New York, NY 10007. \$40,257 to study drug abuse and delinquency among dropouts and gang members, two high-risk adolescent populations.
- Johns Hopkins University, Center for Social Organization of Schools, 34th and Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. \$24,870. Researchers will use a rich data base of information collected on more than 30,000 junior and senior high school students over the next 3 years to explore various theories about juveniles' use of drugs and alcohol and related delinquent activities.
- University of Colorado, Campus Box 327, Boulder, CO 80309-0327. \$29,697. Researchers will conduct yearly interviews with 11- to 13-year-olds to identify precursors of first use of

drugs (cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and hard drugs) and factors that contributed to changes in their use over a 5-year period.

- New Mexico State University, Arts and Sciences Research Center, Box 3699, Las Cruces, NM 88003. \$26,120 to analyze peer and parental influences on drug use in rural and small town areas.
- Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 78666. \$24,237 to study the extent of delinquency and alcohol drug use among Hispanic youth.

Research on the Etiology of Drug Abuse Among Ethnic and Minority Juvenile Populations. A total of \$436,019 to five grantees to determine how many and what types of minority youth are involved with drugs, the nature of their drug use, and the role culture plays in promoting or preventing substance abuse.

- Center for the Improvement of Child Caring, 11331 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 103, Los Angeles, CA 91604. \$65,795 to investigate the role of family attributes in enhancing or moderating the risk of

substance use and juvenile delinquency in inner-city black youth.

- Institute of Comparative Social and Cultural Studies, Inc., 4330 East-West Highway, Suite 900B, Bethesda, MD 20814. \$80,530 to determine if the way Puerto Ricans adapt to the American culture contributes to juvenile substance abuse.
- University of Maryland-Baltimore, Psychology Department, 5401 Wilkens Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228. \$110,603 to study the origin of substance abuse among unemployed black youth. Trained interviewers will collect information from 150 black male teenagers who have dropped out of school and are unemployed.
- University of Kentucky Research Foundation, Department of Sociology, 105 Kinkead Hall, Lexington, KY 40506. \$105,628 to analyze the prevalence, causes, and consequences of drug use among minority populations to determine how it affects youths' transition to adulthood.

- University of Washington Center for Social Research, 4101 15th Avenue NE., JH-30, Seattle, WA 98195. \$73,463 to compare the origins and patterns of drug use among black, Asian, and white urban youth. Researchers will also collect information from parents and youth about prevention strategies that are most likely to be well received by members of different ethnic groups.

Law Enforcement Handling of Juvenile Offenders. \$349,893 to Police Foundation, 1001 22nd Street NW., #200, Washington, DC 20037.

Police agencies confront many problems in handling serious juvenile offenders. This project will identify, develop, and test police strategies that work in handling such juvenile offenders, especially those who are involved in illegal drug use, sales, or trafficking. It also will improve police strategies for dealing with nonserious and non-drug-involved youth.

Youth Drug and Alcohol Abuse: Introduction of Effective Strategies Systemwide. \$260,000 to Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 805, Bethesda, MD 20814.

This is a joint project between OJJDP and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to help communities coordinate drug prevention activities. It will provide technical assistance and training to help schools, civic groups, police, and courts work together to plan and implement community drug and alcohol abuse programs.

Serious juvenile crime

Although chronic, serious offenders represent only a small minority of juveniles, they are responsible for the majority of increasingly serious juvenile crime. Two new OJJDP programs target two serious juvenile problems: arson and gang violence.

National Juvenile Firesetter/Arson Control Prevention Program.

\$349,802 to the Institute for Social Analysis, 1625 K Street NW., Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20006.

The number of juveniles arrested for arson has increased considerably in recent years. In addition, the fires the juveniles set have profound psychological and economic effects on the communities. This project will identify, test, and develop programs that can control and prevent juvenile arson and rehabilitate juvenile firesetters. Training manuals and technical assistance will be developed to help local communities implement programs that work.

Juvenile Gang Suppression and Intervention Program. \$499,981 to University of Chicago, School of Social Services Administration, 969 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637.

Although youth gang activity subsided during the 1960's, it emerged again in the late 1970's and now may pose an even greater problem than before. In the past, victims of gang violence usually were rival gang members, but today innocent bystanders are falling victim to gang violence. Few effective programs exist to prevent, intervene, suppress, and treat juvenile gang offenders. This project will assess the programs that do exist and develop and test approaches for preventing and suppressing juvenile gang activity. Training manuals and technical assistance will be developed to help both practitioners and policymakers.

Supervision

The juvenile justice system must hold juveniles accountable for their delinquent behavior. In many instances this means placing them under some type of supervision. OJJDP initiated three projects to examine and develop effective methods of supervision.

The Effects of the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders. \$609,521 to University of Southern California, Social Science Research Institute, University Park, Los Angeles, CA 90089-1111.

In the early 1970's, a nationwide reform movement began to remove status offenders from secure correctional facilities. Since then, the effectiveness of this movement, known as DSO, has engendered considerable debate. This research project will evaluate the effects of deinstitutionalization on youth, their parents, the juvenile justice system, and youth-serving agencies.

Researchers will develop a series of reports for policymakers that detail legislative approaches to status offender problems, community service approaches, trends in status offender custody as related to legislation, characteristics of status offenders, and ways these services affect prevention and control of juvenile delinquency.

Demonstration of Post Adjudication Nonresidential Intensive Supervision

Programs. \$350,000 to National Council on Crime and Delinquency, 77 Maiden Lane, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94108.

Research indicates that many chronic juvenile offenders will eventually become adult career criminals. This project will focus on nonresidential programs that reduce recidivism among serious juvenile offenders through intensive community supervision. It will identify promising and effective intensive supervision programs and test program models in several sites. It will then provide training and technical assistance to help local communities design effective programs.

Intensive Community-Based Aftercare. \$348,521 to Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Charles and 34th Streets, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Community-based aftercare is one of the most essential yet often neglected components of the juvenile justice system. Many practitioners believe that the lack of aftercare programs for chronic, serious juvenile offenders is a significant factor in recidivism. This project will examine existing intensive community-based aftercare and develop and test models of effective programs.

Juvenile Corrections/Industries Venture. \$499,927 to National Organization for Social Responsibility, 208 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.



This project will help juvenile correctional agencies establish joint ventures with private businesses and industries in order to provide vocational training for juvenile offenders. It will assess existing programs, develop prototypical designs, and through intensive training, help local and State agencies establish programs. An evaluation of program sites will be initiated once specific sites are established.

The project will also offer correctional institutions treatment alternatives that provide incarcerated juvenile offenders with vocational training, general education, and paid employment. This project will help juvenile offenders become more accountable for their behavior by having them make payments to their victims or to a victim's fund, and by contributing a portion of their earnings to help cover the cost of their incarceration.

Adjudication

Effectiveness and fairness are long-standing juvenile justice concerns that require a balance between the needs of the offender and the safety of the public. Two critical areas have to do with victims and how court policies and procedures affect them, and the disproportionate number of minorities in the juvenile justice system. OJJDP developed three programs to address these issues.

Victims/Witnesses in the Juvenile Justice System. \$249,657 to American Institute for Research, 1055 Thomas Jefferson Street NW., Washington, DC 20007.

The purpose of this program is to help juvenile justice agencies establish specialized programs and services for victims and witnesses. Such programs can help the system respond to victims and witnesses, ensure effective administration of justice, and increase victim satisfaction with the juvenile justice system.

This project will determine what is currently known about victims and witnesses in the juvenile justice system, select the most promising models for serving them, and develop training and technical assistance for practitioners and policymakers.

Minorities in the Juvenile Justice System. \$99,968 to University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Graduate School, Board of Regents, P.O. Box 340, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

This project will review recent research involving minority processing through the juvenile justice system to determine to what extent minority status influences processing decisions. It will identify gaps in existing knowledge and establish an agenda for future research and policy development. A symposium will be held to discuss and evaluate the results of the project. The findings of this project can help in the formulation of juvenile justice policy and in program development.

Child Victim as a Witness Research and Development Program. \$398,527 to Education Development Center Inc., 55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02160.

This research and development project will test different techniques for improving the handling of child victim witnesses during court proceedings. The project will work with local courts, prosecutors, judges, law enforcement personnel, and protective service workers in four jurisdictions to introduce strategies that reduce the risk that children will be traumatized by the legal process. The four study sites are Polk County (Des Moines), Iowa; Wayne County (Detroit), Michigan; Erie County (Buffalo), New York; and San Diego County, California.

Missing and exploited children

New dilemmas confront the juvenile justice system as the number of cases of child exploitation and kidnapping continues to grow. OJJDP developed two projects to help families and researchers deal with this issue.

Families of Missing Children: Psychological Consequences and Promising Interventions. \$250,000 to University of California, Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, 401 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94143.

This project will identify effective treatment alternatives for easing the psychological consequences of abduction and sexual exploitation on abducted youth and their families. Researchers will work with missing children programs in Chicago (Illinois State Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children); Orange, California (Southern California Adam Walsh Child Resource Center); Kansas City, Missouri (Lost Child Network); Orlando, Florida (Adam Walsh Missing Children's Center); and San Francisco, California (American Missing Children's Foundation).

National Studies of the Incidence of Missing Children. \$984,706 to Family Research Lab, Horton Social Science Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.

This 2-year study will help determine more precisely the number of missing children in the United States. It also will establish profiles of missing children and the circumstances surrounding their disappearance. Preliminary findings are expected to be available this summer (1988), and a final report will be completed in mid-1989.

For more information about these projects, contact the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850 or call toll free 800-638-8736.

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program Offices and Bureaus: the Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.