

# Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission

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Biennial Report



# 2021-2022



The Governor's Office  
of Youth, Faith  
and Family



[JuvenileJustice.AZ.gov](http://JuvenileJustice.AZ.gov)



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

MARIA CRISTINA FUENTES  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 31, 2022

Governor Doug A. Ducey  
1700 W Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey,

On behalf of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission, I am pleased to present our 2022 Biennial Report.

The previous two years have continued to support the ongoing reform within Arizona's juvenile justice system, and has seen exciting new initiatives. The state continues to see a decline in the number of juvenile referrals and the number of youth in secure care. In partnership with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission continues to support best practices for reducing juvenile crime and increasing public safety.

Arizona's progress can be attributed to exceptional leadership from state agency partners and collaboration community stakeholders who lead this work. The Commission continues to work closely with statewide partners on these meaningful initiatives, such as the Title II Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention grant that awarded approximately **\$950,000** in funding to **10** organizations working to prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce rates of recidivism.

We would like to thank you for your support of the Commission's role in serving Arizona families by advocating for improved outcomes and safer neighborhoods. It is our hope that these efforts and collaborative partnerships will continue to improve systems that address the needs of at-risk youth while ensuring accountability and justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindi Nanetti".

Cindi Nanetti, Chair  
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission

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## MISSION

Encourage conditions in Arizona’s communities that promote public safety and the positive development of youth by supporting evidence-based, trauma-informed interventions; improving services that impact children; and advocating for youth involvement in both planning and implementation of programs that prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce recidivism.

## PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

On February 11, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey signed [Executive Order 2020-06](#) to continue the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) under the reauthorization of the [Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act \(JJDP\)](#) in December 2018. The Commission is administered by the [Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#) and was established to improve youth outcomes and public safety through the support of effective programming. To facilitate this vision, the Commission works to coordinate public and private community resources to solve challenges faced by our state’s vulnerable children and families.

The AJJC consists of members who have the expertise to help prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce recidivism. The Commission includes representation from law enforcement, state agencies, private nonprofit organizations, locally-elected officials, victim advocates, tribal court personnel and community volunteers.

Commission members also have the opportunity to serve on the AJJC Workgroups. These groups meet to address systemic challenges and community needs with the purpose of identifying best practices to identify solutions.

### [Grants Workgroup](#)

The Grants Workgroup assists with the pass-through of the Title II JJDP Formula Grant funds. GOYFF administers the Title II grant program while the Workgroup members help support the request for grant applications (RFGA) development, review the grant applications and provide the Commission updates on the activities of current funded grantees.

### [Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup](#)

The Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Workgroup oversees the state’s efforts in reducing disparities in the juvenile justice system as required by the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#). The Workgroup assists with evaluating the status of disparities for youth of color in Arizona’s juvenile justice system, gathering data for the state’s annual R/ED plan and promoting best practices to reduce disparities while maintaining public safety.

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with Executive Order 2015-12, the Commission is composed of individuals appointed by the Governor who serve at his pleasure without compensation. The following members currently serve on the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission:

**Cindi Nannetti, Chair**

Maricopa County Superior Court

**Shawwna Bolick**

Arizona House of Representatives, District 20

**Melissa Castillo**

Arizona Department of Education

**Maria Dodge**

Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate

**Michael Faust**

Arizona Department of Child Safety

**Jose Gonzales**

Youth Member

**Joseph Kelroy**

Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts

**James Molina**

Step-Up Arizona

**Vada Jo Phelps**

ARIZONA@WORK of Southeastern Arizona

**Shaun Rieve**

Veridus LLC

**Nicole Schuren**

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

**Donald Walker**

Fellowship Square-Mesa

**Tracy Darmondy, Vice Chair**

Ak-Chin Indian Community

**Alice Bustillo**

Maricopa County Superior Court

**Shawn Cox**

Maricopa County Attorney's Office

**Guadalupe Durazo**

Arizona State University

**Helen Gándara**

Scottsdale Police Department

**Joseph Grossman**

Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry

**Erica Maxwell**

Crayon Box Consulting, LLC

**Earl Newton**

Hood2Hood United

**Dennis Pickering**

Canyon Pediatrics

**Douglas Sargent**

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

**Robert Thoms**

United States Probation, District of Arizona

**Dorothy Wodraska**

Maricopa County Education Service Agency

## ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Members of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) meet four times a year. During the past two years, the Commission heard from issue-area experts on topics related to reducing juvenile crime and increasing public safety. The Commission continued to learn about best practices, ways to increase collaboration, youth development, evidence-based programming and trauma-informed interventions. Presentations included:

### COMMISSION MEETINGS

#### *Cottonwood Oak-Creek District*

*Dr. Elaine Rankin, Behavior Specialist*

*Jessia Vocca, Principal*

*May 5, 2022*

In 2021, the [Cottonwood Oak-Creek District](#) received funding from the GOYFF Trauma-Informed Substance Abuse Prevention Program (TISAPP) Grant to implement a [Neurosequential Model in Education \(NME\)](#) within their district. This program provides students and staff with tools to regulate and reason in a safe setting to further build resiliency. Within the Cotton Oak-Creek District, staff use a “Multi-tiered System of Support” (MTSS) based on the findings of Dr. Bruce Perry to serve their students and families. After five years of working to build the MTSS and teaching resilience through trauma-informed interventions, the school has transitioned from punitive to proactive strategies through alternative suspension options. The program's next step is working with the school resource officer to track attendance, establishing additional alternative suspension programs and providing mental health resources to families. The district’s goal is to provide tools and build resilience amongst their entire community.

#### *Adobe Mountain Clinical Programs*

*Dr. Matheka, Clinical Director*

*May 5, 2022*

All youth in secure care start mental health services on day one at the [Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Adobe Mountain School](#). Youth receive a full mental health screening and participate in a 14-day intake process to identify specific areas of need. This allows for an individualized treatment plan with highly trained mental health specialists. Adobe Mountain practices trauma-informed interventions that include both weekly one-on-one and group therapy sessions. There are 12 fully trained juvenile mental health experts at Adobe Mountain that provide Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and other specialized forms of therapy that help the youth process traumatic experiences. Additionally, there are two housing units for youth dealing with substance use disorders through its partnership with the [Arizona Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program \(RSAT\)](#). Adobe Mountain also has implemented Stages of Accomplishment to assist in the rehabilitation of sexually abusive youth, as well as, offering the STAR program (Sex Trafficking Awareness and Rehabilitation) which provides support for victims of sex trafficking. Adobe Mountain’s clinic is run by two doctors who are board-certified in pediatric, adolescent, and addiction counseling. The organization’s goal is to grow the clinic into a full addiction center that is able to provide additional services and educational programs. For example, the Naloxone training and distribution program has shown to be very helpful to current Adobe youth and families. Adobe Mountain hopes to expand this program amongst others for youth dealing with substance use disorders.

*Arizona Youth Partnership of Mohave and Yavapai Counties  
Kelly Tanner, Director of Homeless Youth Services  
February 3, 2022*

The [Arizona Youth Partnership \(AZYP\)](#) delinquency prevention program initially started in 2013 under the Arizona Title II grant and focuses on homeless juveniles who are currently living in AZYP's [youth shelters](#). Currently, the program has a total of three youth shelters, two male and one female. The current Title II grant program implements the delinquency prevention model, [Mind Matters](#) designed to provide positive youth development, trauma-informed wrap-around services, positive adult connections, coping skills and extended aftercare.

*Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition  
Vicky Solomon, Executive Director  
February 3, 2022*

Located in the White Mountain region of Navajo County, the [Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition](#) focuses on building relationships with youth in multiple schools, juvenile justice centers, and faith-based centers throughout the county. The Title II delinquency prevention program currently uses two evidence-based curricula: [Botvin LifeSkills](#) and [MPOWRD](#). Botvin Lifeskills focuses on reducing substance usage and life-building skills such as self-esteem, decision-making, dealing with stress, communication skills, social skills and assertiveness. MPOWRD is an Alcohol Anonymous 12-step-based teen program that provides trauma-informed intervention practices, meaningful response to student infractions, the development of positive peer relationships and teaches repetition for behavior management.

*Yavapai County Juvenile Probation Department  
Daniel Pena, Yavapai County Bridges Assessment Center Executive Director  
December 2, 2021*

The [Yavapai County Bridges Assessment Center](#) provides a safe and stable environment for youth to have a cool-down period, participate in a needs assessment, and develop a plan of action. Eligibility includes: youth with new charges who do not qualify for detainment; youth without charges who are referred by law enforcement, behavioral health, or probation officers; or runaway youth. The Assessment Center is staffed by probation resource officers who act as liaisons to provide resources for families and aid in identifying high-risk juveniles. The facility continues to transition and implement programming that support Yavapai County youth.

*Coconino County Hope Center  
Casie Lightfoot, Coconino County Youth Probation  
Cydney Boyer, Coconino County Youth Probation  
December 2, 2021*

The [Coconino County Hope Receiving Center](#) helps deflect and divert low-risk youth from the juvenile justice system. This program provides families with supportive services, connects youth to sustainable community resources and reduces barriers to services. The program addresses the following problem statements by applying the Kids at Hope philosophy to all kids and families entering the Coconino County juvenile justice system: low-risk youth are penetrating deeper into the formal system, there is an over-representation of minority youth at each decision point of the juvenile justice system, families experiencing barriers to enrolling in meaningful services (social determinants of health), a lack of resources for our school partners regarding behavioral issues. Any youth and their family who reside in Coconino County are eligible for the program with no formal referral required. Youth are provided with a variety of services while in care and are partnered with resources after their stay including mentoring groups, outside counseling, environmental education and on-the-job training.

*Apache County Hope Center*  
*Honorable Michael Latham, Apache County Superior Court*  
*Paul Hancock, Juvenile Court Services Director*  
*December 2, 2021*

When Michael Latham became judge of [Apache County Superior Court](#) in 2014, one of his priorities was to reinvent the county's underutilized youth detention facility. The Loft Teen Center was established in 2017 in St. Johns, Arizona, followed by the establishment of the Lodge Teen in Round Valley, Arizona shortly after. Both [centers](#) focus on proactive engagement models including coordinating with local high schools, increasing access to community college resources and providing incentives for self-paced learning. Teens are provided 23-hour respite care, stabilization and additional assessments as needed. Since the centers have opened, Apache County has seen a 50% decrease in juvenile arrests.

*Pima County Juvenile Court*  
*Tina Mattison, Deputy Court Administrator*  
*December 2, 2021*

The [Pima County Juvenile Court Center \(PCJCC\)](#) created the [Alternative Community Engagement Services \(ACES\) Center](#), a delinquency prevention and community-based intervention program that serves youth that are involved in the juvenile justice court system and would otherwise be detained. Juvenile cases in Pima County have dropped significantly since 2017 when the center opened. The center's goal is to divert youth before they enter the formal criminal justice system by providing resources such as, respite care, screenings to assess individual needs, success planning, food, clothing, transportation, recreation areas, case management, and caregiver support.

*Annual Interstate Compact for Juveniles*  
*Howard Wykes, Deputy Parole Administrator*  
*September 2, 2021*

[Arizona Revised Statute §8-363](#) charges the [Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections \(ADJC\)](#) with the oversight and administration of the [Interstate Compact for Juvenile \(ICJ\)](#) in the state of Arizona. ICJ has the responsibility for promoting public safety, ensuring juveniles safety, and protecting victims through control and the regulation of juveniles interstate movement. Compacting states are required to provide the same care and supervision for ICJ youth as it provides to their own youth. In Arizona, those standards mean youth from other states are provided excellent supervision. Arizona continues to receive a far greater number of probation and parole cases than it transfers to other states. In Arizona's 2020 Fiscal Year (FY), 139 ICJ youth were supervised within the state and 99 Arizona youth were supervised by other states. More recently, in FY 2021, 76 ICJ youth were served within the state, while only 63 youth were sent to other states for supervision. As of August 2022, Arizona is supervising 68 incoming ICJ youth from other states and 53 Arizona youth are being supervised in other states. In addition to adjudicated juveniles, the office provides the safe return of youth who have runaway and/or have fled to avoid prosecution. In FY 2020, Arizona returned 25 youth from other states that were either runaways or absconders.

*Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona*  
*Gayla Jensen, Trauma-Informed Care Practitioner*  
*September 2, 2021*

The Title II Empower Mesa Project through the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona provided training sessions to caregivers/parents and mentors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic via webinars. Topics included: Parenting through Trauma, Ways to Boost Your Child's Brain, How to Help Youth Build Resilience, Coping Skills, and Ways to Help Boost Youth Littles' Brain Power. Mentees who participated in the Empower Mesa Project were provided self-care toolkits that included a drawstring backpack, a journal, play-doh, crayons, stress balls and a mindfulness workbook for youth. All Big Brothers Big Sisters Staff received trauma-informed care training and receive ongoing training throughout their tenure.

*Improving Chandler Area Neighborhoods*  
*Melissa Kawalski, Chief Program Officer*  
*September 2, 2021*

[Improving Chandler Area Neighborhoods \(ICAN\)](#)'s mission is to provide free, comprehensive programs that empower youth to be productive, self-confident, and responsible members of the community. ICAN's Strengthening Family Units Program exposes youth to uninterrupted time with their parents in order to strengthen relationships. The S.T.E.A.M. program promotes academic success and problem-solving skills while exposing students to different career activities. The organization also partners with Chandler Unified School District to provide youth with a daily meal. All of ICAN's programs are evaluated and data is reported through the Title II quarterly reports.

*Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona*  
*Maria Dadgar, Executive Director*  
*May 6, 2021*

Established in 1952 to provide a united voice for tribal governments located in the State of Arizona to address common issues of concerns, the [Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona \(ITCA\)](#) is one of the oldest tribal councils in the United States. 21 of the 22 federally recognized tribes in Arizona are members of the ITCA with the exclusion of Navajo Nation due to its large size; however, the ITCA maintains a strong relationship with the nation. The ITCA Board of Directors is made up of the highest ranking officials from each tribe and operates 54 federal grants within three major subject areas: health, research and environmental quality. The ITCA operates a [WIC program](#) that serves 10,000 children per month and manages an [Arizona Area Agency on Aging site](#) for approximately 3,000 seniors. Tribal Leaders often depend on ITCA staff, who are subject-matter experts, for support on various issues so that leadership is adequately informed to address matters that impact their community.

*Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Youth Exit Survey*  
*Dr. Deborah Jones, Continuous Improvement Bureau Chief*  
*Chris Barnes, Research and Statistical Analyst II*  
*March 18, 2021*

The [Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Youth Exit Survey \(YES\)](#) was created in 2006 with the first results collected in 2007. The survey is voluntary, anonymous, provided in English and Spanish, able to complete in approximately 10 minutes and is completed online using a link provided by the juvenile's caseworker. YES is utilized as a method for evaluating the internal department operations from the perception of the population served. Results provide valuable input that is used to inform the agency on performance to improve various programming strategies and increase positive outcomes. The survey focuses on several areas including safety, medical services, clinical services, prosocial activities, and community transition. Results from the most recent survey showed that from responses, the various areas assessed were rated as overwhelmingly positive, ranging between 71.8%-94.6% favorability. A comments section allows participants to express in their own words additional matters regarding their stay at Adobe Mountain School. Input from this section is a useful way to highlight staff who made a significant impact on the youth's progress and may also be included in the agency newsletter.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AGENCY UPDATES

The Commission also received updates from state agencies on their efforts to support best practices for reducing juvenile crime and increasing public safety in Arizona. Presenters included:

*Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Response to COVID-19*  
*Douglas Sargent, Director*

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) holds an average of 130-140 youth in their secure facility at all times while also serving approximately 100 youth living in the surrounding community. Through a partnership with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), the ADJC was able to

manage the COVID-19 pandemic within the secure care facility. With the consent of the parent/legal guardian, ADJC is able to provide on-site vaccination services for the youth in their care as well as for the Adobe Mountain School staff. A total of 162 youth and 211 staff tested positive for COVID-19 over the two-year period. Despite facing all of these positive cases; Adobe Mountain School was still able to provide the necessary services for the youth in secure care. One of the ways that they were able to respond so quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic was the updated [2019 Business Continuity Emergency Plan](#) that focuses on the Emergency Operations Center implementation which consisted of members from human resources (HR) leadership, the Inspector General, the communication team, the financial department, and social work departments working alongside school leadership. The team was responsible for overseeing the different protocols and processes that were put into place as safeguards to protect the youth and staff during the pandemic and included such things as contact tracing and setting up different housing for COVID-19 positive youth to quarantine. This plan ensured that there was enough school staff available to provide the necessary services while following federal staffing regulations. Through this operation center, Adobe Mountain School was also able to set up multiple safeguards that allowed for increased COVID-19 protection, including health screenings at the entrance of Adobe Mountain School, increased sanitation, biweekly intakes versus weekly, different types of testing, acquiring personal protective equipment (PPE) and designating medical housing units for quarantining youth. The HR team also did daily health check-up phone calls for employees that were out with COVID-19, resulting in positive feedback from sick staff members. Adobe Mountain School was also able to contract with medical assistants to help with routine health checkups and COVID-19 testing. Another method utilized to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 was suspending in-person youth, mentor and volunteer visits, moving them all to a virtual format. Adobe Mountain School continued educational programming through mixed school schedules and one-on-one tutoring sessions but did suspend its work training programs. Since the CDC's lifted restrictions, Adobe Mountain School has been able to reopen in-person visitation, the sports program, trade work programs, and allow meals in the dining hall.

*Arizona Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Services Division Strategic Plan  
Steve Selover, Budgets and Program Manager*

The Arizona Judicial Branch's Strategic Agenda for the Court is a [five-year plan](#) that sets goals for the Arizona judicial system, with a focus on protecting children, families and communities. With this focus in mind, the court has shifted its programs to expand mental health and substance abuse prevention resources. The model used to look at recidivism is based on risk, need and responsibility. It is the responsibility portion that has a direct impact and provides services to counteract any negative influences. The department also has many state and federal partners that are helping provide the necessary resources for programs connected to the Strategic Agenda. The court's goals from the Strategic Agenda moving forward include: revamping the Probation Officer Certificate Academy to highlight juvenile-specific issues, a new solicitation of contracts to give the opportunity for additional programs and ongoing system updates for the JOLTS data program so it is most accessible.

A complete summary of meeting presentations can be found on the [Commission's website](#).

## TITLE II FORMULA GRANT ACTIVITIES

The **Arizona Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Grant** is authorized under federal funds through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula Grant and administered by the [U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(OJJDP\)](#). By statute, the awards are disbursed as follows: tribal communities, local units of government, and non-profit organizations.

The Title II Formula subgrantees seek to prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce rates of recidivism. During the 12-month grant cycle, awardees from urban and rural communities are encouraged to support and implement comprehensive, community-based programming to improve outcomes for the state's at-risk and delinquent youth and their families.

In FY 2022 the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) awarded approximately **\$950,000** in funding to **10** organizations working to prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce rates of recidivism. These programs are as follows:

1. [Arizona Youth Partnership](#) - The Mohave County Solutions of Success Program is a multi-faceted delinquency prevention program that targets youth ages 12-17 in Mohave and Yavapai Counties. The program serves approximately 150 status offenders or delinquent youth yearly who complete the Mind Matters, Overcoming Adversity, and Building Resilience (MM) curriculum in their school settings. Additionally, 65 youth will complete intensive case management and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to address recidivism, increase awareness of substance abuse, and increase school attendance in three shelters.
2. [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona](#) - The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona has delivered the EMPOWER Mesa 2.0 program to 75 high-risk Mesa youth (ages 6-18) and continue to target youth who have parents or guardians currently or formerly incarcerated, those who have close associations with incarcerated individuals (i.e. immediate family members) and those who are at risk of being incarcerated (i.e. living in areas with high rates of incarceration). There are 19 zip codes in Mesa with recruitment efforts focusing on the six zip codes with the highest crime rates.
3. [Chicanos Por La Causa](#) - Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) has implemented the [Nahui Ollin Wellness Program \(NOWP\)](#) to better connect with the local community, including the Pascua Yaqui nation. The program utilizes Positive Action (PA), an evidence-based prevention program designed to reduce or prevent substance abuse and antisocial behaviors among youth to improve youth academics, behavior, and character. Through the use of the PA curriculum, the program addresses various problems such as substance use, violence-related behavior, disruptive behavior and bullying for youth residing in the town of Guadalupe, Arizona.. Additionally, youth engage in social-emotional learning, positive youth development, character, and academics. The program's experience in youth prevention ensures a solid foundation from which to deliver and sustain the PA curriculum and skill-building programming in the town of Guadalupe to a minimum of 60 youth annually.
4. [Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition](#) - Navajo County's substance abuse coalition, Nexus Coalition for Drug Prevention (Nexus), mission is: "A community alliance working toward a healthy, substance-free environment for youth." Their Title II grant project, "Improving Outcomes for At-Risk and Delinquent Youth in Navajo County," will directly serve 220 youth, educate 180 adults and indirectly serve 30,000 community members. The three program goals are to: expand trauma-informed care education in Northern Navajo County to community members, parents, caregivers and guardians; increase youth resilience and reduce toxic stress for students and justice-involved youth; increase awareness of trauma-informed care approaches within the community through outreach activities.
5. [Improving Chandler Area Neighborhoods](#) - Improving Chandler Area Neighborhoods (ICAN) targets children and teens living in Chandler neighborhoods and addresses the delinquency prevention priority areas specific to programs that focus on early involvement in antisocial or delinquent activity, youth involvement with peers who exhibit high-risk behavior and social and emotional competence in youth. The project seeks to address these risks and build protective factors with the program's interventions encompassing a prevention focus. ICAN will deliver prevention-focused, curriculum-based services to youth outside of school hours, as well as during the school day at select schools.

6. [New Pathways for Youth, Inc.](#) - New Pathways for Youth will identify, enroll, and engage first-time participants in the [Holistic Youth Transformation Program](#). The overarching goals for this program are to: decrease risk factors associated with delinquent behaviors by providing youth with the involvement of a supportive adult and increase protective factors associated with a decrease in at-risk behaviors by providing youth with social and emotional learning opportunities in a cohort setting.
7. [notMYkid, Inc.](#) - notMYkid's mission is to empower and educate youth, families and communities with the knowledge and courage to identify and prevent negative youth behavior with a focus on bringing substance use disorder treatment services to at-risk youth in Bullhead City, Kingman, and Lake Havasu City . Their [\[i\]nspired: Hope and Healing for Youth](#) program focuses on at-risk and delinquent youth who are referred by schools, probation officers and the juvenile justice system, and centers on emerging drug and alcohol use disorders in youth through a three-tiered approach of early intervention, peer support and intensive outpatient substance use disorder group therapy. The program leads with a strength-based approach that is grounded in the belief that recovery is shaped by caring adults, healthy connections, family support, access to care and comprehensive programs that focus on the social and emotional well-being of the youth. Services will extend to parents/caregivers, schools, youth-serving organizations, and the healthcare community to raise awareness about the root causes of substance use disorders and solutions that embrace the idea that treatment works and recovery is possible.
8. [Pima County Juvenile Court Center](#) - The Pima County Juvenile Court Center (PCJCC) created the Evening Reporting Center (ERC), a delinquency prevention and community-based intervention program to serve youth who are court involved. The program serves youth 8-17 years of age referred to the court for delinquent behaviors related to family conflict and other behavior-related risk factors including mental health, substance abuse and trauma. The goal is to utilize probation best practices to provide programs and services to justice-involved youth to reduce criminogenic risk, increase protective factors and reduce recidivism.
9. [Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc.](#) - The Amado Youth Center Program (AYCP) will serve youth and parents/caregivers living in the rural Amado area. The AYCP will implement the evidence-based Botvin Life Skills Training Program designed to prevent youth substance use, specifically marijuana, vaping and underage drinking by building life skills, promoting resiliency, addressing trauma and reducing stress among program participants. Substance use and substance use disorder is often a symptom of many underlying issues. The target population in Amado deals with many risk factors that are known to be associated with substance use, substance use disorder and other delinquent behaviors.
10. [Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.](#) - Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP)'s Alternatives to Detention Program for Yavapai County provides detention alternative services with the overall goals of helping youth remain or return safely home with their families, supported by their communities, as well as supporting families in developing skills, competencies and pro-social connections needed for long-term stability. YAP is experienced in providing services for at-risk/high-risk Yavapai County youth involved in the juvenile justice system, including dual-system involved youth, youth on probation, and/or youth transitioning back home after being in an out-of-home placement. The organization's evidence and community-based service model, [Wraparound Advocacy Model](#), is the foundation of their services and is highly individualized to each family with services vary depending on individual needs. YAP programs also include 24/7 crisis intervention support, active family engagement with a Parent Advocate, culturally responsive services and trauma-informed care. The program is enhanced by additional strategies and interventions, including weekly Recovery Connecting Circles for youth and families with substance use issues and skill-building classes. Program participants have the opportunity to engage in group interventions dependent on identified

needs. YAP maintains a “No Reject-No Eject” policy and all youth in the target population will be served as capacity allows, including youth with multiple risk factors and intensive needs.

A complete summary of Title II activities can be found on the [Title II Grant's webpage](#).

## THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT COMPLIANCE

### BACKGROUND

In 1974, Congress enacted the [Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act \(JJDP\)](#) to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve juvenile justice systems. The JJDP is designed to improve juvenile justice systems through federal direction, coordination and resources. The Juvenile Justice Reform Act was passed and signed into law in December 2018, reauthorizing the JJDP for the first time since 2002. The updated legislation contained the following core requirements:

- Section 223(a)(11)(A) | Deinstitutionalization of Status and Non-offenders (DSO) – Prohibits the placement of status offenders, non-offenders, and juveniles who are unauthorized for their illegal status in secure detention or correctional facilities (minus certain exceptions).
- Section 223(a)(11)(B) | Removal of Juveniles Charged as Adults and Detained in Adult Facilities – Prohibits juveniles charged as adults from being confined in facilities for adults unless a court finds, in writing, that it is in the interest of justice to do so.
- Section 223(a)(12) | Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates – Prohibits sight or sound contact between juvenile and adult inmates from occurring.
- Section 223(a)(13) | Removal of Juveniles from Jails and Lockups for Adults – Prohibits the detention or confinement of juveniles in jails or lockups for adults (minus certain exceptions).
- Section 223(a)(15) | Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) – States must address the overrepresentation of youth of color who come into contact with the juvenile justice system to ensure all ethnic groups are treated equally without bias.

The Arizona Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) is the Designated State Agency (DSA) to monitor compliance with these core requirements in Arizona. Working in conjunction with the Commission and other juvenile justice system agencies, GOYFF provides the leadership necessary to coordinate the JJDP and support juvenile justice efforts. Arizona’s level of compliance with each of the core requirements determines whether the state will be eligible to receive Title II Formula Grants Program funds. Once the state is found to comply with the core requirements, this funding is used to support broad-based delinquency prevention and early intervention programs.

During the past several years, Arizona has made great strides in reducing the number of compliance violations. This is in large part due to an intentional revision of practices by local law enforcement and juvenile courts to minimize the number of low-risk youth incarcerated for non-criminal offenses. The integration of screening in all counties has, by and large, diverted status offenders from detention and cohabitation with high-risk youth to community services that address the root causes of incorrigible behaviors.

Further, Arizona has revamped guidance to law enforcement agencies by creating and distributing a Quick-Guide Poster. The poster depicts a crosswalk of federal regulations, Arizona statutes and best practices as it relates to the core requirements of JJDP. This guide serves as a tool to help avoid violations throughout Arizona facilities. Additionally, Arizona has effectively integrated new regulations from the JJDP’s 2018 reauthorization in the [Arizona’s Compliance Monitoring Policy and Procedures Manual](#), which is utilized by the the Compliance Monitor when conducting statewide audits of facilities that may detain juveniles to ensure compliance with the JJDP core requirements. These efforts continue

to show Arizona's commitment to consistently maintaining in full compliance of all four requirements across the state.

## COMPLIANCE REPORT

In June 2022, the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2021 Arizona compliance report was submitted to OJJDP. Although full compliance was not met with the Jail Removal Requirement, Arizona was found to be in compliance with the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) and Sight or Sound Separation requirement. In addition, Arizona was found to comply with the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) requirement based on the state annual R/D Report issued by GOYFF.

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)**  
The state of Arizona achieved compliance with the DSO requirement, earning a rate of 0.14 per 100,000 juveniles detained in secure residential facilities.
- **Separation of Detained Juveniles from Adult Inmates**  
The state of Arizona achieved full compliance with the separation requirement, earning a rate of 0.0 per 100,000 juveniles who were not sight and sound separated from adult inmates while detained in a secure facility.
- **Removing Juveniles from Jails and Lockups**  
The state of Arizona achieved compliance of the jail removal requirement, earning a rate of 1.68 per 100,000 juveniles detained in jail and lockup facilities.
- **Reduction of Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED)**  
Arizona continues to see a reduction in the disparities for youth of color in detention facilities.

## COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Arizona's level of compliance with each of the core requirements determines eligibility for continued participation in the Title II Formula Grant Program. When core requirements are met, funding is used to support broad-based delinquency prevention and early intervention programs. For these reasons, the Commission recommends the following for the governor's consideration:

- Utilize evidence-based practices in juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment services to improve outcomes for youth and reduce rates of recidivism.
- Support programs and services that incorporate trauma-informed approaches.
- Eliminate detention for status and other low-risk offenders to the greatest extent possible in favor of community-based services in order to minimize trauma.
- Continue to maintain strong partnerships with law enforcement agencies to maintain compliance with the JJDPA.
- Support county-wide efforts to implement alternatives to detention for status and low-risk offenders that address the needs of youth and families, and prevent future delinquency.
- Seek opportunities to include youth and family input when creating or modifying justice-related policy and developing systems-improvement initiatives.

- Proactively build and maintain partnerships with tribal communities to address the needs of Native American at-risk and justice-involved youth.
- Monitor ongoing interventions to determine whether they indirectly increase justice-involvement disparities for Arizona youth of color.