



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Washington, D.C. 20531

**JUL 20 2007**

To: Regina B. Schofield  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Justice Programs

From: *RBF* J. Robert Flores  
Administrator  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Date: July 17, 2007

Re: FY07 National Programs Award Recommendations

## OVERVIEW

OJJDP received 104 applications under the *FY07 National Juvenile Justice Programs Solicitation*. This solicitation provided applicants the opportunity to apply under three primary categories related to juvenile justice. These categories as stated in the solicitation include: 1) Building Protective Factors to Combat Juvenile Delinquency; 2) Reducing Child Victimization; and, 3) Improving the Juvenile Justice System. In the OJJDP Administrator's recommendation of awards listed below, the OJJDP identifies his primary priority areas included under these categories as the justification for the listed grant applications. The total amount of funding available to award under this solicitation is \$8,650,000.

## THE REVIEW PROCESS

OJJDP conducted an internal peer review, which included OJJDP career staff, of all 104 applications received under the FY07 National Juvenile Justice Programs Solicitations. Peer reviewers were assigned to a peer review panel. There were total of 13 peer review panels, and each panel included two peer reviewers who were paired up. Their individual scores were averaged together. Scores for all 104 applications ranged from 98% - 0%.

The OJJDP Administrator selected applications from the top 20%. The OJJDP Administrator made this selection based on the combination of peer review scores and peer review panel placement.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Category 1: Building Protective Factors to Combat Juvenile Delinquency

These include national scope programs to combat juvenile delinquency by addressing risk factors and supporting positive youth development. The OJJDP Administrator's two primary priority areas under this category include: 1) Implementation of best practices for the juvenile court system; and 2) Prevention/Intervention directed at high risk youth.

#### Training and Technical Assistance for the Juvenile Court System:

Implementation of best practices requires a well trained professional staff within the juvenile justice system, especially where cross-disciplinary work must be done. Given the great amount of turnover among juvenile justice professional staff, it is important to support cost-effective methods to deliver quality instruction and increase professional development. Accordingly, the following award(s) will be made:

1. **GMS number, 2007-52108-MD-JL, NCJFCJ/Nat Juvenile Court Services Association.** \$97,900/1 year (score 95%). Will develop professionally-oriented alternative online training and certification programs for juvenile justice supervisors based on the "core competencies." This application received the highest score under this priority area.

Prevention/Intervention Directed and High Risk Youth through Positive Youth Development Methods/Practices. Under this priority area, the OJJDP Administrator used the following criteria in the selection of applications with a national focus on: 1) *utilizing mentoring outreach efforts directed at Latino high-risk youth*; 2) *utilizing sports-based outreach efforts directed at high-risk youth*; and 3) *utilizing school-based outreach efforts directed at preventing high-risk activity (out-of-wedlock pregnancy).*

*Utilizing mentoring outreach efforts directed at Latino at-risk youth.* In recent years, the need to direct efforts to Hispanic youth has become more evident in efforts to reducing disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system and rise of Hispanic gangs. Reducing disproportionate minority contact is a statutory mandate and a priority of OJJDP. Anti-gang efforts are an Attorney General priority.

Many successful programs that are directed at high-risk youth tend to lack capacity, have not formalized their processes, and are difficult to replicate due to their lack of documentation. Continued efforts to build promising programs and best practices in the area of delinquency prevention, safety, and combating negative influences on children must be made. Accordingly, the following award(s) will be made:

1. **GMS number, 2007-51708-CA-JL, Latino Coalition for Faith & Community Initiatives.** \$1,200,000 million/3 years (score 89.5%). This applicant will address the need to build capacity in the Latino community through faith and community organizations to address the needs of Latino children through mentoring and other positive youth development initiatives. Using practical and effective approaches positive youth development opportunities will be provided to Latino youth, family strengthening will be taught, alternatives to gang involvement will be offered, and the "Reclaiming our Futures," program will be prepared for national replication. This program meets the Administrator's established priority of moving sound programming that directly benefits children to a best practices or promising practice level for future use by communities in need of such programming. This application has the highest score that met the criteria under the Administrator's priority area.
2. **GMS number, 2007-51041-OR-JL, Victory Outreach Special Services.** 1,200,000/3 years (score 84%). This program would provide direct services to Hispanic boys at high-risk of delinquency in multiple areas, including family, school, peers, and community and neighborhood factors. There is a lack of programming that addresses the specific needs of Hispanic boys that this effort will improve. Additionally, as a 5 year program, it will address the need to provide programs to boys in eighth grade, a time when boys are at greater risk of joining or being victimized by gangs. This application has the highest score that met the criteria under the Administrator's priority area. This application has the second highest score that met the criteria under Administrator's priority area.
3. **GMS number, 2007-51423-DC-JL, Aspira Association.** 1,200,000/3 years (score 83%). Nationally based organization dedication to the education and development of Latino youth; program will focus on schools in low-income, inner city Latino communities and expand existing model of mentoring and parental engagement as a tool for combating juvenile delinquency. This application has the third highest score that met the criteria under Administrator's priority area.

*Utilizing sports-based outreach efforts directed at high-risk youth.* Using sports as a method of outreach to high-risk youth for delinquency provides a means of engaging and attracting youth to an area of popular interest to kids.

1. **GMS number, 2007-51213-FL-JL, World Golf Foundation, Inc.,** 500,000/year (score 82%) Sports programming continues to be a popular method of engaging youth in positive youth development. This applicant has made changes to its program to focus on increasingly higher risk children that have few positive activities to compete with gang recruitment, encourage school attendance or participation, and teach prosocial skills. Additionally, this program works to build a national teaching corp of volunteers which improves outcomes and supports sustainability since the teaching certificate takes at least two and often three years. This program has grown from

140,000 children in 2003, to 264, 000 children in 2006. This application has the highest score that met the criteria under the administrator's priority area.

*Utilizing school-based outreach efforts directed at preventing high-risk activity (out-of-wedlock pregnancy). Out-of-wedlock teenage births pose as one of the highest risk factors for girls to become a delinquent juvenile.*

**1. GMS number, 2007-516-79-DC-JL, Best Friends Foundation 1,124,000/3years (score 79.5%).** Programs directed at teaching girls how to identify and resist high risk activities are limited and do not directly address abstinence. This program works directly with girls through a school based curriculum that encourages school performance and attachment, a strong protective factor. Best Friends has also added a boys program and together they also work to address gang activity in the schools, an AG priority. This direct service program that is present in Houston, Martinsville, San Diego, Pittsburgh, Hempstead. This application has the highest score that met the criteria under the administrator's priority area.

### **Category 2: Reducing Child Victimization**

This Category supports national scope programs that reduce child victimization. OJJDP Administrator's primary priority area under this category is addressing internet safety, that includes providing parental and community education on how to protect children from being victims of on-line predators.

- 1. GMS number, 2007-51685-VA-JL, Enough is Enough, 750,000/3 years (score 87.5%).** This program addresses OJJDP's need to work on the prevention of child victimization facilitated by computer as it continues to expand the investigative and prosecution efforts through the AG's Project Safe Childhood Initiative. This applicant has a national reach, Internet industry partners, programs and education for parents, and makes presentations to multiple audiences, from parents, students, and faith based and community organizations. This application received the highest score under this priority area.

### **Category 3: Improving the Juvenile Justice System**

This category supports national scope programs that improve the juvenile justice system. The OJJDP Administrator is statutorily tasked with improving the coordination between the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system. Historically, these systems have not always collaborated and information from one system has been difficult to transport into the other. Best practices in this area are limited and efforts to develop promising techniques are necessary to provide models that would be applicable nationwide. Therefore, The OJJDP Administrator's primary priority areas under this category includes: 1) Multi-sector used Data; 2) Ensure Safe

and Appropriate Conditions of confinement; and, 3) Targeted Efforts Directed Toward Foster Care Youth (who are among most vulnerable youth touched by the Juvenile Justice System).

Multi-sector used Data:

OJJDP has a statutory mission to collect and disseminate data and statistics that inform the field about juvenile justice trends, program efficacy, and conditions of confinement. In many states, the best data concerning system involved youth belongs to the juvenile courts. This data is useful to a broad array of juvenile justice professionals and because the court records contain information from other systems provides a better picture in many areas than information from a single other source. Accordingly, the following award(s) will be made:

1. **GMS number 2007-50987-NV-JL, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.** \$570,000/1 year (score 91.5%). The National Juvenile Court Data Archive project proposes to continue its long-term data development, collection and synthesis efforts. As an information clearinghouse the project will continue to respond to requests from Federal, State, and local agencies, the media, researchers and the public for information and statistics on the activities of juvenile courts and other elements of the juvenile justice system. This grantee was the highest scoring applicant proposing to collect and disseminate such multi-sector data and information.

Ensure Safe and Appropriate Conditions of confinement:

The principal and most specific responsibility for OJJDP remains assuring the continued improvement of conditions of confinement for juveniles in the system to assure that detention does not undermine rehabilitation or constitute undue punishment. OJJDP has pioneered the development of a system of measures and training for detention staff and management that has led to significant cost savings, improved safety for both children and guards, and better outcomes for programs conducted within the institution. This investment has been substantial and continues to pay significant benefits to the field generally and detention facilities that use this program, in particular. Accordingly, to assist in the continued use of the program and build sustainability without continued federal government funding and award will be made to:

1. **GMS number, 2007-51070-MA-JL, Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, Inc.,** 1.5 million dollars/3 years (score 94%). Will work with state correctional leaders, facility managers and staff as well as juvenile justice partner organizations to continue to expand Performance Based Standards (PbS) participation to all correctional and detention facilities nationwide. This application is the only and highest scoring juvenile corrections operations and management program within this solicitation.

Targeted Efforts Toward Foster Care Youth (among the most vulnerable who come in contact with the Juvenile Justice System):

This priority area focuses on the need to address foster care youth, who are among the most vulnerable juveniles who come in contact with the juvenile justice system. Research has shown that a significant percentage of incarcerated individuals have a history of living in foster care homes. There is a need in the juvenile justice system to reach out to foster care youth and help them to successfully transition into adulthood, and thereby, decreasing the chances of these youth engaging in criminal activity.

1. GMS number, 2007-51603-NY-JL, Fund for the City of New York/Center for Court Innovation. \$509,000/ 4 years (score 85%). Program will improve outcomes for youth who are leaving foster care due to reaching the age of maturity by implementing Passport to Adulthood, a guide and toolkit for judges published in April 2007. The Center for Court Innovation will work with the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, in a minimum of five national sites in multiple states and NCJFCJ to apply the Passport methodology in 30-40 percent of adolescent caseloads in participating jurisdictions. This application was the highest rated submission addressing the integration of the dependency and delinquency court systems.

**SUMMARY**

OJJDP recommends you approve 10 applications totaling \$8,650,900 for funding.

APPROVED:

DISAPPROVED

  
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Regina B. Schofield  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Justice Programs

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Attachment

CC: Michele DeKonty, OJJDP  
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