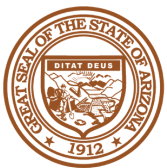


Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission

Biennial Report



2019-2020

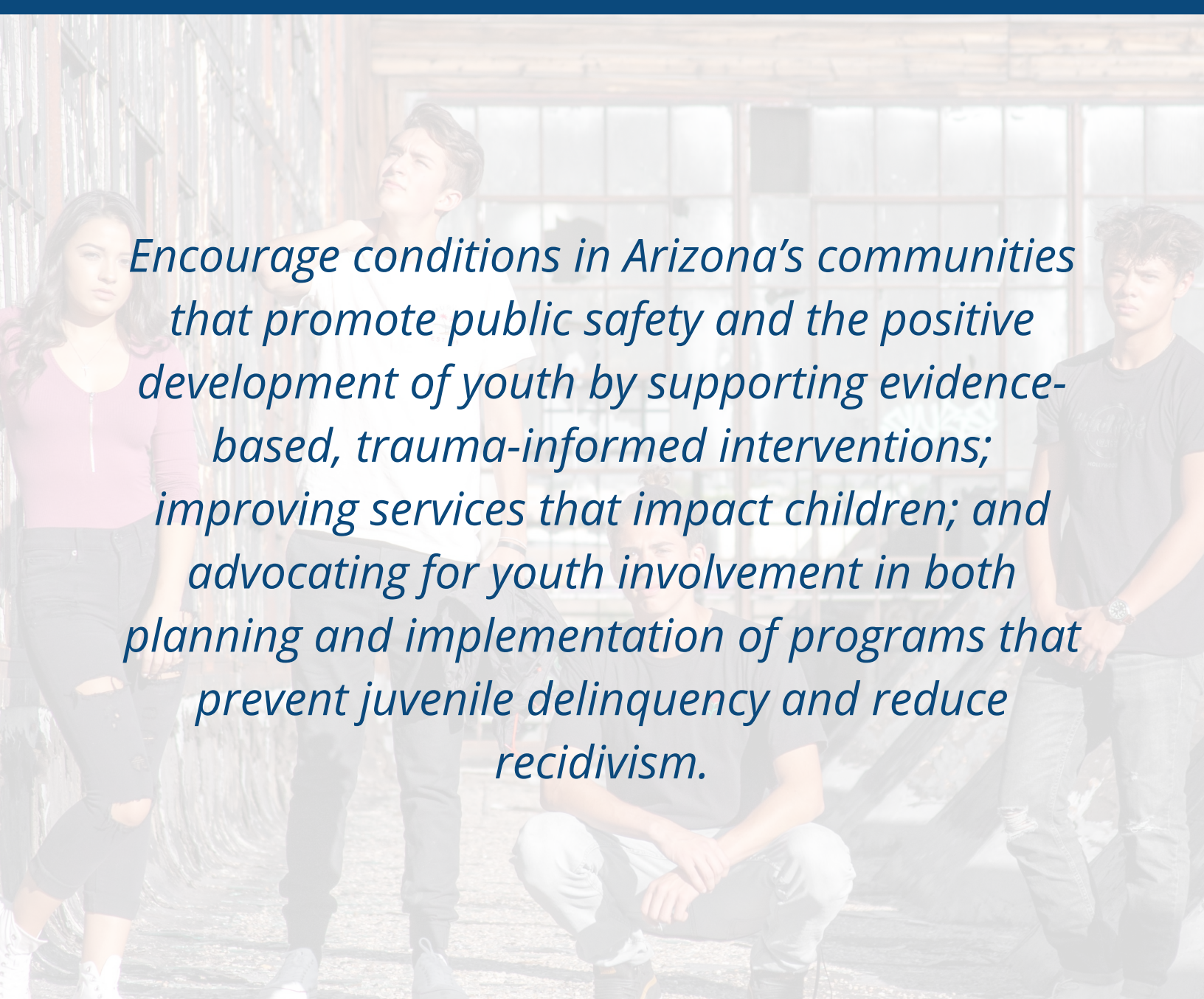


The Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family

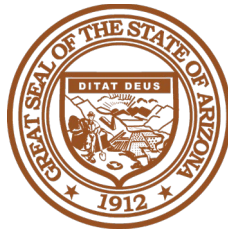


JuvenileJustice.AZ.gov

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.



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

MARIA CRISTINA FUENTES
DIRECTOR

December 30, 2020

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 2020 Biennial Report.

The previous two years have proved to be an extraordinary time of reform in the area of juvenile justice, and Arizona has seen some very exciting trends and initiatives. The state continues to see a significant decline in the number of juvenile referrals to the system and the number of youth in secure care. With the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) in 2018, we continue to support best practices for reducing juvenile crime and increasing public safety. During this time of implementing common-sense efforts to reduce recidivism rates, Arizona continues to be in compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP A, which include: deinstitutionalization of status offenders; removal of juveniles from adult jails; separation of juveniles from adult inmates; and reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Arizona's progress can be attributed to collaboration and exceptional leadership from the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission, the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. The Commission continues to work closely with both of these agencies and has participated in meaningful initiatives, such as the Title II Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention grant that funded 10 programs in rural, urban and tribal communities that provide prosocial behavior services and teach substance-abuse resistance skills. The Commission also led the effort to revise the Arizona Information Sharing Guide, which provides guidance to youth-serving agency practitioners to inform what information can be shared between agencies and individuals. In turn this document impacts services delivery for thousands of children in our state.

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

Sincerely,

Cindi Nannetti, Chair

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBERSHIP	1
AJJC PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE	2
WORKGROUPS	3
2019-2020 GOALS	3
2019-2020 AJJC ACTIVITIES	4
Title II Formula Grant	
Title II Funded Programs	
COMPLIANCE WITH THE JJDP ACT	7
Background	
JJDP Compliance Report	
AJJC RECOMMENDATIONS	8

MEMBERSHIP

Cindi Nannetti, Chair

Maricopa County Superior Court

Alice Bustillo (Retired)

Maricopa County Superior Court

Hon. Heather Carter

Arizona State Senate

Tracy Darmody

Ak-Chin Indian Community

Guadalupe Durazo

Student - Arizona State University

Mindy Flannery

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Institute of Tucson

Jose Gonzales

Step Up Arizona

Jeff Hood

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Joseph Kelroy

Administrative Office of the Courts

Earl Newton

Hood2Hood United

Dennis Pickering (Retired)

Intellimed

Shaun Rieve

Veridus

Donald Walker

Fellowship Square–Mesa

Tom Callahan

Arizona Department of Administration

Shawn Cox

Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Maria Dodge

Maricopa County Office of Public Advocate

Mike Faust

Arizona Department of Child Safety

Helen Gándara

Scottsdale Police Department

Joseph Grossman

Arizona Department of Corrections

Jane Kallal

Family Involvement Center

James Molina

Step Up Arizona

Vada Phelps

Arizona@Work

Nicole Schuren

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

Robert Thomas (Retired)

United States Probation, District of Arizona

Dorothy Wodraska (Retired)

Maricopa County Education Service Agency

AJJC PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

The Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) has a long history of service. On February 11, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey signed Executive Order 2020-06 to continue the AJJC under the direction of the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act by Congress and signed by President Trump on December 21, 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 supporting effective programming and system-wide improvements to address delinquency in Arizona. To facilitate this vision, the Commission works to align, leverage and coordinate public and private community resources to solve challenges faced by our state's vulnerable children and families.

The AJJC consists of 27 members appointed by the Governor. These members have expertise, experience, and special knowledge concerning the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency, the administration of juvenile justice and child welfare systems. The Commission includes representation from juvenile justice agencies, child welfare agencies, private nonprofit organizations, locally-elected officials, as well as volunteers and youth.

The Commission is tasked with the following duties:

- Serve in an advisory capacity over the duties for which it was established as outlined in the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974, as amended. This includes efforts to monitor for compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP and ensure that Arizona has an adequate system in place to monitor jails, lockups, detention, correctional facilities, and non-secure facilities for compliance with federal regulations for the secure holding of juveniles.
- Assist in the development of the state's Three-Year Plan and associated updates and funding recommendations for the implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Title II Formula Grant program.
- Serve as the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision as required by A.R.S. 8-368, Art. IX, the Interstate Compact for Juveniles ("Compact"), signed by Arizona in 2003 and effective in 2008.
- Advise the Governor on those matters relating to the improvement of the juvenile justice system.
- Address the linkage between the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system and support efforts to improve interagency coordinated service delivery, and sharing of data relating to youth involved in both systems.
- Advocate for alternatives to juvenile detention, corrections system improvements, and re-entry efforts that improve outcomes for all youth and families involved in Arizona's juvenile justice system, while maintaining public safety.
- Improve coordination of policy development and state and federal funding associated with the juvenile justice system and child protection efforts, particularly in the investigation of cases of child sexual and physical abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim.
- Advocate for youth engagement, encouraging the involvement of young people in both planning and implementation of projects that prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce recidivism.

AJJC WORKGROUPS

Members of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) meet four times throughout the year. Commission members also have the opportunity to serve on two standing AJJC workgroups. These groups meet regularly to address community needs and systemic challenges with the purpose of identifying best practices and providing evidence-based solutions.

AJJC Grants Workgroup

The Grants Workgroup, chaired by Dorothy “Dottie” Wodraska, assists with the pass-through of Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant funds. Disbursement of this funding is overseen by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), with support from the Commission. The members of the Workgroup help develop and review the funding solicitation, evaluate applications for funding (or review external evaluations) and inform the Commission on progress and activities of currently funded programs.

AJJC Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup

The Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Workgroup, chaired by Helen Gandara, oversees the state’s efforts in reducing disparities in the juvenile justice system on behalf of the Commission, as required by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The group assists with reporting these efforts to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention by submitting the state’s annual R/ED plan. The Workgroup reviews statewide juvenile data to assess the current status of disparities for youth of color in Arizona’s juvenile justice system. In addition, the Workgroup promotes best practice efforts to reduce disparities while maintaining public safety and bringing together a diverse representation of stakeholders to align systems and community efforts to ensure a fair and effective juvenile justice system for all.

2019-2020 AJJC GOALS

In March 2018, the Commission held a full-day retreat to work on the Arizona Three-Year Plan and develop priorities to guide Title II pass-through funding and other activities conducted by the AJJC.

Throughout the day, there was a strong emphasis on focusing AJJC efforts and resources on targeted, systematic initiatives to improve cross-system collaboration and investing resources where the greatest return existed. Thus, the number of state priorities was reduced from the previous plan and were used to develop four separate goals for 2018–2020.

The four primary goals established in the 2018 planning session included:

GOAL 1:

Implement trauma-informed juvenile delinquency prevention by supporting evidence-based interventions that meet the needs of youth through collaboration with schools and other systems that offer youth services.

GOAL 2:

Maintain compliance with the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Separation and Jail Removal core requirements of the JJDPA.

GOAL 3:

Provide statewide leadership in the state’s efforts for reducing racial and ethnic disparities and reporting this work to OJJDP as mandated by the JJDPA.

GOAL 4:

Support juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention in Arizona’s Native American communities.

An additional outcome of the planning meeting was a consensus by the group to focus future efforts by utilizing four general strategies:

Workgroups: It was decided that restructuring the AJJC Workgroups to align them with the identified priorities would allow each group to focus on one major issue.

Diverse Representation: The Commission decided to seek opportunities to ensure diverse voices are represented for greater authenticity, including the engagement of young adults, and representation from rural and tribal communities.

Data: Members expressed interest in a greater exploration of available data and how it connects to public policy. Workgroup meetings that include fewer members could dive deeper into the data to identify primary items of interest to the AJJC, such as racial and ethnic disparities.

Collaboration: To remove silos, the Commission decided to focus on increasing cross-system collaboration. Leveraging public-private partnerships was viewed as a potential strategy for bringing together more stakeholders to align common goals and objectives.

2019-2020 AJJC ACTIVITIES

Title II Formula Grant

The Title II Formula Grant program supports state and local efforts in planning, operating and evaluating projects that seek to prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system or intervene with juvenile offenders to provide services that maximize their chances of leading productive, successful lives.

Program priority areas are those in which there is a determined need based on current Arizona data. These are established by the AJJC and are in alignment with the program areas established by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). During 2019-2020, the three priorities established under Title II funding for non-profit organizations, tribal governments and local units of government are delinquency prevention, alternatives to detention, and tribal community programs.

Title II Funded Programs

In 2019 and 2020, ten programs across the state were funded with awards totaling \$796,301 annually..

Arizona Youth Partnership, Mohave County

Case management and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy are provided to low-level offenders to reduce recidivism, increase awareness of substance abuse, and increase school attendance in Kingman and Bullhead City. Life Skills programming is provided in local schools and with youth detained at the Hualapai Juvenile Detention Center in Peach Springs.

Be Awesome Youth Mentoring, Pinal County

The Be Awesome Youth school-based mentoring program serves K–12 students in the city of Maricopa to improve educational and social outcomes. Community-based mentoring is supported by the Maricopa Police Department Police Athletic League program to engage youth through sports activities.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, Maricopa County

Serves high-risk Mesa youth who have parents or guardians currently or formerly incarcerated, or who have close associations with incarcerated individuals.

Capacity Builders, Navajo Nation

Serves three schools in Navajo Nation, providing Life Skills Training curriculum to address drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention to elementary school students and prevention education to parents and relatives.

Community Bridges, Gila County

Provides an alternative to arrest diversion programming for Payson High School students charged with eligible offenses committed at school or during school events.

ICAN, Maricopa County

Prevention-focused, curriculum-based services provided to youth outside of school hours and during the school day at select schools in central Chandler. Services are designed to develop the ability to resist involvement in drug and alcohol use, improve social and emotional competencies and increase connections with positive adult relationships outside the family.

Pima County Juvenile Court Center

Provides community-based services to youth on intensive probation that address mental health, substance abuse, and trauma.

Portable, Practical Educational Preparation Services, Pima County

Life skills and substance abuse prevention programming is provided to youth ages 8 to 18 and substance use prevention education to parents in the rural community of Amado.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

The Diverting our Native Teens (DONT) program provides an 8-week diversion program that focuses on substance abuse, self-esteem, relationships, career exploration, leadership, and cultural history for at-risk youth.

Terros Health, Maricopa County

Provides LifeSkills programming to Maryvale students in grades 4-8 to develop social skills and drug-resistance skills. Parents and other family members are provided with substance abuse prevention and parenting education.

Title II 2020 Programmatic Highlights

- Updated the Arizona Information Sharing Guide, a reference manual for interagency sharing of information between professionals who work with youth involved in juvenile justice and child welfare systems.
- Funded substance abuse prevention and life skills programming in urban, rural and tribal communities across the state that served over 1,700 youth and their families.
- Supported the Pima County Juvenile Court Evening Reporting Center, a program that provides additional community supervision and intervention services to medium and high-risk youth on probation to reduce recidivism.
- Partnered with the Arizona Supreme Court to fund Racial and Ethnic Disparities training in six Arizona counties, which led to a strategic work plan created in each participating jurisdiction.
- Funded additional training opportunities for juvenile justice stakeholders.
- Provided training and technical assistance to Arizona law enforcement agencies, contributing to the state's consistent maintenance of complying with the JJDP.

- More than half of students participating in the school-based mentoring program improved their GPA by 10 percent or more.
- Less than half of youth attending the funded court program for moderate-high risk offenders re-offended twelve months after receiving services.
- Only eight percent of high school youth receiving grant-funded diversion services reoffended within six months of completing the program.
- All status offenders participating in case management and counseling services did not commit a delinquent offense after enrolling in the funded program.

Individual Success Stories

- *When everything was shut down (due to COVID-19), staff rallied to get mentors to children that were actively in crisis; isolated, out of school and experiencing family stressors.*
- *A mentee who has struggled with school was able to raise his F to a C with assistance from his mentor.*
- *The students were very interested in the Assertiveness Lessons, in which they would learn how to assert themselves verbally using the “I” statements.*
- *Attending a new school, (program participant) was very much secluded from everything, but even at home her parents noticed a strong difference in her personality throughout the school year, and thanked her mentor for working with their daughter this past year.*
- *Participants liked sharing the smoking information with family members of what they have learned. They are concerned with the short and long term effect that smoking can cause to a body,*
- *(Program participant) had been struggling with suicidal ideations and remembered she could come in for support; she is receiving CBI counseling services and doing well.*
- *After the student completed all classes and community service hours, she was able to find employment, has stopped using substances, and parents have reported back her behavior has changed at home.*
- *This quarter, we distributed 100 curriculum kits reaching approximately 400 students at one of the local schools during the time they pick up their bagged meal.*
- *He went from being told multiple times to follow instructions to volunteering to help peers and staff where he noticed help was needed.*
- *Sharing resources has helped individuals that have been affected by COVID-19 obtain testing, food, and learn about programs available in the community.*
- *Mom reports that (mentor) has had a positive impact on her son and she has noticed positive changes both at home and at school.*
- *We shared resources to help individuals that have been affected by COVID-19 to obtain testing, food and learn about programs available in their community.*

COMPLIANCE WITH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

Background

To address the dire conditions of confinement for juveniles at the time, Congress enacted a piece of reform legislation, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974. 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, which reauthorized the JJDP for the first time since 2002. The updated legislation contained the following core requirements, also referred to as the four core protections:

- Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) – Status offenders and non-offenders shall not be placed in secure facilities. A status offender is a juvenile who has committed an act that would not be a crime if committed by an adult, e.g. curfew, runaway or truancy.
- Sight and Sound Separation – Juveniles shall not be confined within a facility in which they have sight or sound contact with adult inmates.
- Jail Removal – Juveniles shall not be confined in a jail or lockup that is used for the detainment of adults.
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities – 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 state agency designated 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 juvenile justice efforts. Arizona's level of compliance with each of the core requirements determines whether the state will be eligible to receive Formula Grants Program funds. Once the state is found to comply with the core protections, 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, particularly under the DSO requirement. Over the past decade, violations of DSO have been reduced by 97 percent. 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. Arizona is committed to its goal of consistently maintaining full compliance with all four requirements. GOYFF and the AJJC continue to recommend successful strategies to further carry out the intent of the JJDP.

The compliance monitor audits every facility statewide that may detain juveniles to ensure compliance of the first three requirements. Following each calendar year, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) determines whether the state is eligible for funding based on the JJDP Compliance Monitoring Annual Report generated by GOYFF.

Outcomes for the FY 2019 Reporting Period

In April 2020, the FY 2019 Arizona compliance report was submitted to OJJDP. The state met the required compliance standard with each of the first three requirements (DSO, Separation, and Jail Removal). Also, Arizona was found to comply with the Racial and Ethnic Disparities requirement based on the state annual Racial and Ethnic Disparities Report issued by GOYFF.

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)**
The state of Arizona achieved compliance of the DSO requirement, earning a rate of 0.19 per 100,000 juveniles detained in secure residential facilities.
- **Separation of Detained Juveniles from Adult Inmates**
The state of Arizona achieved full compliance of 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 3.86 per 100,000 juveniles detained in jail and lockup facilities.
- **Reduction of Racial and Ethnic Disparities**
In Arizona, the target community reduced disparities of detention for youth of color by 0.16 percent between 2018 and 2019.

AJJC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Utilize evidence-based practices in juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment services to improve outcomes for youth and reduce recidivism.
- Support programs and services that incorporate trauma-informed approaches.
- To minimize trauma, eliminate detention for status and other low-risk offenders to the greatest extent possible in favor of community-based services.
- Continue to maintain strong partnerships with law enforcement agencies to maintain compliance with the JJDP.
- 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.
- Examine the impact of COVID-19 on policies that impact justice-involved youth to determine whether modifications should be extended post-pandemic.
- 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 youth of color.