



Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Reduction Strategy Development

Since 2010, DCJS has partnered with the W. Hayward Burns Institute to assist local jurisdictions (New York City, Monroe and Onondaga counties) develop plans to meaningfully reduce racial and ethnic disparity. This work has included collecting and analyzing its juvenile justice data according to race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and offense. These analyses have led to the identification of target populations for DMC reduction efforts and the development of concrete strategies to address DMC for those populations. It is anticipated that this work will continue through 2013 with additional sites in partnership with the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) efforts being coordinated by the Office of Children & Family Services.

Additionally, a comprehensive statewide research study is being completed by Spectrum Associates Market Research, an independent research firm, to assess the issue of disproportionate minority contact throughout the New York juvenile justice system. The study will examine key decision points throughout the juvenile justice system (e.g., police, probation intake, court and corrections); and focus on three geographic regions within the state (New York City, Westchester and Oneida counties.)

Current JJAG- funded, DMC-specific projects include the following:

Judicial Training to Address DMC

Grantee

NYS Unified Court System

Implementing Agency

Office of Court Administration

Target Population

New York State Family and Criminal Court Judges

Description

The New York State Judicial Institute will conduct a training program for the State's Family Court, Criminal Court, and Supreme Court Judges regarding Disproportionate Minority Contact with the Juvenile Justice System. The curriculum will be designed primarily by Mark Soler, Executive Director of the Children's Center for Law and Policy, in collaboration with NYC Family Court Judge Daniel Turbow, his Court Attorney, Ms. Amy Albert, and other academics, practitioners, and court personnel.

Onondaga County DMC Reduction Project

Grantee

City of Syracuse

Implementing Agency

Center for Community Alternatives

Target Population

Syracuse-area Youth

Description

This project continues work initiated through the recent Onondaga County Local DMC Reduction Strategy Grant. Specifically, a community organizer has been hired to coordinate the Community Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform (established in conjunction with the Burns Institute's Community Justice Network for Youth during the summer of 2011); train task force members to serve as members of the local DMC work group, and act as a liaison between the task force and the DMC work group/Juvenile Justice Reform Steering Committee to develop a Community Accountability Board. Potential community task force activities include developing a network of parent and youth coaches to mentor parents and youth currently involved in the juvenile justice system in order to help them effectively navigate it, facilitating community education forums on the juvenile justice system and DMC, developing a community resource guide to be used by police and community organizations coming into contact with youth engaged in low-level offenses who do not require additional mandated interventions, and serving on the Community Accountability Board.
