

Delivering High-Quality, Responsive Resources and Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Juvenile Justice Policy and Practice

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Center for Youth Justice Transformation (CYJT) is to strengthen state and territory compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and its Title II Formula Grant Program to empower states, territories, tribal units, and community juvenile justice reform efforts through highly responsive, multidimensional, collaborative Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) and resources, and an online Youth Justice Transformation Institute.

Scope of Work

Since 2014, the American Institutes for Research® (AIR®), under the leadership and guidance of Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, has worked to develop a trusted relationship with OJJDP's State and Tribal Relations Assistance Division (STRAD) and Designated State Agency (DSA) professionals in the states and territories, as well as State Advisory Group (SAG) members through the delivery of timely and responsive TTA. This work is done in partnership with the **National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)**, **Youth MOVE National (YMN)**, **Family-Run Executive Directors Leadership Association (FREDLA)**, and **iChamps** and includes a number of consultants with lived and practical experience with the JJDP.

As an established center, we understand the importance of being flexible and responsive to the needs of OJJDP and states, territories, and tribes, as evidenced by continuous adaptation of curricula, training materials, and communication with OJJDP and TTA sites. Our agile TTA approach focuses on ongoing implementation and stability and is responsive to the goals of each site or event. It is grounded in research and innovation that focuses on enhancing public safety by holding youth accountable in ways that produce positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities. Our collective work is framed by and accomplished through a variety of strategies that fall under the center's main objectives.

MEET THE TEAM

Cassy Blakely, MA, CYJT Project Director
Simon Gonsoulin, MEd, CYJT Senior Advisor
Deborah Grant, MA, CYJT Budget Manager
Colton Currah, MS, CYJT Project Manager

Ryan Shands, IOTS, CYJT Content Expert
Vivie Satorsky, JD, LMSW, CYJT TTA Coordinator
Chelsea Newton, BS, CYJT Content Expert
Mark Ferrante, BS, CYJT TTA Coordinator
Okori Christopher, MS, CYJT Technology Lead
Katherine Gross, MPAff, CYJT Event Lead

What We Do

CYJT Cohort Program

Cohorts are designed to (1) provide professional development for new Compliance Monitors and Juvenile Justice Specialists; (2) orient new DSA personnel and SAG members to the roles and responsibilities of their positions; (3) facilitate peer-to-peer support by engaging seasoned DSA personnel and SAG members; and (4) establish a cohort of training participants who can provide ongoing support to one another during and after completion of the program, as well as to future training participants.

OJJDP STRAD Monthly State Calls

These calls provide an opportunity for OJJDP to share updates and guidance specific to each designated state agency (DSA) position and SAG. These calls will provide formal training on each position's role in the implementation of the JJDPA and guidance on how to leverage the Title II Formula Grant Program to advance justice transformation in a way that is unique to their state or territory.

Interactive Tip Sheets, Tools, and Resources

In collaboration with partners and subject-matter experts, CYJT develops evidence-based, practical, and user-friendly materials that address the current needs of the field.

SAG 101 Learning Series

Utilizing feedback from past TTA, CYJT will provide a series of SAG on-demand trainings centered on development of dynamic, impactful, on-demand SAG members via an advisory council. All curricula and tools will be shared on the Youth Justice Transformation Institute, and used in individualized TTA with states and territories.

Peer-Learning Roundtables

Learning labs engage content leaders, facilitators, and participants in iterative discussion about shared challenges, discovery of unique solutions, and experimentation with promising practices related to a shared topic or challenge. CYJT offers learning labs, at least annually.

Intensive Long-Term TTA With Non-Participating States

CYJT will aid states on a path to returning to participation in the JJDPA. This may include review of the most recent state plan, compliance monitoring manual, to identify gaps in meeting current Title II Formula Grants requirements.

CYJT has developed the following resources that assist DSA staff and SAG members in understanding the additional information and requirements that must be addressed in their state plans and support OJJDP in providing trainings and learning communities regarding the JJDPA, such as:

- Audit Training
- Regional Meetings on the Interest of Justice to 223(a)11(B)
- Territory Partnership Listening Sessions
- Coffee Chats With OJJDP STRAD Members
- Best Practices on Reentry
- Territory Learning Community
- 223(A)11(b) Training for Court and Facility Personnel
- Strategies for Building an Effective SAG

CYJT develops tools, resources, and related training on a number of important topics. Example topics include the following:

- State audit training
- Regional meetings on complying with (11)(B) and Valid Court Order for court and facility staff
- Sample compliance policies and procedures, forms, and other templates for monitoring by DSA staff
- Decision trees, bench cards, posters, logs, and sample court orders for court and facility staff
- Interactive toolkits for each DSA position to assist with implementation of the JJDPA and Title II Formula Grant
- Collaboration Crosswalk Analysis Toolkit
- Individualized TTA processes and planning
- Three-year planning
- Juvenile justice systems improvement
- Decision making on placement for juveniles treated as adults
- Ensuring use of evidence-based practices

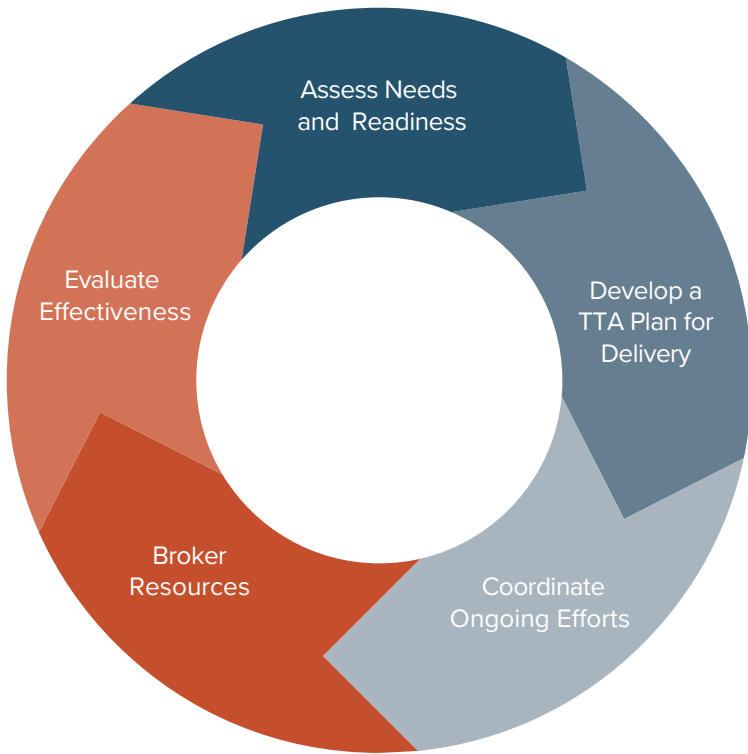
Who We Serve

54 STATES AND TERRITORIES

300+ INDIVIDUALIZED TTA REQUESTS

1,000+ INDIVIDUALS TRAINED

Individualized TTA to States and Territories



“I truly enjoy these sessions and wish they were longer; I’m glad we’ll have more time to spend on future sessions and appreciate all of the effort put into immersing new staff in the knowledge and data.”

– 2024 Juvenile Justice Specialist Cohort Participant

CYJT delivers a customized TTA experience, via staff with extensive practitioner experience with the JJDPA. Our familiarity with TTA needs, coordination with OJJDP, and awareness of systems improvement initiatives result in a TTA plan that addresses the needs of the recipient and builds capacity. Through staff, consultants, and peer mentors with practical experience, CYJT provides TTA in three key areas: tailored TTA, targeted TTA, and universal TTA.

TAILORED TTA

Application of expertise, facilitation, resource development, and/or data analysis focused on a locality or state-specific need. Some tools may be able to be generalized, but most are individualized.

Examples: Literature reviews, on-site or virtual facilitation, data analysis, complex resource and tool development and/or review

TARGETED TTA

Development of virtual or in-person training or tools to meet a common need under CYJT scope of work. May be adaptable to individual requests; however, core content is consistent and relevant to a broad audience.

Examples: SAG 101 training and planning, crosswalk tool creation, in-person or virtual roundtables, and webinar series on serving tribal populations

UNIVERSAL TTA

Provision of information, virtual training, or conference information to a general audience.

Examples: Youth and family engagement tools, best practice webinars, resource sharing via the Youth Justice Transformation Institute.

The Youth Justice Transformation Institute

The Institute serves as a place for collective learning that breaks down silos of knowledge among JJDPA TTA providers, serves as a publicly available clearinghouse for resources, provides an archive of OJJDP announcements and guidance, offers a virtual community of practice for DSA staff and SAG members, and helps the field to access information for implementation of the JJDPA. The institute’s multimodal and on-demand content aims to support implementation and awareness of the JJDPA.

Conference Workshops and STRAD Convening

Implementation of the JJDPA depends on collaboration of DSAs, SAGs, courts, policymakers, and youth justice practitioners. CYJT provides in-person training on implementation of the JJDPA and Title II funding to DSAs, SAGs, and other relevant audiences through participation in one juvenile justice conference per year. In 2025, CYJT will offer a 2-day OJJDP STRAD convening to bring together teams from all states and territories participating or working to return to participation in the JJDPA.

Collaboration With Fellow JJDP TTA Providers

Through collaboration with other OJJDP-funded TTA centers, CYJT facilitates trainings, listening sessions, and other events with practitioners and decision makers to ensure broader awareness and implementation of the JJDP. Examples include annual Title II Solicitation and Compliance Monitor Tool, presentations at national- and state-level conferences, inclusion in individualized TTA with DSA staff and SAGs, development of resources for law enforcement, and focus on U.S. territories.

Youth–Adult Partnership

The JJDP has long enshrined the value of youth–adult partnership. CYJT lives this value in its partnership with YMN, NPJS, and FREDLA. These partners are crafting a series of resources and webinars with practical strategies for programs, systems, and policymakers to engage youth and families, directly impacted by the youth justice system, in their cases, programs, and justice systems. Each resource or event is developed by teams of youth, family members, and practitioners. These partners are also available to provide direct TTA to DSAs and SAGs in their efforts to enhance their collaborations with lived experts.

Highly Responsive, Individualized TTA

CYJT centers all TTA in relationships and local context. We draw from our deep content expertise and to ensure that responses are grounded in an understanding of local readiness and context. In the first 6 months of 2024, CYJT received 30 TTA requests and carried over 35 requests from CCAS. CYJT has supported states and territories in responding to noncompliance, building their SAGs, incorporating adolescent brain development into law enforcement training, and streamlining grant management of Title II funds.

In January 2024, CYJT carried out a request from OJJDP to assist Massachusetts with jail removal noncompliance. Some courts had space that qualified as jails or lockups for adults that were not adhering to the 6-hour rule or ensuring sight and sound separation. After meeting with OJJDP and Massachusetts DSA staff, CYJT provided training to 100+ judges, trial court administrators, and local law enforcement court security divisions in jurisdictions with the greatest number of compliance violations. This February 2024 training was co-developed and delivered by CYJT Consultant Judge David Hejmanowski and an OJJDP STRAD representative. CYJT followed up in April, after making the materials used for training 508 compliant and provided them to the Massachusetts DSA for future training.

“I wanted to thank CCAS for the amazing support that New Hampshire has been provided over the past year. Most recently having Meg Williams come out to New Hampshire and facilitate the SAG training day. The presentation was very informative and helped our SAG members understand the Act and their responsibilities to the core requirements. Her presentation ignited rich discussions around initiatives and getting our state in line with the Act.”

—Jennifer Archer, New Hampshire Juvenile Justice Specialist

Need Training and Technical Assistance?

ACCESS OJJDP'S TTA360

TTA360 is a centralized TTA request system that allows you to submit a request to any of OJJDP's providers, create and manage your own account, and view progress on your requests in real time. To get help—no matter what type you are needing—all you have to do is submit a request online at <https://tta360.ojjdp.ojp.gov/>.

For more information, visit our website at <https://ccastates.org/> or contact the CCAS team at CYJT@air.org