

Eye on the Field

NCYOJ SPOTLIGHT ON

the launch of the National Assessment Center Association

This month, NCYOJ is highlighting the recent formation of the National Assessment Center Association (NAC). From the NAC:

The NAC supports assessment centers through education, training and technical assistance, and advocacy. The NAC will be coordinating and facilitating networking and information sharing amongst the 60+ assessment centers across the US, providing training and technical assistance to communities on policies, operations, best practices, and serving as an advocate for assessment centers nationwide.

Assessment Centers aim to prevent and divert youth from juvenile justice and child welfare systems through a single point of entry which identifies underlying issues contributing to concerning behavior and partners with youth and families to access individualized services and/or resources. This occurs by means of intervention in schools, at point of or after arrest, at the request of parents/caregivers, or through partnerships with other community stakeholders. Through in-depth interviews and validated screening and assessment tools, centers work to understand the barriers youth and families are experiencing at home, school, or in the community. Following assessment, Centers partner with the youth and family to access individualized resources and services to help overcome barriers and, ultimately, create a stable environment where they can thrive. When appropriate, centers coordinate with educational, social service, and justice agencies to provide a holistic view of the family's and youth's strengths and needs. Assessment Centers are based on their local community needs and work in one or more of the following domains: juvenile justice, child welfare, and prevention.

NCYOJ looks forward to collaborating with the NAC to support the use of evidence-based and promising policy and practices in youth assessment centers nationwide.

For more information, [visit the NAC website](#).

Resources

[In Focus: Drug Courts](#)

This one-pager from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention offers an overview of their work to support youth through drug courts, including juvenile drug treatment courts, family drug courts, and tribal juvenile healing to wellness courts.

[The Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances Program: 2017 Report to Congress](#)

This document provides the most up-to-date findings from the national evaluation of the 91 Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI) expansion and sustainability grantees funded between 2013 and 2017. Since its inception in 1993, CMHI has provided services to more than 140,000 children, youth, and families.

Opportunities

[OJJDP FY 2020 Second Chance Act Youth Offender Reentry Program](#)

The Second Chance Act Youth Offender Reentry Program encourages collaboration between state agencies, local government, and community- and faith-based organizations to address the challenges that reentry and recidivism reduction pose for moderate to high-risk juvenile offenders returning to their communities from juvenile residential or correctional facilities.

Application deadline: April 28, 2020

[OJJDP FY 2020 Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program](#)

The Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program supports proposals to develop and implement a cross-system collaborative approach to improve responses and outcomes for youth with mental illness (MI) and co-occurring MI and substance abuse (CMISA) who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Application deadline: May 4, 2020

Events

[A Conversation on Mobile Response and Stabilization During COVID-19](#)

April 16, 2020 | Online

[Responding to the Alarm: Addressing Black Youth Suicide](#)

April 21, 2020 | Online

[Innovative Strategies for Outreaching and Engaging Young People in Behavioral Health Services](#)

April 28, 2020 | Online

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH OPPORTUNITY AND JUSTICE

We aim to improve life opportunities for youth by advancing policy and practice improvements that ensure the well-being of youth, families, and communities.



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