

Eye on the Field

NCYOJ Spotlight

NCYOJ is recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month by releasing a resource focusing on resilience and well-being among youth. While research has shown that adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress in early life can have negative effects on mental health during childhood, adolescence, and beyond, protective factors and promotive factors can help mitigate or eliminate this impact. Access NCYOJ's new one-pager for specific actions you can take to foster resilience and well-being in the lives of vulnerable young people.



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Resources

[Building Mental Health Resiliency: Navigating the Role of Caregiver](#)

This video from Otsuka features caregiver experts sharing how they maintain their physical and mental well-being while also caring for others during COVID-19. Lisa Winstel, chief operating officer of the Caregiver Action Network; Vicki Reece, founder of the Joy of Mom; and Keith Johnson, a caregiver and member of the DBSA Chicago Loop Friends and Family support group, offer their insights.

[School Safety and Collaboration: Building a Behavioral Health and Justice Response](#)

On March 26, 2020, The Council of State Governments Justice Center and the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance hosted a webinar, School Safety and Collaboration: Building a Behavioral Health and Justice Response. The webinar focused on the importance of integrating behavioral health and justice strategies to create ecosystems that support youth with behavioral health needs. The presenters, which included NCYOJ's Dr. Crystal L. Brandow and Avery Irons, provided participants with details about the school responder model as a framework for developing a collaborative behavioral health response to identify students with behavioral health needs and connect them with culturally relevant, accessible, community-based clinical services. Guests from Schenectady, New York—Andrea Tote-Freeman, district director of pupil personnel services, Schenectady City School District; and Tim Ferrara, deputy director, Schenectady County Center for Juvenile Justice—joined the discussion to talk about Schenectady School District's success with their school responder model, in addition to the challenges they experienced with implementation.

[Youth Engagement at the Federal Level: A Compilation of Strategies and Practices](#)

In June 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation convened a 1.5-day meeting of 27 youth engagement subject-matter experts. Participants considered the options and challenges for creating opportunities for youth engagement at the federal level and among federally funded programs, as well as specific topics such as building buy-in, capacity, and competence, and identifying a youth-engagement research agenda. This compilation of briefs captures the learnings from this meeting, spanning the youth engagement efforts of 12 agencies and departments and describing the accomplishments and basic mechanisms of these strategies while also noting barriers, challenges, and vision for the future. NCYOJ staff were among the co-authors on this report.

[COVID-19 Resources for Children's Services](#)

The Institute for Innovation and Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work has assembled resources and convened a series of conversations on adapting youth-serving work during a pandemic. Click the link above to access documents and recordings of previous discussions related to topics including school mental health, housing instability and homelessness among youth and young adults, and infant and early childhood mental health during COVID-19.

[Keeping Yourself and Your Kids Safe and Healthy in the Pandemic: Tips for Judges, Legal Professionals, and Court Personnel](#)

This new fact sheet from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network offers helpful questions about safety that judges, legal professionals, and court personnel can ask themselves regarding their work and their personal lives. The fact sheet also provides basic steps for helping youth handle their stress during the pandemic, as well as "dos and don'ts" for working with children and families at this time.

Opportunities

[OJJDP FY 2020 Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System](#)

This program from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention supports prevention and early intervention strategies for girls who are involved in the juvenile justice system. Applications submitted by nongovernment organizations should consider the importance of an established partnership (via a memorandum of understanding or analogous document) with public juvenile justice agencies at the local or state level. This will ensure close collaboration around referrals for those girls involved in the juvenile justice system and eligible for services provided by the proposed project.

Deadline: June 1, 2020

[Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health](#)

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is accepting proposals for grant funding aimed at furthering the understanding of dramatic changes that may develop in the next 5-15 years and supporting innovations and ideas to "help shape the future of health."

Deadline: Open

Events

[Addressing Racial Trauma in Youth of Color](#)

May 15, 2020 | Online

[Tribal Systems of Care: Intentional Resilience](#)

May 18, 2020 | Online

[School Resource Officer Training Conference](#)

June 16-18, 2020 | Appleton, Wisconsin

[Improving Youth Interaction through Fair and Impartial Justice](#)

June 17-18, 2020 | Concord, California

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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