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Executive Summary

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended, provides for the federal funding of local delinquency prevention programs. In accordance with the Act, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), a branch of the federal Department of Justice, provides funds to states for delinquency prevention research, planning, programming and evaluation. In Florida, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the designated planning agency for delinquency prevention.

The State Advisory Group (SAG) currently consists of a 22-member panel of persons from across the State who have training, experience, or special knowledge of the juvenile justice system. SAG members are appointed by the Governor and are responsible for the administration and management of federally allocated funds.

Federal Title II, Challenge, Title V and JABG funds are awarded in the form of grants and contracts, using a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process that is used to solicit applications from local agencies and providers. The SAG awards the grants to program providers for up to three years. Each year, the programs are thoroughly evaluated. The SAG decides whether to award second and third year funding based on these annual evaluations and the availability of funding. During fiscal year 2005 the SAG awarded \$5,209,833 for new and renewing Title II, Title V and Challenge grants. The SAG also awarded \$1,840,800 in JABG funds for fiscal year 2005.

This report provides an overview of the SAG's role in the expenditure of federal juvenile justice funds and the state of Florida's compliance with the four federal requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 2002. In addition, this report includes a description of the programs and activities funded to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency in the state of Florida. Finally, SAG recommendations are presented that can enhance our efforts to serve the youth of Florida and their families.

While the SAG is very proud of the accomplishments made during fiscal year 2005, we recognize that there is a lot of work left to do in preventing juvenile delinquency in Florida. The SAG is excited about the future and looks forward to our continued partnership with the Governor, the legislature and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice as we work side by side to build the very best juvenile justice system for Florida.

Mission Statement

The mission of Florida's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention State Advisory Group is to effectively administer and manage federally allocated funds for juvenile delinquency prevention, ensure compliance with Federal Juvenile Justice Act mandates and to partner with the Governor, the Legislature, the Department of Juvenile Justice and community leaders from around the State to build a better and safer Florida for our youth and their families.

State Advisory Group Members

SAG Member	Occupation	Residence City
Emilio Benitez	Attorney	Fort Lauderdale
Triste Brooks	Chief Operating Officer, Planned Parenthood	Palm City
Sophia Campbell	Youth Member	Miami
James Clark	President/CEO, Daniel Memorial	Jacksonville
Jacqui Colyer	Operation Manager, A1 Loving Care	Miami
Nathan Crock	Youth Member	Treasure Island
Christine Epps	Executive Director, Shared Services Network	Vero Beach
Judge Robert Evans	Circuit Court Judge	Orlando
Sheldon Gusky	Executive Director, Florida Public Defender Association	Tallahassee
Georgia Jones-Ayers	Director, The Alternative Programs	Miami
Jacquelyn Ledbetter	Youth Member	Tallahassee
Diego Mella	Retired Police Captain	Miami
Judge Frank Orlando	Policy Director, Nova SE University Law School	Fort Lauderdale
Patricia Pieri	Assistant State Attorney	Tampa
Raymond Pilon	Governmental Affairs Coordinator, Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply	Sarasota
Donnie Read	President/CEO, Twin Oaks Juvenile Development	Bristol
Dennis Shuman	Chief Assistant Public Defender	Pensacola
Otis B. Stander	President/CEO, Associated Marine Institutes	Tampa
Janet Ter Louw	Director, PACE Center for Girls	Tallahassee
Susan Tholl	Director of Media Services, Lloyd Daniel Corp.	Fort Lauderdale
Mitch Wilkins	School Resource Officer	Tampa
Aimee Wilson	Youth Member	Tallahassee

State Advisory Group Committees

Executive Committee

Members:

1. Judge Robert Evans, SAG Chair
2. Jacqui Colyer, SAG Vice-Chair
3. Donnie Read, DMC Chair
4. Sheldon Gusky, Finance Chair
5. Mitchell Wilkins, Grants and Contracts Chair

Responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- Acting on behalf of the State Advisory Group (SAG) when the SAG is not in session
- Assisting in the creation of the agenda for future SAG meetings
- Assisting in the development of the OJJDP Annual Report to the Governor

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Committee

Members:

1. Donnie Read, Chair
2. Jacqui Colyer
3. Sophia Campbell
4. Judge Frank Orlando
5. Diego Mella
6. Jim Clark

Responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- Creating long-term systemic changes
- Creating a balanced juvenile justice system
- Accountability and Evidence-based approaches
- Performance-based funding opportunities
- The allocation of funding for each initiative

Finance Committee

Members:

1. Sheldon Gusky, Chair
2. Diego Mella
3. Susan Tholl
4. Triste Brooks

Responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- The review of current and proposed financial plans for the disbursement of funds
- Recommending financial action under the direction of the SAG

Grants and Contracts Committee

Members:

1. Mitchell Wilkins, Chair
2. Triste Brooks
3. Raymond Pilon
4. Patti Pieri
5. B.B. Stander
6. Christine Epps

Responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- The review of Request for Proposals and programmatic evaluation reports
- The review of JJDP grant funded applications

Three-Year Plan Committee

Members:

1. Triste Brooks
2. Sophia Campbell
3. Jim Clark
4. Nathan Crock
5. Christine Epps
6. Diego Mella
7. Judge Frank Orlando
8. Patti Pieri
9. O.B. Stander

Responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- Working with Florida Department of Juvenile Justice staff and Three-Year Plan facilitator in the development of the next Three-Year Plan

State Advisory Group Authority and Responsibilities

Section 223 (a)(3) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, as amended in 2002, requires each State to establish an advisory group, appointed by the chief executive of the State. The JJDP State Advisory Group was created to participate in the development and review of the State's JJDP plan and to carry out other specified functions of the JJDP Act. The JJDP State Advisory Group's (SAG) responsibilities include the following:

- Approving the preparation and implementation of the JJDP Act in Florida, the state juvenile justice plan, and any other requirements as mandated by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention;
- Submitting to the Governor, at least annually, recommendations related to its functions, including State compliance with requirements of the JJDP Act and any other JJDP SAG concerns;
- Reviewing and commenting on all JJDP SAG grant applications submitted for consideration for funding through the JJDP Act. Develop JJDP SAG procedures that address the Requests for Proposal, receipt of proposals, review of proposals and the recommended funding processes for all projects funded by JJDP funds;
- Monitor and ensure that the four federal mandates, defined by the JJDP Act of 1974, as amended, are addressed;
- Develop a JJDP SAG policy regarding the promotion of community partnerships and delinquency prevention programs that address the development of educational, training, research, prevention, diversion, treatment and rehabilitative programs in Florida's Juvenile Justice System;
- Reviewing the progress and accomplishments of the JJDP SAG projects funded under the State three-year plan;
- Regularly seeking comments, recommendations, and opinions from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Justice System; and
- Serving as the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition responsible for providing comment to the Department regarding the development of a coordinated crime enforcement plan designed to reduce juvenile crime.

JJDP Act Mandates

Three of the four core requirements of the JJDP Act were established to protect juveniles in the juvenile justice system from inappropriate placements and from the harm, both physical and psychological, that can occur as a result of exposure to adult criminal offenders. The fourth requirement is specific to minority populations. The JJDP Act requires Florida to demonstrate compliance with these core requirements as defined in the Act in order to receive federal funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The Core Requirements:

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)

Juveniles charged with or who have committed offenses that would not be criminal if committed by an adult (i.e., status offenders) shall not be placed in juvenile detention or correctional facilities. Status offenses include truancy, running away and violations of curfew.

Sight and Sound Separation (Separation)

Juveniles alleged to be or found to be delinquent, as well as status offenders and non-offenders, cannot be detained or confined in any institution in which they have sight or sound contact with adult offenders.

Adult Jail and Lock-up Removal (Jail Removal)

No juvenile shall be securely held in adult jails or lockups for longer than six hours. Under the reporting exception, accused law violators may be held up to six hours for the purpose of identification, processing, interrogation, transfer to a juvenile facility or while awaiting release to a parent or guardian. During this time, the juvenile must remain separated by sight and sound from adult offenders.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

A JJDP Act core protection that directs States to address juvenile delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, the disproportionate number of minority group youth who come into contact with the juvenile-justice system.

G4S Youth Services, LLC:

In February 2002, the Department of Juvenile Justice contracted out the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act compliance monitoring function to G4S Youth Services, LLC. The original compliance-monitoring contract for 2002 through 2003 was renewed for a term of three years in May 2004. The current contract expires April 30, 2006. G4S Youth Services is compensated \$176,078.64 annually.

Under the current agreement, G4S Youth Services monitors all jails and lockups in Florida as well as all juvenile residential programs, juvenile detention centers and juvenile assessment centers (JAC). Compliance monitoring of these facilities includes monthly data collection and yearly site visits to all locations. In addition to the compliance monitoring, G4S Youth Services provides technical assistance and training to all facilities within the monitoring universe.

Below is a list of the major projects and reports produced by, or with assistance from, G4S Youth Services in FY 2004-2005:

- ✓ March 2005 - Guidance Manual for Monitoring Adult Jails and Lockups
- ✓ March 2005 - Florida Manual for Monitoring Compliance with: The Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 as Amended
- ✓ March 2005 - Annual Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Compliance Monitoring Report

The Annual Compliance Monitoring Report and the Florida Manual for Monitoring Compliance have been submitted to OJJDP for review and approval. In addition to these reports and manual, G4S Youth Services staff participated in a national OJJDP sponsored training on compliance monitoring. G4S Youth Services also held a training session in April for DJJ and G4S staff. Finally, G4S Youth Services recently added Juvenile Assessment Centers to the monitoring universe and is currently conducting the initial site visits, evaluation and training for these facilities.

JJDP Act Compliance Status

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)

The 2004 Compliance Monitoring Report revealed that the rate of status offender and non-offender and correctional institutionalization per 100,000 population under 18 years-of-age is **0.91**. The State of Florida is considered to be in **full compliance** with de minimis exceptions and is not required to address Criteria B and C.

Sight and Sound Separation (Separation)

According to the 2004 Compliance Monitoring Report the number of juvenile offenders and non-offenders not separated from adult criminal offenders was 296. Although there were **296 violations**, Florida is eligible for a finding of compliance. This is based on the following:

- The Bay County Sheriff's Office and the Columbia County Sheriff's Office accounted for all but one violation. No pattern of practice is indicated;
- Bay County recently established new, non-secure rooms in mid-2004 to address the problem of Separation and no violations have been reported since that time. Future non-compliance is not likely to occur;
- Columbia County recently completed new construction of the booking area and no violations of the Separation rule have been reported since the completion of construction. Future non-compliance is not likely to occur; and
- The single incident at the West Melbourne Police Department occurred when an officer brought in a group of arrestees in a DUI incident. The officer did not immediately realize that one of the arrestees was a juvenile.

Adult Jail and Lock-up Removal (Jail Removal)

According to the 2004 Compliance Monitoring Report there were **248.98 violations** or a rate of **6.41** jail removal violations per 100,000 population under 18 years-of-age. Florida is eligible for the numerical de minimis exception based on the following:

28 of the total violations resulted directly from the effects of the four hurricanes that struck Florida in 2004. In all 28 instances the extended time in custody was caused by parents unable to pick up their children due to a local curfew in effect.

All of the instances of non-compliance are violations of State law, which conforms to JJDPa requirements and additional legislation is not needed. The only pattern that is immediately apparent is that many of the violations are related to rural location (and thus, limited access to Juvenile Assessment Centers) and problems related to transportation. The following counties are non-MSA and accounted for 108 of the violations:

Bradford	Hardee	Sumter
Calhoun	Hendry	Suwannee
Citrus	Highlands	Taylor
Columbia	Holmes	Union
Desoto	Jackson	Walton
Dixie	Lafayette	Washington
Flagler	Liberty	
Franklin	Madison	
Glades	Monroe	
Gulf	Okeechobee	
Hamilton	Putnam	

The most common problem related to Jail Removal is the failure of the parent, guardian, or responsible adult to arrive within the six-hour time limit; however, no pattern of practice is apparent in this regard.

Florida JJDPa Compliance Monitoring Project staff are working closely with officials at these sites to provide technical assistance and to ensure that corrective action plans are developed and implemented. Project staff will also be working with DJJ Detention and Probation staff to implement new or additional procedures that will reduce violations in the areas of transportation and detention screening.

Additionally, four regional training workshops for law enforcement agencies will be held during 2005 so that each of the higher violation facilities can participate.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

In order to receive federal funding all states must address the four core protections, which include the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) issue. Most states, at nearly every stage of the juvenile justice system are overrepresented by minority youth particularly in secure confinement. Florida is no exception.

Minority Representation at Various Stages of the Florida Juvenile Justice System (2003-04):

Youths Referred for Delinquency

According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Profile the at-risk population (age 10-17) for Florida in 2003-04 was 1,777,126. Of that number, 99,724 youth were referred to DJJ for delinquency. 47,852 (48%) of those referred were white, 36,705 (37%) of those referred were African-American and 12,676 (13%) were Hispanic.

Youths Handled Judicially

Of the 99,724 youth referred to DJJ in 2003-04, 52,774 were handled Judicially. 23,333 (44%) were white, 21,399 (41%) were African-American and 6,703 (13%) were Hispanic.

Secure Detention Demographics

According to the 2005 DJJ Outcome Evaluation Report:

During FY 2003-04 there were 40,639 male admissions and 11,844 female admissions to secure detention. African-American males represented the largest percentage of male youth admitted (46%) with white males representing the next largest group (38%) statewide.

White females represented the largest percentage of female youth admitted (45%), with African-American females comprising the next largest group (42%) statewide.

Youths Placed on Probation

Of those youth handled Judicially 29,793 youth were placed on DJJ Probation supervision. 13,601 (46%) were white, 11,600 (39%) were African-American and 3,817 (13%) were Hispanic.

Youths Committed for Delinquency

In 2003-04, there were 8,263 youth committed for delinquency. 3,810 (46%) were African-American, 3,606 (44%) were white and 691 (8%) were Hispanic.

Youths Transferred to Adult Court

There were 2,397 youth transferred to adult court in 2003-04. 1,281 (53%) were African-American, 715 (30%) were white and 328 (14%) were Hispanic.

What is Florida Doing to Comply with the DMC Mandate?

Currently, there are 12 grant programs in the State of Florida that are specifically designed to address DMC. The SAG recommended that these pilot programs be implemented in the following counties: Miami-Dade County, Duval County, and the Tri-County (Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson). These grant programs are funded out of federal Title II delinquency prevention funds. *NOTE: Please see the Title II (Formula) Grant Program section of this report for specific information related to these DMC grants.*

In FY 2005 the SAG awarded the Department of Juvenile Justice \$75,000 in order to create an Equal Justice Taskforce. This taskforce will be made up of key community stakeholders at the state level that are serious about identifying the causes of DMC and community-level changes that can be made around the State to effectively reduce DMC. Currently, the taskforce is in phase one, which is the organization phase. Other taskforce phases include:

- Development of taskforce meeting schedule and agenda
- Development of taskforce mission statement, goals and objectives
- Quarterly taskforce meetings
- Evaluation of taskforce outputs and outcomes
- Program Implementation

Current data continues to show that African-American males represent the largest percentage of youth in secure detention. The Office of Research and Planning is now working with the Department's MIS office to develop an automated Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) that will remove human error and elevate any potential biases from the detention screening process.

Juvenile Justice System Improvement

The SAG funded four Juvenile Justice System Improvement projects during FY 2005. System Improvement projects are designed to significantly reduce delinquency by implementing systematic changes in policy, procedure, or programming. These projects include:

Trauma Initiative

Recent research indicates that between 80% and 90% of females with serious juvenile justice involvement have histories of trauma exposure, particularly physical and sexual abuse. A recent study in a California girls' secure facility found that 49% of the youth met the full diagnostic criteria for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). A similar study of boys found that almost one-third met the PTSD diagnostic criteria. Key features of PTSD include hyper vigilance, substance abuse, aggression (particularly in response to cues that remind victims of the original trauma), attention and learning problems. Because of these features, the high prevalence of PTSD among serious delinquents is highly relevant to offending patterns, responsiveness to treatment, and problem behavior within programs.

The State Advisory Group in Pennsylvania has invested more than a million dollars over the last six years, introducing a two-pronged approach to addressing PTSD among delinquent girls. First, they have trained over 7,000 juvenile justice workers statewide to deal more effectively with youth who have trauma histories, including how to avoid "triggering" flashbacks and aggressive reactions. Second, they are systematically treating trauma-related mental health problems through a targeted group intervention.

With a \$75,000 SAG award and technical assistance from the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has launched a trauma-informed practice initiative. Goals for the first year include training a cadre of instructors who will then teach facility staff to work effectively with traumatized youth. This training, scheduled for December of 2005, will be conducted by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors and directed to an audience of both DJJ and Department of Children and Families staff. Additionally, a group treatment curriculum will be introduced in five facilities in the first year (three commitment and two detention centers) and the outcomes will be tracked to determine the impact of the project on critical incidents within programs and on the treatment effectiveness with youth.

Pathways to Resilience

In 1989, officials in St. Petersburg, Florida, initiated a research project that tracked the incoming class of Pinellas County students from kindergarten to their scheduled high school graduation in 2002. The total number of students included in the project initially was 8,700. For 13 years, the students and parents were surveyed annually. Information was also collected from the schools and teachers were interviewed. The research measured social, personal, and academic progress throughout the study period. As a result of the project, a plethora of data has been collected.

The University of South Florida research team, led by Dr. Ellis Gesten, will collaborate with the Office of Research and Planning to analyze the data and conduct follow-up interviews. This data presents an ideal opportunity to identify risk and protective factors associated with juvenile delinquency outcomes. The SAG awarded \$100,000 towards the project.

Institute for Juvenile Justice and Criminology

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary, Anthony Schembri, is credited with the concept of creating an Institute for Juvenile Justice and Criminology in Florida. The Department will partner with the University of Florida Department of Law and Society (UFDLS) to create a university-level curriculum focused on juvenile crime and juvenile justice.

This partnership will allow UFDLS students and future DJJ direct-service employees' access to the state-of-the-art research, curriculum and instruction including practical internship experiences. The target population for this collaboration will include all current and future UFDLS graduate and undergraduate students, persons wanting to prepare for jobs in DJJ and current DJJ employees.

The SAG awarded \$100,000 to fund the salary and expenses for a contracted Director for the Institute for Juvenile Justice and Criminology and to plan a National Juvenile Justice Symposium.

Florida Business Partners for Juvenile Justice, Inc.

The SAG awarded \$120,000 for the continued funding of Florida Business Partners for Juvenile Justice, Inc. The Florida Business Partners is a direct support organization that builds partnerships between DJJ and the business community. The goal of the project is to create positive alternatives to crime for Florida's youth.

Equal Justice Taskforce

In order to address the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) issue on a much broader level, the SAG awarded \$75,000 of funding towards the creation of an Equal Justice Taskforce. This taskforce will be made up of key stakeholders at the state level that are serious about identifying the causes of DMC and how community-level changes can be made throughout the state to reduce DMC.

Title II (Formula) Grant Program

Purpose: To enable states to meet and maintain compliance with the four mandates of the Act, support delinquency prevention efforts, and improve the juvenile justice system.

Title II (Formula) Grants: The Formula Grants Program, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, provides grant monies to States and territories that support State and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. Funding is administered through sub-grants to units of local government, local private agencies, and Indian tribes for programs in accordance with legislative requirements. Eligibility is based upon each State's compliance with the mandates of the JJDP Act.

Title II Grant funds are used to implement programs targeted at: developing and implementing effective methods for the prevention and reduction of delinquency; diverting juveniles from the traditional juvenile justice system through the creation of alternative programs to institutionalization, and improving the quality of the juvenile justice system in the State of Florida.

Title II grant programs funded during FY 2005 address one or a combination of the following focus areas:

- ✓ Living Violence Free
- ✓ Keeping Busy
- ✓ Staying in School
- ✓ Getting a job
- ✓ Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Programming

The following is a description of the Title II programs and activities funded during FY 2005. This list includes projects in their 1st, 2nd and 3rd year of program funding.

Agency Name: Family Christian Association of America
Program Name: Disproportionate Minority Contact Program (DMC)
Grant No.: Q4001
Funding Year: 3rd
County: Dade
Funding Amount: \$55,000

Program Description

The goal of the DMC initiative is to establish a program model that reduces juvenile detention in selective Miami-Dade county zip codes that have the most representation of minority youth entering the juvenile justice system. The target group is adolescents aged 10 to 17.

Agency Name: City of Jacksonville
Program Name: Disproportionate Minority Contact Program (DMC)
Grant No.: Q4002
Funding Year: 3rd
County: Duval
Funding Amount: \$77,318

Program Description

The City of Jacksonville – DMC program is the lead agency for the Duval pilot project. The agency organizes community resources, identifies the sources of DMC, and identifies alternatives to policies contributing to DMC. By working with juveniles that have witnessed violence in their home, school, or community this agency looks to reduce DMC.

Agency Name: Liberty County Board of Commissioners
Program Name: Bethune Community Service Center
Grant No.: Q5001
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Liberty
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

The Bethune Community Service Center, (BCSC) provides wrap around services to at-risk youth and their families in a community most affected by crime and delinquency, located in targeted zip code 32321. Through the coordination of multi-agency prevention and intervention services, protective factors are built on multiple levels around at-risk youth.

Agency Name: Tallahassee YMCA, Inc.
Program Name: Wakulla All Stars
Grant No.: Q5002
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Wakulla
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

Wakulla All Stars, an after school program serving at risk middle school youth, is a collaborative effort of the Wakulla Coalition for Youth. This program provides youth with tutoring and other academic guidance, as well as the All Stars curriculum, which includes character building, substance abuse education and juvenile delinquency prevention.

Agency Name: Friends of the Franklin County Public Library, Inc.
Program Name: WITH-IT (Winners In Tune Have It Together)
Grant No.: Q5003
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Franklin
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

“With-It” provides structured after school, vacation, and evening activities, in three library-based centers for youth ages 10-17 exposed to multiple risk factors. “With-It” inspires personal growth development by focusing on social, educational, and recreational activities in a safe community environment.

Agency Name: City of Jacksonville
Program Name: H.A.R.K. 32208 Initiative
Grant No.: Q5005
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Duval
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

The Helping At Risk Kids (H.A.R.K.) Program provides services to youth in Jacksonville, Florida, living in zip code 32208. The H.A.R.K. program provides services to school-aged youth who have witnessed violence in the home.

Agency Name: Marion County Children's Alliance
Program Name: Youth Alliance
Grant No.: Q5006
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Marion
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

Youth Alliance program activities include guidance through assistant counselors, violence prevention, and activities involving youth, parents, and community. Building relationships between youth, schools, families, and community is the goal, creating connections with other adults who care.

Agency Name: Celebration of Praise Church of God
Program Name: Student Ministry
Grant No.: Q5007
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Lake
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

The Student Ministry is reaching diverse youth, both those who have exhibited delinquent behavior and those who are considered at risk to do so. It is believed that through positive direction they can succeed in life and significantly reduce their risk for becoming a statistic in the judicial system.

Agency Name: Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Program Name: Boys About FACE!
Grant No.: Q5009
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Pinellas
Funding Amount: \$99,968

Program Description

Boys: ABOUT FACE! provides prevention programming for males age seven through seventeen before they are adjudicated delinquent. Boys: About Face! offers an intensive boot camp style program, followed by an intensive six month minimum follow up and case management in the home and school for youth experiencing problems at home and at school, as well as after-school and summer tutoring and recreational activities.

Agency Name: Putnam County School District
Program Name: Drug Awareness Program of Putnam County
Grant No.: Q5011
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Putnam
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

The Drug Awareness Program is a family-focused early intervention substance abuse program that combines elements of a number of science-based theories and models. The program combines family therapy based groups, resources within the community, the natural capacity of parents, and personal strengths within the juvenile to interrupt substance use and delinquency.

Agency Name: Union County School Board
Program Name: The Outpost Alternative School
Grant No.: Q5012
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Union
Funding Amount: \$44,336

Program Description

The Outpost Alternative School program provides a different school setting for students exhibiting juvenile delinquency risk factors. The program offers a standard academic curriculum supplemented with a reading component and a

faith-based character education component. The goal is to see students return to their schools with skills enabling them to avoid delinquent behavior.

Agency Name: CREDI

Program Name: DMC

Grant No.: Q5021

Funding Year: 2nd

County: Duval

Funding Amount: \$172,682

Program Description

CREDI is a violence prevention DMC program offering counseling, tutoring, and mentoring to minority children who have witnessed violence.

Agency Name: New Hope Development Center

Program Name: DMC

Grant No.: Q5022

Funding Year: 2nd

County: Dade

Funding Amount: \$39,000

Program Description

The goals of the New Hope program are to reduce youth involvement in behaviors that lead to contact with the juvenile justice system, reduce the number of youth referred to the Juvenile Assessment Center, enhance parental involvement and skills, and increase community awareness of DMC. Tutoring and community service are core elements of the program.

Agency Name: Hosanna

Program Name: DMC

Grant No.: Q5023

Funding Year: 2nd

County: Dade

Funding Amount: \$39,000

Program Description

The goals of the Hosanna program are to reduce youth involvement in behaviors that lead to contact with the juvenile justice system, reduce the number of youth referred to the Juvenile Assessment Center, enhance parental involvement and skills, and increase community awareness of DMC. This agency also provides life skills and tutoring to all DMC clients.

Agency Name: HOTEPE
Program Name: DMC
Grant No.: Q5024
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Dade
Funding Amount: \$39,000

Program Description

HOTEPE strives to unite all civic-minded citizens who recognize that the future of the community, State and Nation depends on what happens to our youth, now. This agency believes that DMC can be reduced through an emphasis on self-determination, strong families, Christian values, individual responsibility, and the enjoyment/fulfillment of quality life experiences.

Agency Name: Belafonte Tacolcy Center
Program name: DMC
Grant No.: Q5025
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Dade
Funding Amount: \$39,000

Program Description

Belafonte is located in the Liberty City neighborhood of Miami-Dade County and the agency seeks to reduce DMC by continuing to provide a safe and compassionate atmosphere for neighborhood youth. The agency also provides tutoring, mentoring, in addition to community service training/hours. Belafonte's vision is to heal the entire family by offering Parent Workshops.

Agency Name: JESCA
Program Name: DMC
Grant No.: Q5026
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Dade
Funding Amount: \$39,000

Program Description

The goals of the JESCA program are to reduce youth involvement in behaviors that lead to contact with the juvenile justice system, reduce the number of youth referred to the Juvenile Assessment Center, enhance parental involvement and skills, and increase community awareness of DMC.

Agency Name: Alarm CDC
Program Name: DMC
Grant No.: Q5027
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Leon
Funding Amount: \$70,000

Program Description

Alarm is a community-clearing house for youth in crisis services. Through referrals, a toll free help line, and web-site information the community is able to seek out services. The agency seeks to reduce DMC by diverting the general population of juveniles from ever reaching the arrest phase of the juvenile justice process. Once clients are referred an assessment is conducted by a case-manager, the family's needs are identified, and clients are directed to community resources.

Agency Name: Florida Business Partners for Juvenile Justice
Program Name: Florida Business Partners
Grant No.: Q6001
Funding Year: 1st
County: Statewide
Funding Amount: \$120,000

Florida Business Partners is a Direct Support Organization that builds partnerships between DJJ and the business community.

Agency Name: Baker County Teen Court, Inc.
Program Name: Baker County Teen Court
Grant No.: Q6009
Funding Year: 1st
County: Baker
Funding Amount: \$40,000

Program Description

This first year program will serve approximately 100 at risk youth between the ages of 10-17, first time offenders with misdemeanor charges. Youth will admit guilt and stand before a jury of their peers for sanctions. The program will help reduce juvenile crime and delinquency and help reduce the recidivism rate among juvenile offenders.

Agency Name: Lee County Human Services
Program Name: Restitution Accountability Board
Grant No.: Q6010
Funding Year: 1st
County: Lee
Funding Amount: \$64,137

Program Description

The RAB, adhering to restorative justice principles, will work with juveniles (charged with grand theft auto and burglary), victims of the crime, and the community. Restitution to the victim will be negotiated to address the harm and may not necessarily be monetary restitution.

Agency Name: Jewish Family and Children's Service, Inc.
Program Name: Adolescent Diversion and Assistance Program
Grant No.: Q6011
Funding Year: 1st
County: Sarasota
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

A diversion program for juvenile ages 11-17 providing intervention services for youth who have been involved in domestic violence, shoplifting, battery/assault or gang activities. Youth will participate in psycho-educational groups or individual counseling for limited time frames to learn more adaptive behaviors and reduce the potential to re-enter the juvenile justice system.

Agency Name: Children's Home Society of Florida, Inc.
Program Name: Bay County Prevention Intervention
Grant No.: Q6012
Funding Year: 1st
County: Bay
Funding Amount: \$89,153

Program Description

Bay Prevention Intervention will use teacher-completed report cards to monitor student behavior. Weekly student meetings will focus on student progress toward behavioral objectives, problem solving, and social skills development. Parent trainings will focus on reinforcement-based parenting techniques and increased parent-school communication.

Agency Name: Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
Program Name: P.O.W.E.R for Girls
Grant No.: Q6013
Funding Year: 1st
County: Pasco
Funding Amount: \$42,080

Program Description

P.O.W.E.R for Girls is a gender specific program focusing on the special needs of adolescent girls, through mentoring and developing strengths and assets through community collaboration and psycho-educational group sessions. P.O.W.E.R targets the specific and general risk factors that affect girls, and fosters an environment that nurtures non-delinquent behavior.

Agency Name: Twin Oaks Juvenile Development, Inc.
Program Name: Wilderness Quest
Grant No.: Q6014
Funding Year: 1st
County: Washington
Funding Amount: \$98,920

Program Description

Wilderness Quest is a five-day therapeutic wilderness experience serving at-risk youth ten to 14 years old. The program fosters the development of self-reliance and skills necessary to deal effectively with others at school, home, and the community. Following the wilderness experience portion of the program, the youth enters this three step aftercare program: 1) Weekly behavioral and academic follow-up contact between the youth, parent, teacher, and case manager; 2) Monthly support/education; and 3) Monthly family support meetings designed to increase parental involvement in the youth's life.

Agency Name: Eckerd Youth Alternatives
Program Name: Hi-Five Early Intervention Program
Grant No.: Q6015
Funding Year: 1st
County: Brevard
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

A violence and substance abuse prevention program serving 330 at-risk 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at Sherwood Elementary School. School-based coordinators use

approved classroom curriculum, which has been proven to reduce violence by the U.S. Department of Education and facilitate small groups, literacy development, family and teacher training.

Agency Name: Okaloosa Academy, Inc.
Program Name: Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders
Grant No.: Q6016
Funding Year: 1st
County: Okaloosa
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

Okaloosa Academy proposes to utilize "Aggressors, Victims, and Bystanders" prevention curriculum as an elective course for middle and high school students attending alternative schools in Fort Walton Beach and Crestview. Bridgeway Center will provide counseling to assist students in behavioral change.

Agency Name: Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
Program Name: Project Dove
Grant No.: Q6017
Funding Year: 1st
County: Hillsborough
Funding Amount: \$65,000

Program Description

Project DOVE provides comprehensive mentoring to children living in Hillsborough County who have witnessed domestic violence. Services include: specially trained volunteers who serve as mentors to children, case management, support groups and counseling for children and their families. The expected outcome is decreased juvenile delinquency and stronger, violence-free families.

Agency Name: Mental Health Care, Inc.
Program Name: Project End Violence Early (EVE)
Grant No.: Q6018
Funding Year: 1st
County: Hillsborough
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

Project End Violence Early provides voluntary clinical services to families of youth at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system due to the youth's domestic violence. The program aims to eliminate the violence by

providing clinical case management, psychosocial assessment, in-home therapy and psychiatric consultation.

Agency Name: Gadsden County Sheriff's Department
Program Name: Gadsden Community Justice – DMC Project
Grant No.: Q6019
Funding Year: 1st
County: Gadsden
Funding Amount: \$65,000

Program Description

The program will institute a school accountability board to deal with problem behaviors in the school. They will also provide mentoring and academic services to youth referred to the program.

Agency Name: Jefferson County Youth Council
Program Name: DMC Program
Grant No.: Q6020
Funding Year: 1st
County: Jefferson
Funding Amount: \$65,000

Program Description

The Jefferson County DMC program will provide advocacy services for youth and their families to mediate conflicts and problems that arise at school. These youth will also participate in after-school activities to enhance academic performance, life skills, and self-confidence.

Agency Name: Tri-County Civil Citation Program
Program Name: DMC Project
Grant No.: Q6021
Funding Year: 1st
County: Leon/ Jefferson/ Gadsden
Funding Amount: \$100,000 (\$33,333 per county)

Program Description

The Tri-County Civil Citation programs divert youth from the juvenile justice system, but require that those receiving the citation complete certain requirements. These requirements often include community service hours, counseling, or restitution. Each civil citation program employs a coordinator who is responsible for ensuring that youth comply with the terms of the civil citation.

Agency Name: University of South Florida
Program Name: Pathways to Resilience Research Initiative (System Improvement)
Grant No.: Q6022
Funding Year: 1st
County: Pinellas
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Program Description

The overall goal of the USF research project is to identify positive protective factors, which contribute to youth resilience. The "Omnibus Project" tracked the incoming class of Pinellas County students from 1989 to their scheduled graduation in 2002. The data collected will assist the Department of Juvenile Justice in identifying risk and protective factors associated with juvenile delinquency outcomes.

Agency Name: Department of Juvenile Justice
Program Name: Trauma Initiative (System Improvement)
Grant No.: V6T01
Funding Year: 1st
County: Leon
Funding Amount: \$75,000

With a \$75,000 SAG award and technical assistance from the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has launched a trauma-informed practice initiative. Goals for the first year include training a cadre of instructors who will then teach facility staff to work effectively with traumatized youth. This training, scheduled for December of 2005, will be conducted by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors and directed to an audience of both DJJ and Department of Children and Families staff. Additionally, a group treatment curriculum will be introduced in five facilities in the first year (three commitment and two detention centers) and the outcomes will be tracked to determine the impact of the project on critical incidents within programs and on the treatment effectiveness with youth.

Agency Name: University of Florida Department of Law and Society

Program Name: Juvenile Justice Institute (System Improvement)

Funding Year: 1st

County: Leon

Funding Amount: \$100,000

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary, Anthony Schembri is credited with the concept of creating a Juvenile Justice Institute for Juvenile Crime and Justice Studies in Florida. The Department will partner with the University of Florida Department of Law and Society (UFDLS) to create a university level curriculum focused on juvenile crime and juvenile justice.

This partnership will allow UFDLS students and future DJJ direct-service employees' access to state-of-the-art research, curriculum and instruction, including practical internship experiences. The target population for this collaboration will include all current and future UFDLS graduate and undergraduate students, persons wanting to prepare for jobs in DJJ and current DJJ employees.

The SAG awarded \$100,000 towards the project to pay for the salary and expenses for a contracted Director for the Juvenile Justice Institute and to plan a National Juvenile Justice Symposium.

Title V Grants

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Title V Program was established in the 1992 reauthorization of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. Title V of the JJDP Act was designed to provide a dedicated source of monies to award grants for delinquency prevention within local communities. The funds are used to reduce delinquency and youth violence by supporting communities in providing their children, families, neighborhoods and institutions with the knowledge, skills and opportunities necessary to foster a healthy and nurturing environment and encourage the growth and development of productive and responsible citizens.

Only units of local government (city, county, town, township, parish, village, Native American tribe) may apply for Title V funds. All applicants must provide a 50% match (cash or in-kind) and are required to form a Prevention Policy Board that will identify community risk and protective factors, which contribute to and protect against delinquency as well as an implementation proposal.

There are two primary components of Title V implementation: Service Delivery and Systems Change Project. The service delivery component is designed to provide services directly to individual clients or participants in the community. The systems change component has a broader community level focus. Title V communities have the option of choosing one or both components when addressing the needs of their proposed strategies. The majority of the Title V projects funded in Florida have a combination of the two components.

Agency Name: Leon County

Program Name: Leon County Collaborative-Families First!

Grant No.: Q4501

Funding Year: 2nd

County: Leon

Funding Amount: \$100,000

The LCCFF program, sponsored by Leon County and managed by Hope Empowerment Community Corporation, will collaborate with Communities that Care and Tallahassee Parks and Recreation to provide risk-focused prevention activities serving 100 youth, including after-school and gender-specific mentoring activities.

Agency Name: Clay County Board of County Commissioners
Program Name: Clay CARES Partnership
Grant No.: Q4502
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Clay
Funding Amount: \$137,989

Clay CARES Partnership, a multi-faceted interagency collaboration, will reduce juvenile delinquency and improve school attendance in Clay County's highest risk zip code. This goal will be accomplished through a research-based approach that strengthens families and includes: Consequences of Truancy workshops, case management, counseling, mentoring, positive incentives and consequences for non-compliance.

Agency Name: Putnam County Board of Commissioners
Program Name: Creating Lasting Family Connections
Grant No.: Q4503
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Putnam
Funding Amount: \$125,000

Creating Lasting Family Connections program provides leadership and coordination of a structured training program offered on site for key community agencies. The training curriculum will promote effective community mobilization strategies, increase the number of positive role models and improve partner collaboration. Creating Lasting Family Connections will target high-risk youth who reside in the 32177 zip code.

Agency Name: Broward County
Program Name: Leadership Academy
Grant No.: Q4504
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Broward
Funding Amount: \$200,000

The Leadership Academy provides academic and disciplinary instruction that gives at-risk students the necessary skills to adjust maladaptive behavior and increase learning. The program will also provide family therapy and substance abuse intervention and prevention services designed to address risk factors associated with drug use and increase protective factors.

Agency Name: City of Madison
Program Name: ICAN2
Grant No.: Q4505
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Madison
Funding Amount: \$99,835

ICAN2 is a comprehensive year-round after-school program, providing a safe place to interact with caring adults, develop social competencies, learn computer skills, and to serve their community at the Kid's Café, which is a program to feed low-income children. Expected outcomes include decreased feelings of alienation, increased social competencies, improved GPA, at least 250 hours of volunteer services to the community, and sufficient contact hours to develop relationships with caring, supportive adults.

Agency Name: City of St. Petersburg
Program Name: Youth Enhancement Skills
Grant No.: Q6002
Funding Year: 1st
County: Pinellas
Funding Amount: \$120,059

The primary goal of the Youth Enhancement Skills program is to build protective factors for youth in the City of St. Petersburg through researched-based, proven models that teach life skills, and conflict resolution to reduce at-risk behaviors and promote positive character development.

Agency Name: Bay County Board of Commissioners
Program Name: Strengthen Bay Families
Grant No.: Q6003
Funding Year: 1st
County: Bay
Funding Amount: \$89,533

The mission of the Strengthening Bay Families program is to improve parenting skills, increase family functioning and youth social skills, and decrease youth substance use among the community's at-risk families.

Agency Name: Live Oak City Council
Program Name: Community Organizing Program
Grant No.: Q6004
Funding Year: 1st
County: Suwannee
Funding Amount: \$100,000

The mission of the Live Oak City Community Organizing Program is to decrease juvenile delinquency by offering the youth of the community mentoring, safe and focused environments.

Agency Name: Liberty County Board of Commissioners
Program Name: Title V Delinquency Prevention Program
Grant No.: Q6005
Funding Year: 1st
County: Liberty
Funding Amount: \$100,000

This program will reduce early persistent, defiant and anti-social behavior, enhance family functioning and increase family involvement by building a community-family-school network. This will be accomplished through the creation of supervised programs, such as after-school, mentoring, alternatives to suspension, substance abuse prevention and parental support groups for at-risk youth and families. Emphasis will be placed on motivating individual achievement, increasing self-esteem, interpersonal strength, effective communication, good decision making skills and pro-social orientation.

Agency Name: Orange County Sheriff's Office
Program Name: Reclaiming Our Community Youth Program
Grant No.: Q6006
Funding Year: 1st
County: Orange
Funding Amount: \$100,000

The mission of the Reclaiming our Community and Youth Program is to reduce truancy, academic failure, and delinquent behavior.

Agency Name: City of Ocala
Program Name: 2005 Title V and Beyond
Grant No.: Q6007
Funding Year: 1st
County: Marion
Funding Amount: \$100,000

The 2005 Title V and Beyond program will strengthen the community by building resiliency in children, youth, and families to avoid drugs, crime, and violence. The project will fortify the community's protective factors and increase awareness of and choices for positive options that lead to an improved quality of life, which can include succeeding in school, remaining drug free, and developing other important life skills.

Agency Name: Village of El Portal
Program Name: Change the Culture
Grant No.: Q6008
Funding Year: 1st
County: Miami-Dade
Funding Amount: \$100,000

The Change the Culture program is committed to preventing juvenile delinquency, improving the mental health of adolescents and working towards breaking the cycle of violence. Recognizing the intrinsic relationship among the health of the community, family and schools, our program seeks to support these elements in order to create a new culture based on belonging, respect, stress-reduction and human values.

Challenge Grants

The 1992 reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, added State Challenge Grant Activities. The Purpose of Challenge Grant Activities is to provide incentives for states to develop, adopt, and improve policies and programs in one of more of the ten specified Challenge Activities to improve the juvenile justice system. The SAG chose to target girls initiatives and alternatives to school suspensions and expulsions.

Challenge Activity E: Prohibit gender bias in placement and treatment of young female offenders, and to ensure that female youth have access to comprehensive, gender-specific services.

The Department of Juvenile Justice has taken an aggressive approach towards meeting the needs of girls in the system by initiating the "Girls Initiative." This initiative focuses on the identification and implementation of policies and practices that enhance the delivery of services to girls.

Challenge Activity H: Focuses on developing and adopting policies and programs designed to serve as alternatives to suspension and expulsion from school.

NOTE: The 2003 Challenge grant award from OJJDP was the final Challenge grant award. DJJ and the SAG used \$299,000 of General Revenue dollars along with \$101,000 unobligated funds for the renewal of the Challenge sub-grants in FY 2005-06. The Challenge grants that were renewed are:

Agency Name: Hope Community Empowerment Corporation

Program Name: North Florida Girls Initiative

Grant No.: Q5004

Funding Year: 2nd

County: Leon

Funding Amount: \$100,000

The Mission of the North Florida Girls Initiative Program is to provide gender specific female training and mentoring activities to girls living in and around the targeted zip code areas identified by DJJ. The project is a collaborative effort by many partnerships with community based organizations and agencies.

Agency Name: Juvenile Services Program, Inc.
Program Name: Choices: A Chance to Change
Grant No.: Q5010
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Pinellas
Funding Amount: \$100,000

Choices, an alternative to out-of-school suspension, provides academic assistance, tutoring/mentoring, social and life skills training, substance abuse and crime education to at-risk middle school girls from targeted DJJ zip codes.

Agency Name: Unity Family Community Center, Inc.
Program Name: Levy County Girls Life Skills Program
Grant No.: Q5013
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Levy
Funding Amount: \$100,000

The Levy County Life Skills program is designed to prevent involvement in the juvenile justice system by positively impacting academic and life skills of youth exposed to multiple risk factors, promoting family stability, promoting church and social involvement, and providing a safe environment to inspire personal growth.

Agency Name: Youth Advocate Program, Inc.
Program Name: Hillsborough County Youth Advocate Program
Grant No.: Q5015
Funding Year: 2nd
County: Hillsborough
Funding Amount: \$100,000

The Hillsborough County Youth Advocate program will provide in-home and neighborhood-based services in zip code 33619; a high-ranking needs area in Hillsborough County. The program focus is female delinquency prevention. Key program goals are to: decrease expulsion/suspension and provide community-based alternatives to juvenile detention. Services are provided by advocates hired from the community.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grants

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) program is an entitlement grants program designed to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. Allocations of federal dollars are distributed to eligible states and units of government. JABG provides states and local units of government with funds to encourage the development of juvenile justice policies, procedures and programming aimed at promoting juvenile offender accountability.

During FY 2005, Florida received \$1,840,800 in JABG funding from OJJDP. Florida's planned use of JABG funds include expenditures in the following program areas:

1. **Risk/Needs Assessment (Program Area # 12)** – This would fund continued development and implementation of a validated risk/ needs assessment tool for use throughout the juvenile justice continuum. Planned expenditures for this program area total \$454,317.
2. **Detention/Corrections Personnel (Program Area # 16)** – This would fund the continued training and implementation of evidence/research-based treatment modalities in selected juvenile residential facilities through the "What Works" Initiative Residential Pilot Project. Efforts targeted at improving practices and programming, strongly supported by the Governor's Office. Planned expenditures for this program area total \$454,316.
3. **Accountability Based Diversion (Program Area # 11)** – Would fund accountability based diversion programs statewide. Planned expenditures for this program area total \$ 454,317.
4. **Restorative Justice (Program Area # 14)** – Would fund Neighborhood Accountability Boards statewide. Planned expenditures for this program area total \$ 477,850.

NOTE: Expenditures from the 2005 JABG grant began July 1, 2005. This spending plan will be updated as necessary to account for any changes in allocations or the use of accrued interest.

2005 Accomplishments

During FY 2005, the State Advisory Group:

- ✓ Supported the completion of Florida's 2004 Compliance Monitoring report. The report documents Florida's compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP Act
- ✓ Received the full allocation of juvenile delinquency preventions funds as a result of the Department's compliance with the core requirements
- ✓ During FY 2005 the State Advisory Group awarded \$5,209,833 for new and renewing Title II, Title V and Challenge grant projects
- ✓ Unanimously voted to approve 10 new Title II programs
- ✓ Unanimously voted to approve seven new Title V programs
- ✓ Renewed 27 Title II, Title V and Challenge grant programs during FY 2005
- ✓ Unanimously approved four Juvenile Justice System Improvement projects
- ✓ Supported the creation of an Equal Justice Taskforce to address Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)
- ✓ Of the 32 currently funded Title II projects (new and renewing) 12 are devoted totally to DMC
- ✓ Awarded \$1,840,800 in JABG funds for FY 2005

Future Direction of State Advisory Group

During FY 2006, Florida's State Advisory Group (SAG) will build upon the accomplishments of previous years by focusing on the primary issues that Florida's juvenile justice system currently faces. The following is a list of some of those initiatives that the SAG will focus on during 2006:

1. One of the core functions of SAG is the administration of federal funds and on-going oversight of the grant programs funded by the SAG. To be effective, the SAG will continually work to develop parameters for our grant programs that build resiliency and that are based on Best Practices. The implementation of Evidence-Based programming that focuses on impacting risk factors and protective factors will be expanded.
2. Another primary function of the SAG is supporting the four core protections of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Compliance with the Act has direct implications on our State's ability to apply for and receive federal funding. Currently, Florida is in full compliance with the Act and remains committed to ensuring that Florida's youth are safe when in a law enforcement facility and or a juvenile detention center.
3. One of the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act is that all states address the issue of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). The SAG is committed to help change our current juvenile justice system into a system that is "race neutral." To be effective, the SAG will partner with community leaders from around the State to identify opportunities for system change beginning at the local level. The SAG will also work directly with the newly created Equal Justice Taskforce to develop effective strategies to address DMC.
4. The various state agencies and entities involved with Florida's children often operate in "silos" and this has contributed to system fragmentation. In order to improve the quality of juvenile justice for Florida's youth and families it will take much greater collaboration among the agencies involved in juvenile justice and related areas. The SAG will continually support strategies and programming aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency that require collaborative funding from other agencies at the State and local levels.

Recommendations to the Governor and Legislature of Florida

The State Advisory Group (SAG) is currently working to address the following initiatives and respectfully submits these recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for consideration:

- Partner with the SAG to shape Florida's juvenile justice system into a system that focuses less on punishment and more on the promotion of public safety by supporting prevention and early intervention. Currently, prevention initiatives are not adequately funded and additional funding is needed in order to maximize our efforts to reduce juvenile delinquency;
- Work with the SAG to improve information sharing among the various agencies involved in juvenile justice and related areas. The various state agencies and entities involved with Florida's children often operate in "silos" which has contributed to system fragmentation and a lack of collaboration. Greater collaboration is especially needed among: Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Children and Families and State and local law enforcement agencies;
- Partner with the SAG to create a "race neutral" juvenile justice system in Florida;
- Assist the SAG in developing solutions to address the increasing number of delinquency referrals from the education system. Strive to educate law enforcement and school officials statewide on what "zero tolerance" truly means and its impact on juvenile justice;
- Expand the Civil Citation program to the school systems across the State as an effective diversion tool for youth committing minor non-violent offenses. The Civil Citation program expedites processing times for law enforcement, offers swift and appropriate consequences to the offender while diverting the child out of the juvenile justice system;
- A uniform School Resource Officer's (SRO) training program that is mandated by the Legislature is needed statewide. This will ensure quality control, uniformity and skill improvement on the part of law enforcement; and
- Protect Florida's youth in the juvenile justice system by remaining in compliance with the core protections of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.