

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Promising Practices Nomination Form

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) seeks to expand its Model Programs Guide to include strategies and programs that show promise in helping states achieve deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO). To this end, OJJDP invites nominations of programs and strategies that show promise in keeping status offenders out of jail, regardless of whether the program or strategy directly helps states adhere to the DSO Core Requirement.

State agencies and others are invited to submit nominations of such initiatives, regardless of funding source. DSO strategies can include programs that remove status offenders from juvenile and adult facilities. A nominated initiative may constitute a single program or a multistrategy approach.

Programs and strategies are eligible for nomination if they have been in operation for at least 2 years and data documenting their effectiveness is available. Data must show improvement between two (or more) points in time (e.g., before the program and 1 year later).

All nominations received will be reviewed by OJJDP for inclusion in a database of promising DSO initiatives.

Program/strategy: _____

Location: _____

Nominated by: _____

Contact for additional information (phone/e-mail address): _____

1. The program/strategy addresses the following category of status offenses (check all that apply):

civil traffic violation

curfew violation

incorrigible/ungovernable behavior

minor in possession of tobacco

runaway

truancy

underage drinking

nonoffense (e.g., child abuse and neglect, immigration violation)

other (specify: _____)

2. The program/strategy includes the following interventions (check all that apply):

- administrative, policy, and procedural changes
- advocacy
- alcohol/liquor laws (e.g., zoning to reduce the density of alcohol outlets)
- alternatives to secure detention
- comprehensive treatment (e.g., behavior modification, family counseling, group therapy)
- curfew center
- curfew laws with a diversion component
- diversion
- jurisdictional reform
- juvenile holdover
- legislative reform
- parental accountability laws
- structured decision-making tools
- truancy intervention
- other (specify: _____)

3. Provide details of the program intervention or strategy, or attach a description. Be sure to include the following:

- names of participating agencies
- names of counties involved
- target population
- specific components/program activities.

4. How long (years/months) has this program been in operation? _____

5. Attach an evaluation report or provide evaluation data (as described and exemplified below).

• Evaluation Data

The five main categories of status offenses and examples of evaluation data that should be submitted follow. When showing a change in data, please indicate the number and percent of youth affected by your program or strategy. This should include data from at least two points in time.

Example of program (requires data before the program and after the program): In 2006, San Jose High School had 18 sophomores with 10 or more unexcused absences at the end of the year. (In San Jose, Calif., a student who has 10 or more unexcused absences is considered truant.) For their junior year, those same students were enrolled in a truancy reduction program and only two had 10 or more unexcused absences at the end of the school year. This shows an 89 percent improvement in the truancy rate.

Example of strategy (requires data before the law or other strategy went into effect and after): In a suburban community, a purchase-attempt study revealed that 25 of 32 alcohol sales outlets (78 percent) sold alcohol to minors and that there was a low level of enforcement of laws prohibiting sales of alcohol to minors. In the year preceding the implementation of reduction strategies, only three citations were issued to violating retailers. A 6-month communitywide alcohol education and enforcement effort was initiated. A 6-month follow-up assessment found that only 17 alcohol sales outlets (53 percent) continued to sell to minors. Enforcement actions increased more than threefold with 10 citations issued in the following 6 months.

All data examples must indicate a change in number or percent (rate) over two points in time. They may include the following:

- Curfew Violations

Definition: violation of an ordinance forbidding persons below a certain age from being in public places during set hours.

Data examples:

- youth referred to juvenile court for curfew violations
- juveniles victimized by crime
- juveniles admitted to local hospital emergency rooms
- juvenile crime during curfew hours.

- Incurable/Ungovernable Behavior

Definition: being beyond the control of parents, guardians, or custodians.

Data examples:

- youth referred to juvenile court for incurable/ungovernable behavior
- parents/guardians who report improved parent–child relationships
- parents/guardians who report improved parent–child communication
- parents/guardians who report a reduction in behavioral problems.

- Running Away

Definition: leaving the custody and home of parents or guardians without permission and failing to return within a reasonable length of time.

Data examples (change in number and percent from at least two points in time from at least two points in time):

- youth referred to juvenile court for running away
- youth reunified with the parents/guardians
- parents/guardians who report improved parent–child communication or relationship
- average length of time between referral and reunification.

- Truancy

Definition: violation of a compulsory school attendance law.

Data examples:

- youth referred to court for truancy
- youth with unexcused absences reported by schools
- number of unexcused attendances
- number of days tardy

- youth who dropped out from high school
 - youth who were suspended or expelled from school
 - locally reported daytime crime.
- Underage Drinking

Definition: possession, use, or consumption of alcohol by a minor.

Data examples:

- youths arrested for underage drinking
- referrals to juvenile court for underage drinking
- reoffense rates for underage drinking.

In addition to providing the above evaluation data, other data that tracks measures for short-term and long-term outcomes should be provided, as applicable. This data may include the following:

- Efficiency measures: the inputs or resources used per measure of output, such as
 - cost per youth served.
- Output measures: the products and services delivered, such as
 - number of youth served in the program
 - average length of stay.
- Outcome measures: the benefits that youth, the community, and society derive from the program, such as
 - number/percent of youth successfully diverted from formal processing in the juvenile justice system
 - change in number or percent of youth who have exhibited a desired change in areas such as reduced substance use, reduced antisocial behavior, improved family relationships, improved social competencies, and improved academic achievement.
- Service quality measures: the degree to which clients are satisfied, and the accuracy and timeliness of services provided, such as
 - number/percent of youth who report increased knowledge of program area
 - number/percent of staff who report increased knowledge of program area.

Completed Nomination Forms and attachments should be sent to:

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Questions should be addressed to the same contact.