



**COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE
SEEKS SHORT-TERM RESEARCH CONSULTANT**

**Topic: Evaluating and Improving Compliance Under the
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)**

Request for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 21, 2008, 4:00 p.m. EST

Overview

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) is currently seeking proposals from independent research consultants for the purpose of developing and conducting a survey among the nation's 56 state juvenile justice advisory groups and providing a written analysis and report of the survey results.

The federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), enacted in 1974, sets forth federal standards for states and territories ("the states") to adhere to regarding the custody and care of youth in their respective juvenile justice systems. Under the JJDP, the states work in partnership with the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to create effective mechanisms for institutionalizing and monitoring their respective compliance efforts with the federal standards from year to year.

The solicited survey instrument should: (1) identify compliance challenges currently being experienced by the states; (2) determine the reasons underlying those challenges; (3) indicate if such challenges are persistent or transitory and what factors have contributed to such challenges; and (4) articulate successes and best practices that states have pursued to achieve and maintain compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP. CJJ also welcomes any and all suggestions of able candidates for this important project.

CJJ is a national nonprofit association representing the governor-appointed advisory groups on juvenile justice in the U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia. CJJ's principal mission is to build safe communities one child at a time by ensuring that all children and families

are treated fairly and given the resources and support to be positive and productive contributors to society. Since 1984, CJJ has provided its members, policy makers and the public with myriad services related to optimal implementation of the JJDP, including training and technical assistance, national and regional conferences, advice and counsel to the President and U.S. Congress, a monthly e-newsletter and publications containing policy and practice recommendations.

Purpose of the Survey

The JJDP, enacted in 1974 and reauthorized most recently in 2002, sets forth federal standards for states to adhere to regarding the custody and care of youth in their respective juvenile justice systems. These standards include four core requirements that help ensure the health and well-being of youth:

- the **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)** requirement, which limits the use of locked secure confinement for status offenders;
- the **Adult Jail and Lockup Removal (“Jail Removal”)** requirement, which limits the amount of time juveniles may be confined with adults in adult facilities;
- the **Sight and Sound Separation (“Separation”)** requirement, which requires that when juveniles are held with adults (as occurs in limited instances) they have no sight or sound contact with adult inmates; and
- the **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)** requirement, which mandates that states address the disproportionate contact of youth of color at key contact points in the juvenile justice system – from arrest to detention to confinement.

State Advisory Groups on Juvenile Justice (SAGs), established under the JJDP and appointed by the Governors/Chief Executives in each U.S. jurisdiction, are principally responsible for monitoring and supporting their state’s progress toward achieving compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP.

To assist the states in maintaining compliance with the JJDP, CJJ has developed and launched a new CJJ policy and practice project: “JJDP Compliance Successes and Challenges” (“the Compliance Project”). The elements of the Compliance Project will include:

- I. This proposed survey of challenges and best practices regarding the scope and reasonableness of compliance monitoring requirements and processes;
- II. The development of proposed language to be adopted in the JJDP reauthorization bill (as introduced), scheduled for this Congress and supported by a CJJ position paper; and
- III. The drafting and publishing of a Practice Brief with key recommendations to the relevant parties regarding what can be done to support compliance.

Specific Focus

The solicited survey and written report will assist CJJ in advancing best practices at the state and federal level to secure the safety and well-being of children in state juvenile justice systems vis-à-vis the JJDP. The fact-finding survey instrument(s) will be given to a selected, appropriate sample of CJJ members from each state in order to determine and articulate the current challenges, specifically:

- current compliance status;
- compliance capacity and funding and how this has changed over time;
- what the state regards as best and effective practices in its compliance monitoring system;
- what the state regards as weaknesses or barriers in its compliance monitoring system;
- statutory or administrative barriers in a state that have caused compliance problems;
- responses or lack of responses from OJJDP to questions, etc.;
- technical assistance needs answered/unanswered;
- how SAG members support compliance; and
- other concerns related to compliance.

Upon completion of the survey, the consultant will analyze the findings for trends, themes, common concerns and common practices and policies. The findings will be used to develop a Practice Brief that shall evaluate the effectiveness of current compliance practices, requirements and guidelines, and make recommendations for improvements to all relevant parties, including

the SAGs, the compliance monitors, juvenile justice specialists, Congress and the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

Submission Deadline and Specific Requirements

**Proposals must be submitted by March 21, 2008, 4:00 p.m., EST,
and labeled: **Attn. Tara Andrews – 2008 Compliance Project.****

The proposal narrative must be on standard 8½-by-11-inch paper, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in 12 pt. font. The total narrative portion must not exceed four (4) pages.

Applicants are asked to submit three references with their proposals. Samples of similar work are welcome.

Selection Criteria

- ❑ Research methodology: **35**
- ❑ Demonstrated experience: **35**
- ❑ Knowledge base: **15**
- ❑ Access to survey recipients: **10**
- ❑ Discretionary points: Proposals may be granted additional discretionary points in reaction to the overall presentation and style of the proposal (up to **5** points).

Total possible points: **100**

Eligible candidate(s) must also be able to:

- ❑ Work closely with CJJ's Executive and Deputy Executive Directors, as well as the Compliance Project Advisory Committee, to develop an overall orientation to the subject and to ensure, throughout the process, that the survey is in keeping with CJJ's project goals.
- ❑ Provide written analysis and author the survey report for CJJ with the understanding that CJJ will hold the copyright.
- ❑ Adhere to the following schedule (or a revised, approved schedule):
 - March 30 – April 4, 2008: Meet with CJJ in Washington, DC
 - April 18, 2008: Submit draft survey to CJJ for review, comment and approval

- April 21-May 9, 2008: Tool implemented - circulate survey and begin data collection
- May 9, 2008: Complete data collection
- May 12-16, 2008: Analyze data and review preliminary findings
- June 9, 2008: Submit findings and recommendations in written report to CJJ for review, comment and approval
- June 23, 2008: Submit final report to CJJ
- *Monthly*: Brief CJJ on progress via conference call

Please note -- All deliveries of the above documents and/or text on disk must be made by mail, e-mail, or package service (not by fax) to CJJ's national office.

Selection Process

The CJJ Executive Board will make the final selection of the survey writer(s). The decision will be made in late-March 2008, following an objective and thorough review process. All applicants will be notified of the final outcome by March 28, 2008.

Budget

Proposals must be accompanied by an itemized budget. The budget for the project may not exceed \$10,000.00 Please note -- the following expenses will be covered by the Coalition:

- ❑ Expenses incurred by the survey writer(s) for travel required by the Coalition, in accordance with federal government rules and regulations.
- ❑ Costs associated with copying, design, and production of the survey and report in draft and final formats.

For further information, please contact: Tara Andrews, Coalition for Juvenile Justice
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