RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT BY
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

WHEREAS, in 1974 Congress passed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) and established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) as a separate entity in the U.S. Department of Justice in recognition of the ineffectiveness of prior federal efforts to address juvenile justice issues within large centralized federal departments and programs; and

WHEREAS, the legislation requires OJJDP be directed by a presidentially-appointed administrator to lead the office and address all aspects of juvenile justice; and

WHEREAS, the JJDPA has not been reauthorized since 2007, and up until recently was not operating under the leadership of a presidentially-appointed administrator; and

WHEREAS, OJJDP is key in supporting local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system, and has resulted in numerous programs for the benefit of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, justice for children and families and efforts toward delinquency prevention have been significantly advanced through the enactment of the JJDPA, the leadership of OJJDP, the programs implemented through discretionary grants to national organizations and state projects with national coordination; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ has supported the original Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and its reauthorization since enactment in 1974; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s juvenile and family courts are charged by Congress to ensure the fair, effective, and developmentally appropriate administration of justice for children in the foster care system and children who are delinquent and dependent; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ believes OJJDP is necessary to provide a federal partner in the field of juvenile justice; to support and administer funding for training and technical assistance to the courts and system partners; to provide objective, cost effective research and dissemination of critical statistics and reports; and conduct demonstrations of programs that work, including best practice dependency and delinquency courts, juvenile and family drug courts, truancy reduction, gang suppression, and efficient and effective juvenile delinquency programs; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ has successfully implemented many innovative and valuable programs that have improved the quality of justice for juveniles and the delivery of services for neglected and abused children; and

WHEREAS, NCJFCJ promotes the exercise of judicial leadership to convene stakeholders to improve and enhance system responses to the needs of all children, families and victims of domestic violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges fully supports and again asserts and reaffirms its support for the reauthorization of JJDPA and continuation of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and urges Congress to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act as its first order of business in 2014.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees during their meeting on November 19, 2013, Reno, Nevada.
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF

Youth PROMISE Act Legislation

WHEREAS, both Chambers of the 113th U.S. Congress have introduced Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (Youth PROMISE) Act companion legislation; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) supported YPA legislation introduced by Congressman Bobby Scott and Senator Robert Casey in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Youth PROMISE Act legislation will provide resources to communities to engage in comprehensive, evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies to help decrease juvenile delinquency, violence, gang crime, illegal drug activity and other crime; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s juvenile and family courts are charged by Congress to ensure the fair, effective, and developmentally appropriate administration of justice for children, families and victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the legislation aligns with the mission, vision, and goals of the NCJFCJ, which support implementation of evidence-based prevention and intervention practices in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ has successfully implemented and partnered on many innovative and valuable programs improving the quality of justice for children vulnerable to delinquency; and

WHEREAS, NCJFCJ promotes the exercise of judicial leadership to convene stakeholders to improve and enhance system responses to the needs of all children, families and victims of domestic violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges fully supports the Youth PROMISE Act bills introduced by Congressmen Bobby Scott and Walter Jones, and Senators Mary Landrieu and James Inhofe, and urges Congress to act now to pass the legislation.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees during their meeting on November 19, 2013, Reno, Nevada.
Policy Statement on Evidence of Effectiveness
March, 2014

It is the policy of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to adopt the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Continuum of Evidence of Effectiveness in identifying evidential value of programs and practices within the juvenile and family courts.

To support this categorization, the NCJFCJ makes the following recommendations related to classifying programs and practices:

- All programs and practices discussed by the NCJFCJ will be categorized according to the Continuum of Evidence of Effectiveness.
- All NCJFCJ publications that are related to programs and practices will include a classification of the program or practice based on the continuum.
- Decisions regarding how programs and practices will be categorized should be completed by senior researcher personnel who have an in-depth understanding of research methods.
- All NCJFCJ staff will use the language from the continuum in discussing the effectiveness of programs and practices.
- All research reports will identify where the program or practice of interest fall on the continuum when reporting findings.
- Appropriate programs and practices may be nominated by NCJFCJ to CrimeSolutions.gov for inclusion on their website to more broadly inform systems change efforts and identify promising practices.

| **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Continuum of Evidence of Effectiveness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Well Supported</th>
<th>Supported</th>
<th>Promising Direction</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
<th>Undetermined</th>
<th>Unsupported</th>
<th>Harmful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effect</td>
<td>Found to effective</td>
<td>Some evidence of effectiveness</td>
<td>Expected preventive effect</td>
<td>Effect is undetermined</td>
<td>Ineffective</td>
<td>Practice constitutes risk of harm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Validity</td>
<td>True experimental design</td>
<td>Quasi-experimental design</td>
<td>Non-experimental design</td>
<td>Sound theory only</td>
<td>No research</td>
<td>True or quasi experimental design</td>
<td>Any design with any results indicating negative effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of evidence/research design</td>
<td>Randomized control trials and meta-analysis/systemic review</td>
<td>Quasi-experimental design</td>
<td>Single group design</td>
<td>Exploratory study</td>
<td>Anecdotal/Needs assessment</td>
<td>Randomized control trials or quasi experimental designs</td>
<td>Any design with results indicating negative effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Replication</td>
<td>Program replication with evaluation replication</td>
<td>Program replication without evaluation replication</td>
<td>Partial program replication w/out evaluation replication</td>
<td>Program replication w/out evaluation replication</td>
<td>Possible program replication w/out evaluation replication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation Guidance</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Partial/Comprehensive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended and ecological validity</td>
<td>Applied studies - different settings (2+)</td>
<td>Applied studies – similar settings (2+)</td>
<td>Real-world informed</td>
<td>Somewhat real world informed</td>
<td>Not real-world informed</td>
<td>Applied studies - same/different settings</td>
<td>Possible applied studies – similar/different settings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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There is a growing understanding within the juvenile and family court systems that programs and practices should have some empirical basis. Many are proposing that any practice utilized by the courts should be evidence-based. Yet, what constitutes an “evidence-based practice” varies depending largely on the defining agency. While the gold standard for evidence-based often includes that the program be tested using a randomized control trial with replication across many domains, this is seldom feasible to obtain, given the resource limitations that many programs face. Instead of classifying programs in terms of evidence-based or not, it is more beneficial to categorize programs on a continuum of evidence that highlights the best available research. This allows recognition not only of the highest empirical evidence, but also of emerging or promising practices with some level of evidence that could be further explored and utilized within the courts.

Several organizations have already adopted this approach to categorizing research. The National Institute of Justice Office of Justice Programs offers CrimeSolutions.gov,\(^2\) a website dedicated to helping identify what works in the criminal justice (including juvenile justice) field. They review and rate programs based on the rigor of the studies that have been done to illustrate their effectiveness. There are five classes of studies that take into account the conceptual framework, study design, outcome evidence, and program validity of the programs. These help classify the program as Effective (strong evidence or typical “evidence-based practice”), Promising (some evidence), and No Effect (no effective or harmful findings). This expands the classification system from the traditional evidence-based or not, to include the promising practice category. The site is also a useful resource for individuals who would like to determine the effectiveness of criminal justice programs, including diversion programs, specialty courts, and sentencing. The continuum, however, is limited in scope. It only has three categories of classification, which would likely result in most programs classified as “promising.” A broader continuum might allow for classification that is more diverse.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have such a continuum—the Continuum of Evidence of Effectiveness.\(^3\) This continuum allows for categorization of programs and practices into seven categories based on two dimensions—strength of the evidence and effectiveness. The Continuum ranges from harmful to well-supported (i.e., evidence-based), allowing multiple categorizations between the two extremes. Categorizations between the well-supported and harmful include unsupported, undetermined, emerging, promising, and supported. This type of categorization can be used in creating a better understanding of the effectiveness of the program, within the context of the strength of the evidence, and allows for a much broader classification of programs and practices. Further, utilizing this classification will allow for an understanding of where a program is on the continuum and what steps it needs to take to move toward a well-supported practice. In comparison to OJP’s continuum, the CDC’s classification system allows for several dimensions of “promising” practice and makes a distinction between no effects and harmful effects, which may be useful in understanding program effectiveness.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees during their Spring Meeting, March 1, 2014, Monterey, California.

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\(^2\) [https://www.crimesolutions.gov/about_starttofinish.aspx](https://www.crimesolutions.gov/about_starttofinish.aspx)

\(^3\) More information on the CDC’s Continuum of Evidence can be found here: [http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/evidence/#&panel1-1](http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/evidence/#&panel1-1)
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE COURTS CATALYZING CHANGE INITIATIVE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY TRAINING FOR COURT PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Courts Catalyzing Change (CCC) Initiative recognizes the need for diversity training for court personnel because individuals often lack appropriate information and awareness about the unique strengths and assets of other cultures.

WHEREAS, The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges also recognizes that too many of our nation’s child and family-serving organizations and systems, including family and dependency courts, lack requisite capacity to develop, support and sustain a workforce that can effectively engage and empower communities of color.

WHEREAS, The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Courts Catalyzing Change Initiative’s approach to diversity training can be described as a racially/ethnically equitable and culturally competent effort to deepen its perspectives about how historically negative social messages perpetuate racial and ethnic biases toward children and families of color involved with child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

WHEREAS, in an effort to promote the need to better identify, understand and build upon their strengths and assets, NCJFCJ’s Courts Catalyzing Change Initiative has been developing and promoting an approach that utilizes a:

- structural racism framework to help analyze and explicate how child welfare and juvenile justice systems have historically responded to the needs of children and families of color in ways that may unintentionally perpetuate stereotypes and disparities;
- racial equity “lens” to help demonstrate how race and ethnicity continue to be predictors of good and bad outcomes relative to child safety, permanency and well-being for too many of these children and their families and communities; and
- culturally competent/culturally sensitive approach to help mitigate the adverse impact that implicit bias can have on opportunities to utilize promising child and family engagement strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) reaffirms its support and commitment to the Courts Catalyzing Change Initiative, and asserts and affirms the importance of diversity training for all court personnel, NCJFCJ staff and members of the Board of Trustees.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees during their meeting July 12, 2014 in Chicago, Illinois.