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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES  
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# Juvenile Drug Court Training & Technical Assistance Project:

**Improving Practice in  
Courts Across America**

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# JUVENILE DRUG COURT PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Multi-Agency Collaborative Focused on Improving Practice

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) supports and guides project implementation and ensures the work with juvenile drug courts (JDC) remains grounded in evidence-based practice. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) has reached out to a diverse set of professionals, representing differing viewpoints, to serve on the PAC. These representatives are experts in the field of adolescent treatment, mental health, trauma-informed care, research, court innovations, and juvenile justice.



## 16 STRATEGIES IN PRACTICE

- 01 Collaborative Planning
- 02 Teamwork
- 03 Clearly Defined Target Population and Eligibility Criteria
- 04 Judicial Involvement and Supervision
- 05 Monitoring and Evaluation
- 06 Community Partnerships

# JUVENILE DRUG COURT TRAINING

Improving Practice on a National, Regional, and Local Level

Research has shown that participating in training is a key component to a high-functioning team, which in turn leads to better outcomes for youth and families served in juvenile drug courts. The NCJFCJ is conducting a variety of training types under the project with the goal of reaching the widest audience possible.

## A

### **TRAINING TO INTRODUCE CONCEPTS:**

these trainings are short (one to two hours) and are designed to raise the audience's awareness of a topic or issue.

- Webinars
- State and national conference inserts

## B

### **TRAINING TO IMPROVE INDIVIDUAL EFFECTIVENESS:**

these trainings are short (three to four hours) and are designed to build on participants' existing knowledge while encouraging them to implement change.

- Online workshops
- Practice Advancement Institutes

## C

### **TRAINING TO CHANGE TEAM PRACTICE :**

these trainings are intensive (one to three days) and are designed to move a team from current practice to best practice.

- On-site technical assistance
- Juvenile Drug Court Best Practice Trainings
- Treatment Modality Training

## D

### **TRAINING FOR THE SELF-GUIDED LEARNER :**

these resources can be used by members of the JDC team and are designed to provide them with training at their own pace moving from the introduction of concepts through to a change in practice.

- National Juvenile Drug Court Online Knowledge Center
- Juvenile Drug Court Planning Guide
- In-Practice Tips Sheets

**07 Comprehensive Treatment Planning**

**08 Developmentally Appropriate Services**

**09 Gender-Appropriate Services**

**10 Cultural Competence**

**11 Focus on Strengths**

**12 Family Engagement**

**13 Educational Linkages**

**14 Drug Testing**

**15 Goal-Oriented Incentives and Sanctions**

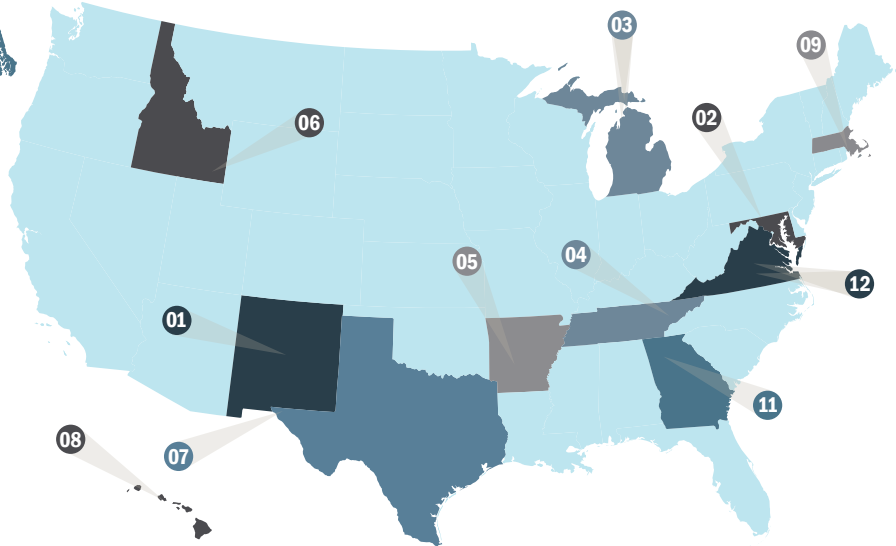
**16 Confidentiality**

# JUVENILE DRUG COURT LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

A Community Built on Training and Technical Assistance

## THE 12 JDC LEARNING COLLABORATIVE SITES

- 01 Second Judicial District, NM
- 02 Washington County, MD
- 03 Charlevoix & Emmet County, MI
- 04 Knox County, TN
- 05 Garland County, AR
- 06 Bannock County, ID
- 07 El Paso, TX
- 08 Honolulu, HI
- 09 Bristol County, MA
- 10 Fairbanks Borough, AK
- 11 Cobb County, GA
- 12 Chesterfield/Colonial Heights, VA



The Juvenile Drug Court Learning Collaborative is a multi-year project for JDCs to build capacity, assess needs, initiate strategic planning, implement appropriate program improvements, evaluate program performance, and help sustain programs. The Learning Collaborative consists of twelve regional sites across the United States, and each site will:

### 01

#### SET GOALS:

to strive for program improvement

- Increase/improve access to evidence-based screening/assessment/treatment for adolescents
- Increase/improve fidelity to the *“Juvenile Drug Courts: Strategies in Practice”*
- Goal driven outputs and outcomes (short and long-term)

### 02

#### ENHANCE & IMPROVE:

through targeted training and technical assistance

- Participate in self-assessment of program/team practice
- Develop strategic plans focused on eliminating gaps in training/services/system enhancements
- Participate in multifarious types of training/technical assistance to improve practice and technology transfer

### 03

#### LEVERAGING THE LEARNING COMMUNITY:

building collaboration through networking

- Site-level practitioner learning through JDC cross-site visits and all-sites training
- Build a learning infrastructure with online and remote networking opportunities
- Share lessons learned with the larger JDC field

### 04

#### MARK CHANGES:

through qualitative and quantitative evaluation

- Gather historical data on practice and program outcomes
- Gather and track any change data connected to goals and enhancements
- Conduct process evaluation to gauge implementation efforts

# JUVENILE DRUG COURT ADOLESCENT-BASED TREATMENT DATABASE

Linking Courts to the Evidence-Based Treatment Community

The adolescent substance abuse treatment field is young compared to adult substance abuse treatment services. For many years, services for juveniles were merely adult models, most of which were only slightly modified to address a multitude of adolescent-specific issues. When studies examined these treatment practices, they found that such modified adult models were often ineffective with juveniles and perhaps, not surprisingly, caused more harm than good.

However, in the last 15 years, researchers have successfully developed a range of validated substance use disorder treatment modalities normed for adolescents. The NCJFCJ has compiled information on validated treatment interventions and assessment instruments in The Adolescent-Based Treatment Database, which can serve as a “one-stop-shop” for JDCs researching adolescent-focused treatment and assessment instruments.

**A**

The Database serves as a valuable tool for JDCs by detailing intervention.

**B**

The Database provides special considerations regarding specific treatment interventions for JDCs.

**C**

The Database provides engagement strategies for treatment providers, allied agencies, youth, and families.

**D**

The Database provides an Adolescent-Based Treatment Intervention Comparison Matrix, which will help readers quickly identify brief, individual, group, and family interventions that may work in their jurisdiction.

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**16**  
**STRATEGIES  
IN PRACTICE**



# JUVENILE DRUG COURT NEXT STEPS

Driving and Framing the Discussion

The NCJFCJ is committed to taking the next logical steps in the development of evidenced-based JDCs, which are grounded in research and fidelity. With every project goal and deliverable, the NCJFCJ strives to improve practice and to take JDCs, and the field, to the next level of evidenced-based operation. During the next three years, the NCJFCJ will focus on the following areas of importance:

## 01 USING DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE AND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE FOR JUVENILES

- Increase knowledge about treatment concepts and how best to support court-ordered treatment interventions
- Increase the ability to communicate with treatment providers, families, and youth about the treatment planning process
- Increase the ability to help motivate and promote change by employing parallel approaches, such as motivational interviewing, with youth and families

## 02 DESIGNING AND ADHERING TO A PROGRAM STRUCTURE BASED ON THE SIXTEEN STRATEGIES

- Develop a program structure that is appropriate as both a juvenile delinquency intervention and an evidence-based substance abuse treatment program
- Define the appropriate target population and create a phase structure that corresponds to JDC participants' substance abuse treatment needs, criminogenic risk factors, education needs, and complex family structures
- Explore the research on the effectiveness and ability to implement the strategies outlined in *"Juvenile Drug Courts: Strategies in Practice"* and begin the process of developing national standards

## 03 ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE TEAM DYNAMICS

- Increase the efficacy of interdisciplinary team efforts by judges, court personnel, prosecutors, defense counsel, treatment providers, juvenile probation, educators, law enforcement, evaluators, and other system professionals
- Increase the ability of JDC teams to incorporate transition planning within their policies and procedures
- Increase buy-in for the JDC model and philosophy

## 04 RESPONDING TO JUVENILE AND FAMILY ISSUES

- Emphasize individualized programming and a focus on strengths—a foundational JDC concept
- Incorporate fair, consistent, and individualized responses to challenging behavior by youth
- Improve strategies to engage parents and other family members in a meaningful way

# ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES



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WWW.NCJFCJ.ORG

Founded by judges in 1937, the **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges** (NCJFCJ) pursues a mission to improve courts and systems practice and raise awareness of the core issues that touch the lives of many of our nation's children and families.

A leader in continuing education opportunities, research, publication development, technical assistance, and policy development in the field of juvenile and family justice, the NCJFCJ is unique in providing practice-based resources to jurisdictions and communities nationwide. The NCJFCJ seeks to improve the standards, practices, and effectiveness of the nation's juvenile and family courts while acknowledging and upholding victims' rights, the safety of all family members, and the safety of the community.

The NCJFCJ's membership is made up of judges, commissioners, masters, and other juvenile and family law professionals from around the country and the world; however, its reach extends far beyond the membership. Through the availability of training and technical assistance for judges and other professionals working in the field, the NCJFCJ continues to play a key role in improving the practice of juvenile and family justice.

For more information about the NCJFCJ and their work, please visit [www.NCJFCJ.org](http://www.NCJFCJ.org).

The **VISION** of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is for a society in which every family and child has access to fair, equal, effective, and timely justice.

The **MISSION** of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is to provide all judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of the families and children who seek justice.

This project is supported by Grant Number 2011-DC-BX-K001 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The OJJDP is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions on this database are those of the developers/authors and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice or the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

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**The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges®**

(NCJFCJ), headquartered on the University of Nevada campus in Reno since 1969, provides cutting-edge training, wide-ranging technical assistance, and research to help the nation's courts, judges, and staff in their important work. Since its founding in 1937 by a group of judges dedicated to improving the effectiveness of the nation's juvenile courts, the NCJFCJ has pursued a mission to improve courts and systems practice and raise awareness of the core issues that touch the lives of many of our nation's children and families.

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