

State of North Carolina
Title II Formula Grant Application
Three Year Plan for Juvenile Justice
2024 – 2026



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I. Introduction

The Governor's Crime Commission (GCC), a section of the Partnership Engagement Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, serves as the chief advisory body to the Governor and to the Secretary of Public Safety on crime and justice issues. The mission of the GCC is to improve the quality of life for residents of the state, enhance public safety, and reduce and prevent crime by improving the criminal justice system. Commissioners include 43 appointed and ex-officio members, including leadership from state criminal justice and human service agencies, private citizens, representatives of the court system, law enforcement agencies, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. The work of the Commission is supported by staff who specialize in grants planning and management, as well as data and analysis.

The Governor's Crime Commission functions as the state's supervisory board under 28 C.F.R. § 31.103 and in compliance with the requirements of the Justice System Improvement Act of 1979. Committees of the Commission include the:

- Crime Victims Services Committee
- Criminal Justice Improvement Committee
- Data Advisory Group on Criminal Justice
- Juvenile Justice Planning Committee

The GCC serves as the state administering agency for various federal grant programs, including but not limited to:

- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
- Children's Justice Act
- JJDP Act Title II Formula Grant
- Prison Rape Elimination Act
- Project Safe Neighborhoods
- Residential Substance Abuse Grant
- State Crisis Intervention Program
- Victims of Crime Act
- Violence Against Women Act (STOP)

North Carolina affirms that the chief executive officer of the State has designated the NC Governor's

Crime Commission as the sole agency for supervising the preparation and administration of the 3-Year State Plan, as outlined in NC Gen. Stat. § 143B-1102.

Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitoring

Pursuant to the requirements found at 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(1) and (2), the Governor's Crime Commission is the designated state agency responsible for administering Title II Formula Grant Funds in North Carolina. States participating in the Formula Grants Program are required to monitor and report data for all adult jails and lockups, secure detention facilities, and secure correctional facilities within the state. As the designated state agency, the GCC has authority, by legislation, to administer the Title II Formula Grants Program, including monitoring for compliance with the deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO), Section 223(a)(11)(B), separation, and jail removal requirements. The authority to monitor the core requirements of the JJDP Act is found at N.C.G.S. §§ 143B-602(8)(c) and (d.), N.C.G.S. § 143B-1101(a)(3), N.C.G.S. §§ 143B-1103(b)(6) and (10).

In a compliance determination dated December 28, 2023, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention found that for purposes of FY2023, North Carolina was in compliance with the below core requirements of the Title II, Part B Formula Grants Program, based on the State's compliance data covering the previous year:

- Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11))
- Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates (34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(12))
- Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups (34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(13))

Juvenile Justice Planning Committee – State Advisory Group

In accordance with NC Gen. Stat. § 143B-1102, the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee shall advise the Governor's Crime Commission on all matters which are referred to relevant to juvenile justice; shall participate in the development of the juvenile justice component of the State's comprehensive plan; shall consider and recommend priorities for the improvement of juvenile justice services; and shall offer technical assistance to State and local agencies in the planning and implementation of programs contemplated by the comprehensive plan for the improvement of juvenile justice. The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee serves as the State Advisory Group as required by 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(3), and is designated through Governor's Executive Order No. 269.

Membership and Composition

Consistent with the federal requirements outlined in the JJDP Act, *as amended*, and as outlined in Governor’s Executive Order No. 269, membership for the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee “shall consist of no less than fifteen (15) and no more than thirty-three (33) members appointed by the Governor. Each member shall have training, experience, or special knowledge concerning adolescent development, the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency, the administration of juvenile justice, the reduction of juvenile delinquency, or other relevant expertise and experience.

The Governor appoints membership that includes:

1. Elected officials representing general purpose local government.
2. Representatives of local law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies, which may include: a juvenile court or family court judge, a juvenile or local prosecutor, counsel for children and youth, or a probation worker.
3. Representatives of public agencies concerned with delinquency prevention or treatment, such as welfare, social services, child and adolescent mental health, education, child and adolescent substance abuse, special education. services for youth with disabilities, recreation, and youth services.
4. Representatives of private nonprofit organizations, including persons with a special focus on preserving and strengthening families, parent groups and parent self-help groups, youth development, delinquency prevention and treatment, neglected or dependent children, the quality of juvenile justice, education and social services for children.
5. Volunteers who work with delinquent youth or youth at risk of delinquency.
6. Representatives of programs that are alternatives to confinement, including organized recreation activities.
7. Persons with special experience and competence in addressing problems related to school violence and vandalism and alternatives to suspension and expulsion.
8. Persons licensed or certified by the state with expertise and competence in preventing and addressing mental health and substance abuse needs in delinquent youth and youth at risk of delinquency.
9. Representatives of victim or witness advocacy groups, including at least one (1) individual with expertise in addressing the challenges of sexual abuse and exploitation and trauma, particularly the needs of youth who experience disproportionate levels of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trauma before entering the juvenile justice system.

10. An American Indian tribal representative (if such representative is available) or other individual with significant expertise in tribal law enforcement and juvenile justice in the American Indian tribal communities.
11. Representatives of county sheriffs' departments.
12. Representatives of nonprofit faith-based groups or community groups.

The majority of members, including the Chair, shall not be full-time employees of federal, state or local government. At least one-fifth (1/5) of the members shall be under the age of twenty-eight (28) at the time of appointment and at least three (3) members shall be under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system or have been previously under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system, or if not feasible and in appropriate circumstances, the parent or guardian of someone who has been or is currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system (Exec. Order No. 269).

Mission and Responsibilities

The mission of the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee is to provide resources for youth who are at-risk of becoming delinquent due to individual, school, family, peer, or community factors. These resources provide services for youth who are delinquent, undisciplined, or involved in the juvenile court process from intake through aftercare.

This mission is accomplished by administering funding for State and local programming through the following federal grant programs:

- Children's Justice Act
- Prison Rape Elimination Act
- JJDP Act Title II Formula Grant

As outlined in the Commission Bylaws, committees and subcommittees shall be strategic to determine their yearly goals, priorities and update their mission as needed.

A major responsibility of the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee is to review, comment on, and score all grant applications submitted for funding through the above grant programs. This process includes bringing forth funding recommendations to the to the full Governor's Crime Commission. Additionally, Committees shall consider the scores, recommendations of the subcommittees and staff, as well as public policy matters when determining grant recommendations for the Commission. The Commission shall vote on the recommendations of the Committees to make funding recommendations to the Secretary.

North Carolina affirms that that the SAG is afforded an opportunity to review and comment, not later than 45 days after submission to the advisory group, on all juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications submitted to the State agency designated under paragraph (1). The SAG reviews progress and accomplishments of projects funded under the State plan.

Additionally, the State affirms that the SAG:

- Submits to the chief executive officer and the legislature of the State at least every two years a report and necessary recommendations regarding compliance with the core requirements;
- Contacts and seeks regular input from juveniles under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system;
- Advises on State supervisory and local criminal justice advisory board compositions; and,
- Participates in the development and review of the State’s juvenile justice plan prior to submission to the supervisory board for final action.

In keeping with its mission, the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee will continue to support programs which meet the needs of young people in the State. The reduction of racial and ethnic disparities remains a priority of the State and Juvenile Justice Planning Committee. The Governor’s Crime Commission allocates program funds to support the work of the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee (\$20,000), not to exceed 5 percent of the total award received each year.

Subcommittees

As outlined in the Commission Bylaws, the State Advisory Group and its subcommittees conduct formal business through meetings that occur at least quarterly each year. As permitted by Committee, subcommittee members may score grants and subcommittees may make recommendations to the formal Committees. Committee members shall score and vote on grants that fall under that Committee. Based upon Committee scoring and recommendations, final consideration and approval for funding is made by the full Governor’s Crime Commission.

The two subcommittees of the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee are:

- Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Subcommittee, composed of juvenile justice stakeholders (including representatives of the educational system) to advise efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. Establishment of the R/ED Subcommittee supports

efforts to maintain compliance with the R/ED core requirement found at 34 U.S.C. §11133(a)(15).

- Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force, established in accordance with the Section 107(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to oversee the appropriation of North Carolina CJA funds, create and monitor training and policy recommendations for system improvements, and participate in the development of the Three-Year Assessment for the child welfare system.

When necessary and possible, the R/ED Subcommittee and CJA Task Force share expertise on overlapping issues, projects, and committee priorities.

Plan Development

The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee participated in the development and review of the Three-Year State Plan for Juvenile Justice prior to submission to the supervisory board for final action. Further, North Carolina affirms that it provides for the active consultation with and participation of units of local government or combinations thereof in the development of the state plan which adequately takes into account the needs and requests of units of local government, except that nothing in the plan requirements, or any regulations promulgated to carry out such requirements, shall be construed to prohibit or impede the state from making grants to, or entering into contracts with, local private agencies or the advisory group.

In addition to regular quarterly meetings, GCC staff supported two combined meetings of the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee and Racial and Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee. Additionally, staff utilized surveys and small group breakouts within meetings in order to develop and finalize recommendations for Title II programming in the State. During these meetings, the Committees discussed future funding priorities, performance measurement criteria, and additional recommendations for the establishment of their respective goals.

Finally, the Governor’s Crime Commission partners with the state-run Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, itself a part of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. The primary source of juvenile justice data in the State of North Carolina is maintained by the Division. The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is committed to the reduction and prevention of juvenile delinquency by effectively intervening, educating, and treating at-risk and justice-involved youth to strengthen families and enhance public safety. Through strong partnerships within State government,

North Carolina promotes evidence-based and trauma-informed programs and practices and utilizes community-based services to respond to the varying needs of at-risk and justice involved youth.

From time to time, but not less than annually, the State will review its plan and submit to the Administrator an analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and activities carried out under the plan, and any modifications in the plan, including the survey of State and local needs, that it considers necessary.

Research, Training, and Evaluation

North Carolina has developed an adequate research, training, and evaluation capacity within the state, made up of professionals dedicated to providing high quality data, research and evaluation services to an array of entities including federal, state and local governments. Research and legislative reports are located at <https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/juvenile-justice/datastatisticsreports>, including the point in time analysis of mental health disorders in community residential and long-term commitment facilities.

Within the Department of Public Safety, the Juvenile Justice Division employs a team of four research staff that support the analysis and decision support needs of the Division. The State also relies on the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission staff, who conduct juvenile recidivism, youth development center projections, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council effectiveness studies. The creation of the Government Data Analytics Center within the Department of Information Technology Services has been key to matching and de-identifying data to fulfill researcher requests authorized by the Division. And, the Office of State Partnerships within Office of State Budget and Management (NC OSBM) has been integral in matching university researchers with research projects that the Division is pursuing. Current projects with external researchers include analysis of youth in foster care who are justice-involved, and an evaluation of Teen Court programming.

Grant-funded research projects include validation of the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) with Orbis, analysis of the restorative justice pilot at Edgecombe Youth Development Center, analysis of the Detention Assessment Tool (DAT) which determines appropriateness for initial placement in a detention center, and evaluation of the NC S.A.F.E. (Secure All Firearms Effectively) media and information campaign (*RE-679 Diversion, 2023 PITS Report, RE-952 Mental Health Disorders*).

II. Structure and Function of the Juvenile Justice System

North Carolina is the 28th largest and 9th-most populous state, with an estimated population of 10,630,691 people. The State consists of 100 counties which contain 533 incorporated municipalities. All counties and municipalities operate independently of one another and the State. North Carolina has a state-run juvenile justice system, where most juvenile justice functions occur at the state level. The full spectrum of North Carolina's juvenile justice system involves law enforcement officers, the court system, and all programs and services of the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The Division envisions a seamless, equitable, comprehensive juvenile justice system that fully invests in the success of its employees and provides timely, age-appropriate services to youth and their families in need, in the most appropriate settings. North Carolina assures that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, family income, and disability. Thousands of youth encounter North Carolina's juvenile justice system through interaction with the primary units of the Division, including: Community Programs, Court Services, Facility Operations, Education Services and Clinical Services and Programs.

As required by the regulation found at 34 U.S.C. §11133(a)(18), North Carolina maintains procedures for protecting the rights of recipients of services and for ensuring appropriate privacy with regard to records relating to such services provided to any individual under the State Plan. In addition to State law, this requirement is supported by the Division of Juvenile Justice's Juvenile Records Policy and the state's Juvenile Bill of Rights (*YD3, JJ 25*).

State-Run Juvenile Justice System

North Carolina has a State-run juvenile justice system, with most juvenile justice functions instituted and controlled by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of NC Department of Public Safety. The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention focuses on at-risk youth and juvenile justice issues across the state.

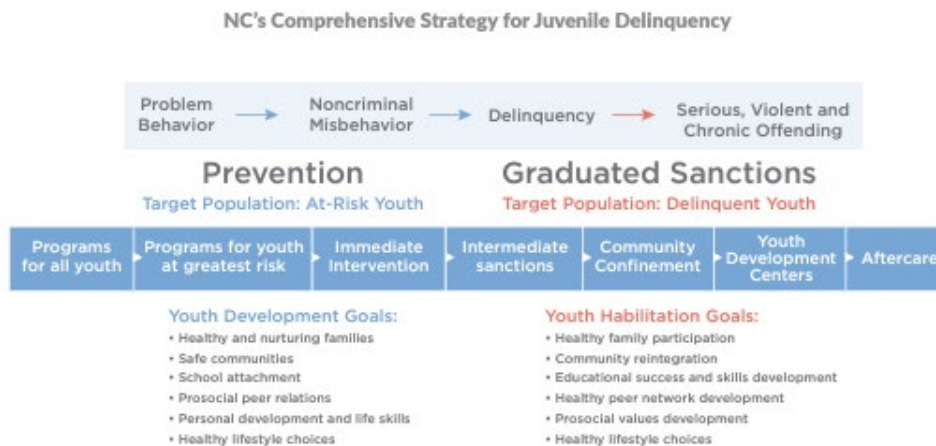
Graduated sanctions for delinquent youth, from least to most restrictive, include: immediate intervention, intermediate sanctions, community confinement, YDC confinement, and aftercare. The Division works to provide programming that may be used as an alternative to detention for vulnerable populations by offering an alternative to detention model in a more therapeutic and age-appropriate environment. These populations include and are not limited to: status offenders, survivors of commercial sexual exploitation,

and children not included in the age of juvenile jurisdiction. This also includes services and treatment for those youth in need of mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorder services at the time they encounter the juvenile justice system.

The State maintains a public-facing database that includes a wide spectrum of services across the State. Not all programs included in the directory are funded or regulated by the Division of Juvenile Justice; however, those who do receive funding and oversight by the Division are designated as such. The Directory can be found at <https://www.ncdps.gov/juvenile-justice/service-directory>. A separate portal for law enforcement identification of juvenile program resources in lieu of detention is also available.

The Comprehensive Strategy

The Division’s approach to addressing risk and problem behaviors in youth is through the Comprehensive Strategy, which includes the use of evidence-based and effective prevention, treatment, education, and accountability-based sanctions in graduated levels by professional, strategic leadership through a tapestry of local and state partnerships. The Comprehensive Strategy works to achieve the most effective levels of impact before seeking institutional resources like secure custody and detention.



The first levels of the strategy continuum employ prevention and early intervention programs for at-risk youth who exhibit problem behavior and noncriminal misbehavior in an effort to reduce the onset of delinquency and prevent further occurrences of delinquent behavior. If these efforts are not successful or appropriate for the youth, the next stages of the strategy work to respond to delinquent behavior by addressing the risk factors for recidivism and the associated treatments necessary through a continuum of intervention strategies and services from intake through aftercare.

North Carolina's comprehensive strategy is research-based, data-driven, and outcome-focused. It empowers communities to assess their own delinquency problems and guides them in how to use data to design and develop their own comprehensive strategies. There are countless resources regarding North Carolina's juvenile justice system processes and resources for youth publicly available to families and professionals designed to support healthy youth development and reduce juvenile crime.

The Division's strategic plan further supports the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy by prioritizing five key components of the juvenile justice system:

- **Structure and Safety.** Adequately staffing and resourcing essential services and facilities to address the needs of an evolving system.
- **People.** Supporting staff by appropriately resourcing operations and continuing to support successful hiring and retention practices.
- **Reduction of Racial and Ethnic Disparities.** Creating, providing, and evaluating R/ED training and Juvenile Minority Sensitivity Training (JMST).
- **School Safety.** Effective programming, services, and awareness to enhance school safety, including programming for youth who threaten school violence and funding effective gun prevention strategies.
- **Tailored Services to Fill Gaps.** Improving positive outcomes for juveniles by promoting positive skill growth and minimizing relocation disruptions. This emphasizes partnerships in order to enhance clinical/therapeutic resources, diversion, and community-based resolutions.

The Division's approach to juvenile crime is family-centric at all stages of the youth's involvement with the juvenile justice system. Wherever possible and appropriate, the Division engages family members in the design and delivery of prevention and treatment services, especially in post-placement and aftercare. At all stages, including intake, detention, and post-release, consultation and case management are offered by staff, Child and Family Teams (CFTs) that meet regularly and include parents/guardians/custodians, and other community partners designed to involve families in the planning and tailoring of services that fit the needs of the juvenile in response to at-risk or delinquent behavior.

Raise the Age Implementation

Effective December 1, 2019, North Carolina raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction for nonviolent offenses to include 16- and 17-year-olds. Youth in this demographic are no longer automatically charged in the adult criminal justice system. Additionally, a lower boundary change occurred and raised the minimum

age of juvenile jurisdiction from age 6 to age 10 with some exceptions for 8–9-year-olds. Based on these major legislative changes, the age of juvenile jurisdiction in North Carolina is 10-17, with some exceptions that include 8–9-year-olds. Children aged 6-7 are now served through vulnerable juvenile consultation instead of through juvenile jurisdiction.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

The reduction of Racial and Ethnic Disparities is a priority of the Department of Public Safety and State of North Carolina. Through the implementation of policies, strategies, and best practices, the Division supports local efforts for reducing racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice. Strategies to target R/ED include partnership with JCPCs and allied professionals who provide education and awareness to law enforcement, school resource officers, stakeholders, and the public. North Carolina continues to implement policy, practice, and system improvement strategies at the State and local levels to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, through a multi-pronged approach, as required by 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(15).

Successes and Initiatives

Title II funds have supported the *Racial Equity in Juvenile Justice* project, which allowed for the Division to complete a total of five Racial Equity Institute (REI) Phase I 2-Day Workshops across the state. This 16-hour training consisted of managers/leaders from NC DPS, DJJDP, and other community partners/stakeholders. Approximately 200 people participated in the grant-funded training. Managers and leaders both in NC DPS and the community received training in relation to disproportionality in the juvenile justice system.

North Carolina was also selected to participate in the Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC), a partnership initiative between the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy and the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CLLP). This initiative seeks to identify strategies for reducing disparities faced by youth of color and improve outcomes for communities. The final profile for North Carolina Juvenile Justice and Cumberland County, NC will be published in 2024 by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University. Priorities for the Cumberland Team are: 1) establishing partnerships and cohesive relationships with all youth-focused stakeholders and partners related to the youth legal system; 2) supporting the development and implementation of the County's School Justice Partnership; 3) working to create crossover youth programming and remediation to address the needs of youth who are

dual systems involved; and 4) overall reducing the number of youth of color placed in DSS custody from juvenile delinquency court in Cumberland County.

Specific changes tested were:

- Statewide meeting for leadership;
- School Resource Officer training and community connection;
- Programs - Career Readiness; Fayetteville Urban Ministries Find-A-Friend Program;
- Providing Juvenile Justice R/ED data to Cumberland Co. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council;
- Cumberland Co. mentoring program;
- Juvenile Justice Court Services school consultation services;
- Electronic Monitoring program; Reducing youth of color detention admissions;
- Using assessment of social determinants to decrease Juvenile Justice involvement;
- Motivational Interviewing Skills Training requirement of Juvenile Court Counselor staff;
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council engagement;
- Serving With Accountability and Teamwork (SWAT) Intervention Program (SIP);
- Trainees to certified Court Counselors; and,
- Automatic salary increases for certified Juvenile Justice staff members.

(Breakthrough Series Collaborative)

Juvenile Justice System Function

The strategy employed by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention allows for a system of graduated responses based on an assessment of various factors, including the seriousness of risk behavior/crime and history of offending, alongside the needs of the youth and their families/supports.

This approach emphasizes the necessary partnerships within jurisdictions and seeks effective levels of impact prior to the institutionalization of youth in detention or correctional facilities. These partnerships include local and statewide professional and community programming, such as familial supports, local resources, law enforcement, and the court system. A full continuum of interventions is provided to youth ages 10-17 who are either considered at-risk, alleged to or have been found to have committed an undisciplined or delinquent offense. For juveniles deeper with stricter and more structured dispositions, Alternative to Detention programs provide services to prevent these youth from moving into commitment status and into the most secure juvenile facilities, known as Youth Development Centers (YDCs).

North Carolina affirms that, to the maximum extent practicable, a system has been implemented to ensure

that if a juvenile is before a court in the juvenile justice system, public child welfare records (including child protective services records) relating to that juvenile that are on file in the geographical area under the jurisdiction of such court will be made known to such court.

Valid Court Order

The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention approves custody for any juvenile, as outlined in the Division's Confinement Policy. Therefore, the procedures to ensure legal accuracy, appropriate court orders, and an evaluation of alternatives, as well as the requirement for notification to the appropriate public agency, all occur prior to confinement. North Carolina complies with all requirements for Valid Court Order exceptions and documentation is submitted separately in the compliance plan submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention via the Compliance Monitoring Tool (CMT).

Community Programs

The Community Programs section provides a comprehensive strategy to help prevent and reduce juvenile crime and delinquency. This strategy seeks to strengthen youth and families, promote delinquency prevention, support core social institutions, intervene immediately and effectively to delinquent behavior, and identify and control serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders. Core juvenile community programs include non-residential programs and residential contracted programs. The mission of Community Programs is to prevent youth at-risk for becoming delinquent from entering the juvenile justice system, and adjudicated youth from penetrating deeper into the juvenile justice system.

Non-residential Programs

- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Programs
- Intensive Intervention Services
- Functional Family Therapy

Residential Contracted Programs

- Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers
- Short-Term Residential Centers
- Multi-Purpose Group Homes
- Transitional Residential Homes

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Programs

The Division partners with Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils, located in all counties across the state, to produce a continuum of needed sanctions and services that address the issues of at-risk and delinquent behavior, as well as family issues impacting the behavior. JCPCs are funded partnerships designed to galvanize local and statewide community leaders to prevent and reduce juvenile crime. Programming and services in each county work to address problem areas, risks, and needs of its juvenile population. The Division allocates approximately \$28 million to JCPCs annually to support assessment, clinical treatment, community day programs, residential programs, restorative justice, and structured activities programs. As required by the regulations found at 42 U.S.C. § 5601 et seq. and further defined by NC Gen. Stat. § 143B-845, North Carolina uses community-based services and alternatives to detention to respond to the needs of at-risk youth or youth who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system, including community-based substance delinquency, substance abuse, and gang prevention programs and strategies. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council members are appointed by each county's board of commissioners. These councils are composed of community leaders in a variety of fields, including representatives from county government; the local school system; law enforcement; the judiciary; public health entities; mental health providers; human services agencies; businesses and nonprofits.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils are deliberately structured to address the legislated mandates in the execution of its duties by: (1) assessing the risks for delinquency and the needs of delinquent youth in the county (analyzing the offender profile unique to the county and address community risk factors that contribute to delinquency), (2) assessing local resources available to serve target youth populations in the county, (3) identifying service gaps in the county's service continuum, (4) identifying the services needed to fill gaps in the service continuum, (5) determining the priority services to address the needs of court involved youth and youth most likely to become court involved which are then advertised through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to solicit proposals from service providers to address priority service needs, and finally (6) completing a plan approved by the county government for addressing delinquency in that county that also identifies the services and recommended funding awards from the county JCPC allocation. An annual breakdown of juvenile arrest data by county is located in the County Databook, published online annually by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The wide spectrum of programs and services funded through JCPCs include:

- Assessment Programs. Clinical Evaluation and Psychological Assessment Programs.
- Clinical Treatment Programs. Sex Offender Assessment and Counseling, Home-Based Family Counseling, and other Counseling Programs.
- Community Day Programs. Juvenile Structured Day.

- Residential Programs. Residential Services Program.
- Restorative Programs. Mediation/Conflict Resolution. Restitution. Teen Court.
- Structured Activities Program. Skill Building. Mentoring Programs.

In FY2023, a total of 22,939 youths were served through JCPC programming. The top three program types for the year include: interpersonal skill building programs, restitution/community service programs, and Teen Courts.

JCPC Youth Served by Program Type FY 2023

Program Type	Youth Served
Interpersonal Skill Building	4,941
Restitution/Community Service	4,857
Teen Court	4,310
Assessments	1,373
Tutoring/Academic Enhancement	1,276
Mediation/Conflict Resolution	920
Parent/Family Skill Building	855
Individual Counseling	733
Juvenile Structured Day	725
Mentoring	588
Vocational Skills	480
Group Counseling	352
Family Counseling	338
Substance Abuse Counseling	291
Experiential Skill Building	252
Home-Based Family Counseling	249
Temporary Shelter Care	209
Runaway Shelter Care	105
Services Addressing Problem Sexual Behavior	52
Group Home Care	20
Specialized Foster Care	13
Total	22,939

By region of the State, this includes:

- Piedmont: 8,804 (38.4%)
- Eastern: 5,115 (22.3%)
- Central: 5,108 (22.3%)
- Western: 3,912 (17.1%)

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Re-Entry Planning

Community Programs supports a continuum of step-down residential programming for the re-entry population that includes short-term residential programming, transitional living programming, and housing first independent living programming models for homeless re-entry youth. Each provider ensures that the service plan/case plan goals for each youth are included within the provider’s individual service plan while the juvenile is within their programming.

Court Services

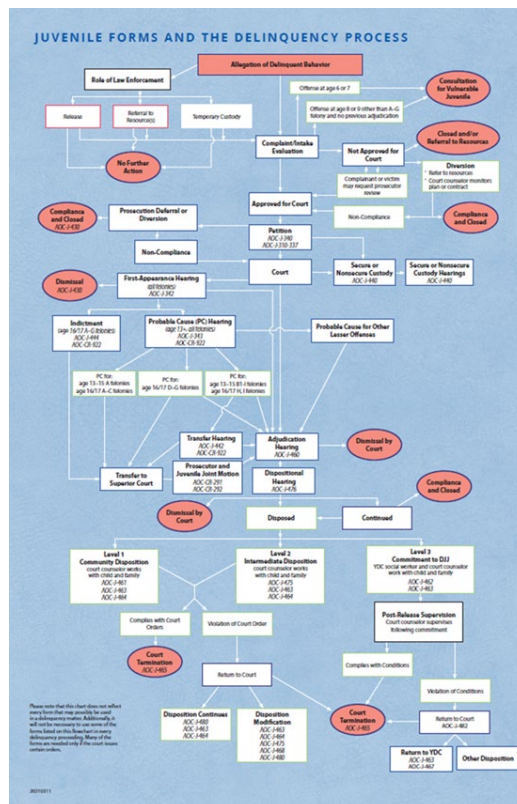
The Juvenile Court Services section provides intake and supervision services for undisciplined and delinquent juveniles within a continuum of services that provide care and control. Beginning January 1, 2021, the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) was implemented by the Division in order to determine risk, needs, and strength details across domains.

This includes:

- Processing allegations of delinquent and undisciplined behavior;
- Assessing the risks and needs of juveniles;
- Diverting from court those youth whose risk levels and needs can be met without formal court intervention;
- Making recommendations to courts based on assessments;
- Providing case management for youth on probation to assure the delivery of appropriate services while assuring compliance with court orders; and,
- Providing aftercare, case management, and post-release supervision to juveniles returning to their communities.

Intake

A complaint is a written allegation that a juvenile is delinquent or undisciplined, which is evaluated by a Juvenile Court Counselor upon submission. Prior to accepting a complaint, Court Counselors are required to determine jurisdiction, offense type, and legal sufficiency. A juvenile can have multiple complaints over the course of a year, which may receive different outcomes.



At intake or at the time of the offense, the juvenile is administered North Carolina's juvenile detention

screening tool, a tool designed to assess need for the juvenile's secure placement. The Detention Assessment utilized by the Division assigns a score based upon assessment of the following factors: detaining reason, mandatory holds, offense class, supervision and offense history of the juvenile, aggravating factors, and mitigating factors. Juvenile Court Counselors are required by policy and statute to make reasonable efforts to meet in-person with juveniles and the juvenile's family prior to deciding if a delinquent/undisciplined offense will be diverted or whether vulnerable juvenile consultation services should be provided. Children aged 6-7 are now served through vulnerable juvenile consultation instead of through juvenile jurisdiction (*CS 1.1 Intake*).

Alternatives to Detention

Alternative to Detention programs, mandated in Session Law (S.L 2005-276, Section 16.11) provide residential and/or community-based intensive services to juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent or who are reentering the community after post-commitment. Intensive wraparound services are provided to the youth and family, including home-based family counseling, parent/family skills building, sexual offender assessment and treatment, therapeutic foster care, mentoring, and vocational skills. Program providers and Juvenile Court Counselors provide additional support and on occasion electronic monitoring supplements services to ensure the safety of the youth and community.

Status Offenders

The use of detention for status offenders is strictly monitored by the Division of Juvenile Justice and section of DPS and is a discouraged practice. Status offenders are classified in North Carolina as undisciplined, having committed an offense that is inappropriate, but not criminal, based on the age of the youth. Common status offenses include acts such as truancy and running away from home for more than 24 hours. Youth who are adjudicated undisciplined may receive a range of dispositional options which may include services and treatment offered by the Division. In addition to alternatives to detention programs, applicable treatment options for undisciplined and delinquent juveniles are outlined by NC Gen. Stat. § 7B-2502 and NC Gen. Stat. § 7B-2503.

Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Court Services programs and initiatives to identify survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and provide alternatives to detention and/or community-based services or treatment include:

- Partnership with local programs, including:
 - Girls Talk, which provides group support sessions
 - Project No-Rest

- World Relief for the Triad
- Training at the state and local level through dedicated conferences and organizations
- Referral to specialized courts, including WORTH (We Overcome Recidivism Through Healing) Court, a dedicated human trafficking court
- Collaboration with county-level human trafficking task forces and human trafficking coordinated response teams
- Piloting screening tools, including the West Coast Human Trafficking Tool
- Assessment for placement in a Level II or JCPC-funded crisis bed, or referral to an assessment center

Children Awaiting Placement in Residential Treatment Programs

The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention tracks youth awaiting placement in treatment services and works with the NC Department of Health and Human Services intensely to resolve confinement and reduce the number of children housed in secure detention and correctional facilities awaiting placement in residential treatment programs. The NC Integrated Care for Kids (NC InCK) model works to see the needs of children at greatest risk for physical and behavioral health issues, including those with mental health and substance abuse challenges, through partnership with communities to support and bridge services across disciplines. Through this partnership between agencies, the Division employs an integration consultant to address cross-system youth barriers and employ efficient resolutions (<https://ncinck.org>).

In addition to juvenile justice, the collaborative core child service areas/partners include:

- Child Welfare
- Early Care and Education
- Food
- Housing
- Legal Aid
- Mobile Crisis Response
- Physical and Behavioral Health
- Public Health Services – Title V
- Schools (K-12 public, private, charter, and alternative schools)
- Special Populations

Additionally, The Crisis and Assessment Center model employed by the Division serves to reduce detention bed capacities when juveniles are awaiting mental health residential placement. The model has also served to support the facilities when over-crowding has required the use of other resources for selected juveniles. Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers are designed to intervene with juveniles who are having a behavioral crisis or other need and require referrals to appropriate services rather than being placed in Detention. These centers provide a comprehensive juvenile assessment in a residential setting with the primary goal of matching the youth to the most appropriate services in their community. The assessment takes place under the supervision of a licensed psychologist and licensed clinical case managers. The average length of stay is between 28 and 30 days (*YC 1.4 Mental Health Services, YC 2.0 Admissions and Assessments, CS 3.1 Services and Supervision*).

Facility Operations

The Juvenile Facility Operations section operates two types of secure custody centers for youth in North Carolina: Juvenile Detention Centers (JDCs) and Youth Development Centers (YDCs). When monitoring for compliance with the core requirements, the NC Governor's Crime Commission applies the federal definition of any term related to compliance monitoring where the state definitions of the term differ from the federal definition. Where there is a difference in the definitions, the GCC acknowledges that the federal definitions found at 34 U.S.C. § 11103 must be used. For purposes of compliance monitoring, YDCs are considered juvenile correctional facilities.

North Carolina affirms that juvenile offenders whose placement is funded through section 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672) receive the protections specified in section 471 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 671), including a case plan and case plan review as defined in section 475 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675).

Use of Force

Through the implementation of its Therapeutic Model of Care, the Division has in effect policies, procedures, and training for facility staff to eliminate the use of dangerous practices, unreasonable restraints, and unreasonable isolation, including the development of effective behavior management techniques. Staff are trained in components of verbal de-escalation, crisis prevention and preparation, and service planning. Staff are required to address incidents of misbehavior in a manner designed to maintain order and safety while also supporting lasting behavior change through the promotion of pro-social cognitive skills and behavior. Further, the Division of Juvenile Justice has an effective and detailed Use of Force Policy that expects that only the minimal use of force by staff be employed as a last resort only

when necessary to prevent injury to the public, staff, or juveniles, or to maintain a safe and secure environment in the facility (*JJ 1 Use of Force, DPS-945-2017, YC 4.1 Behavior Expectations, DC 2.3 Detention Services Manual*).

Use of Restraints on Known Pregnant Juveniles

North Carolina affirms that the State has eliminated the use of abdominal restraints, leg and ankle restraints, wrist restraints behind the back, and four-point restraints on pregnant juveniles, as stated in both the Juvenile Justice Use of Force Policy and Juvenile Justice Transportation Policy.

As outlined by policy, juveniles with a clinically diagnosed or reported pregnancy or those within the post-partum recovery period shall not be restrained by leg/ankle restraints or waist chains. Only wrist restraints shall be utilized and should be applied only in the front of the body solely for the purposes of transportation or unless needed to ensure the medical safety of a juvenile. In the case of medical necessity, the use of medical restraints must be ordered by licensed health care professional. Further, no restraints of any kind shall be used when a juvenile is in labor or is suspected to be in labor, unless needed to ensure the medical safety of a juvenile. In the case of medical necessity, the use of medical restraints must be ordered by a licensed health care professional (*JJ 1 Use of Force Policy*).

Juvenile Detention Centers

Juvenile detention centers are secure facilities where youth alleged to have committed a delinquent act or to be a runaway are temporarily housed. Juvenile detention centers provide a safe, secure, controlled and humane environment for juveniles and staff. All detention centers are co-ed and are staffed to provide appropriate oversight by same-sex staff members. Youth are generally placed in a juvenile detention center while awaiting a court hearing, or until another placement can be found, either in a community-based program or service or following commitment awaiting placement in a youth development center. Juveniles transferred to superior court for trial as adults are housed in juvenile detention pending trial if they are not released on bond. There currently nine JDCs operational across North Carolina. Additionally, the Division monitors and supports four county-operated JDCs.

State-operated JDCs:

- Alexander Regional Juvenile Detention Center
- Cabarrus Regional Juvenile Detention Center
- Cumberland Regional Juvenile Detention Center
- Dillon Regional Juvenile Detention Center

- New Hanover Regional Juvenile Detention Center
- Perquimans Juvenile Detention Center
- Pitt Regional Juvenile Detention Center
- Richmond-Jenkins Juvenile Detention Center
- Wake Regional Juvenile Detention Center

County-operated JDCs:

- Brunswick County Juvenile Detention Center
- Durham County Youth Home
- Guilford County Juvenile Detention Center
- Madison County Juvenile Detention Center

Youth Development Centers

Youth development centers are secure facilities that provide education and treatment services to prepare committed youth to successfully transition to a community setting. This type of commitment is the most restrictive, intensive dispositional option available to the juvenile courts in North Carolina. The structure of the juvenile code limits this disposition to those juveniles who have been adjudicated for violent or serious offenses or who have a lengthy delinquency history.

There are currently five YDCs across the state:

- Cabarrus Youth Development Center
- Chatham Youth Development Center
- Edgecombe Youth Development Center
- Lenoir Youth Development Center
- Rockingham Youth Development Center

Upon commitment to a Youth Development Center, juveniles undergo comprehensive screening and assessment of developmental, educational, medical, neurocognitive, mental health, psychosocial, and relationship strengths and needs (*YD – Adm and Placement Screening*). These assessments provide a framework for the development of individualized service plans and post-release supervision services. North Carolina affirms that evidence-based methods will be used to conduct mental health and substance screening, assessment, referral, and treatment for juveniles who (1) request a screening, (2) show signs of needing a screening, or (3) are held in a secure facility that provides for an initial screening. Detention

center staff administers drug screening to juveniles in accordance with NC Gen. Stat. § 7B-2513 and as further outlined by policy. Each juvenile's individualized service plan shall reflect substance abuse treatment recommendations (*DC 1-3 Admissions*).

Progress is regularly reviewed for each juvenile by the assigned treatment team every thirty days. When the juvenile is approaching successful completion of the individual treatment goals and objectives, or approaching the maximum commitment period, a post-release supervision planning conference shall be conducted to finalize a post-release supervision plan.

As outlined by policy:

- Transition support shall be provided to all juveniles, regardless of placement.
- Transition support shall be guided by the principles of person-centered planning and strength-based assessment.
- Transition support shall be implemented in a collaborative manner, with the YDC Treatment Team process as the focal point.
- Transition support shall be provided in coordination with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for any Exceptional Education juvenile who has a transition plan as a component of his IEP.

Education Services

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety North Carolina assures its collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, State educational agency receiving assistance under 20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq., to ensure educational progress of adjudicated youth.

This includes that:

- the student records of adjudicated juveniles, including electronic records if available, are transferred in a timely manner from the educational program in the juvenile detention or secure treatment facility to the educational or training program into which the juveniles will enroll;
- the credits of adjudicated juveniles are transferred; and
- adjudicated juveniles receive full or partial credit toward high school graduation for secondary school coursework satisfactorily completed before and during the period of time during which the juveniles are held in custody, regardless of the local educational agency or entity from which the credits were earned.

The Division itself operates as a local education agency and provides education services by teachers

licensed by the NC Department of Public Instruction. This includes standard public-school courses, post-secondary vocational courses or online college courses, and required special education services for youth throughout the system. YDCs employ a full staff of teachers, guidance counselors, media coordinators, and administrators in order to provide every student committed to a juvenile facility the opportunity to maximize their academic and personal success.

Clinical Services and Programs

The Division ensures the appropriate clinical treatment and interventions for youth serviced in facilities and programs through its Clinical Services and Programs section. This includes medical, psychiatric, dental, psychological, substance abuse, recreational, spiritual, and case management services. The three areas of this office include Juvenile Health Services, Behavioral Health Services, and Social Work Services.

Juvenile Health Services

In order to meet the health and health education needs of youth in juvenile facilities, professional medical staff screen and assess youth upon admission, development healthcare plans, and provide appropriate interventions.

Behavioral Health Services

Juvenile Mental Health and Positive Youth Development Programming Services is a complex piece of juvenile healthcare for committed youth who present with multiple and complex behavioral health needs. Upon admission to a YDC, youth who present with distinct mental health diagnoses, including co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders are assigned to a licensed mental health clinician. Staff are trained to create and maintain a therapeutic environment in the centers and to provide therapeutic interactions designed to promote youth's development and display of pro-social skills and behavior, including models of care that are based on research-supported principles that address risk factors for anti-social and delinquent behavior. Technical assistance and consultative support to in the areas of mental health assessment and treatment, criminogenic factor reduction and program implementation science, is provided to JCPC consultants by a psychological interventions and program implementation specialist.

Social Work Services

Upon admission to a YDC, the Social Work Services team works to coordinate and monitor individualized service plans for committed youth and serves as the primary contact to the family, court

counselors, and community agencies. Social workers partner with the interdisciplinary services team to provide a community re-entry plan and coordinate post-release supervision services. The plan of supervision is developed in consideration of the protection of the public and specific needs of the youth, and includes collaboration with the juvenile, parent/guardian, court counselor, involved community agencies, and facility staff.

III. Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency Problems

It is important to note the changes in juvenile jurisdiction, which include the Raise the Age population included in the upper boundary change and excludes youth under age 8 as part of the lower boundary change. These changes require different age ranges that align with the years of implementation.

- 2019 and prior include a population of ages 6-15
- 2020 and 2021 include a population of ages 6-17 due to the implementation of Raise the Age
- 2022 and beyond include a population of ages 10-17, with exceptions for 8–9-year-olds, due to the lower boundary change (Raise the Minimum Age)

Complaints Received

In 2023, there were a total of 39,341 complaints alleging delinquent or undisciplined juvenile behavior. The data below reflects youth in the age of juvenile jurisdiction, which is currently 10-17 with some exceptions for 8–9-year-olds. The full implementation of the added Raise the Age population, along with the reduction in 6- and 7-year-olds that are no longer seeing institutional interventions is reflected in the current and recent juvenile delinquency rates for the State.

Juvenile complaints have three potential outcomes following the intake evaluation:

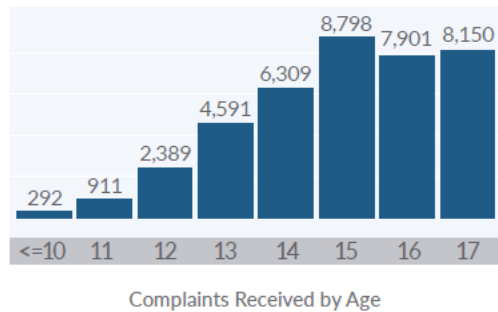
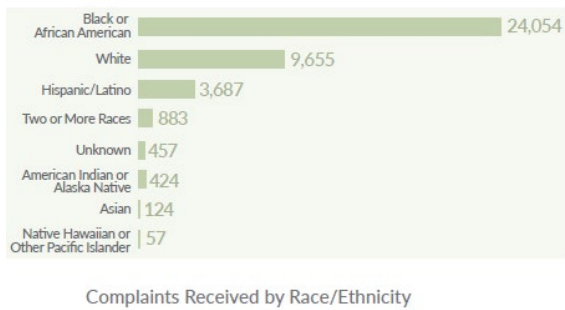
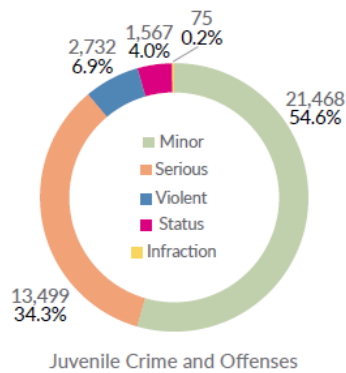
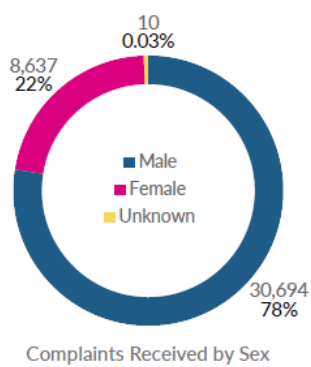
1. Approved for court (become a petition), requiring the juvenile charged with the complaint to appear in court;
2. Diverted, which means the juvenile and legal guardian agree to enter into a diversion plan or contract potentially including programming and services. If the conditions are met, the complaint does not go to court; however, if not, the complaint may be approved for court;
3. Closed, which means that the complaint does not need to go to court or be diverted.

A juvenile can have multiple complaints and receive different outcomes over the course of a year. As such, the juvenile count for approved, diverted, and close total more than 15,353.



As reflected below:

- Complaints received by gender are consistent with previous years, with females being 22% of complaints and males at 78%
- Consistent with previous years, most complaints are received for minor offenses (54.6%), with 34.3% of complaints for serious offenses
- Forty-two percent of all complaints are linked to Raise the Age juveniles aged 16-17 (16,051 complaints)
- About 60% of all complaints received are for youth who are Black or African American



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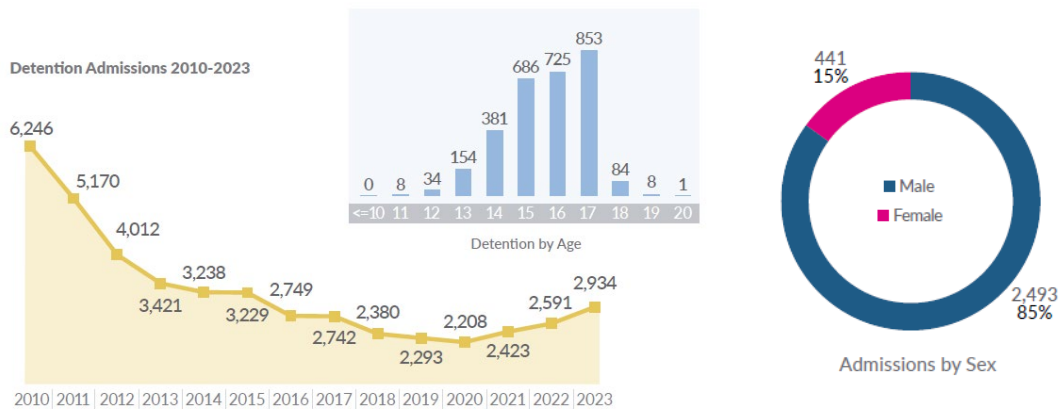
Juvenile Detention Center Admissions

Legislation (S.L. 2020-83) resulted in all youth under the age of 18 who are ordered to be detained in secure custody, to be housed in a juvenile detention center instead of jail, ensuring compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. This population includes juveniles who are not subject to juvenile court jurisdiction, but rather are charged/sentenced outside of the juvenile justice

system. Youth placed in a juvenile detention center may be awaiting a court hearing, until other placement can be found in a community-based program or service, or commitment to a youth development center.

As reflected below:

- Detention admissions rose by 13.23% from 2022 to 2023. Both years include the age of juvenile jurisdiction (10-17 years), with exceptions for 8–9-year-olds. Different age ranges are used for 2020-2021 (6-17 age population), and for 2019 and prior (6-15 age population).
- Raise the Age population make up the majority of detention center admissions (53%)



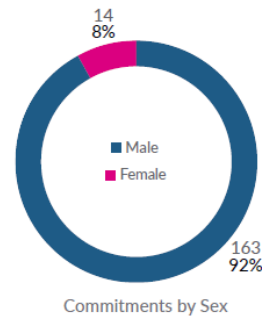
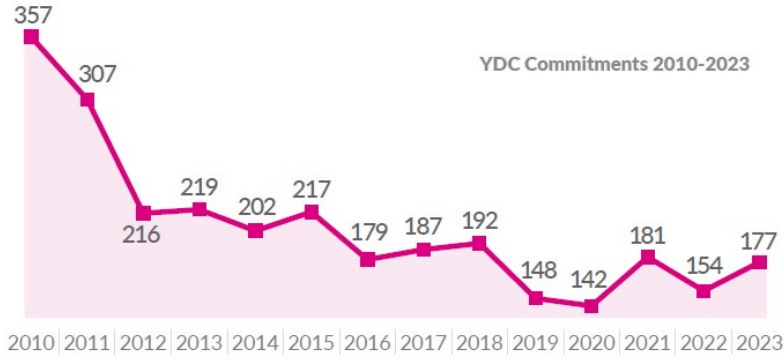
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Youth Development Center Commitments

For purposes of compliance monitoring, Youth Development Centers in North Carolina are considered facilities. YDCs are the most restrictive and intensive facility type in the juvenile justice system, which is limited to juveniles who have been adjudicated for violent or serious offenses. Youth committed to YDCs receive education and treatment services for successful reintegration in community settings.

As reflected below:

- Youth Development Center commitments have not increased significantly since the previous year
- The proportion of Raise the Age juveniles now exceeds the proportion that were younger than age 16 on the date of their offense



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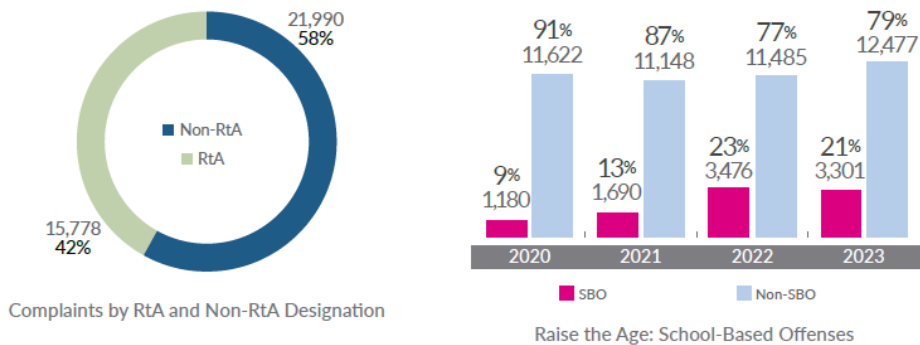
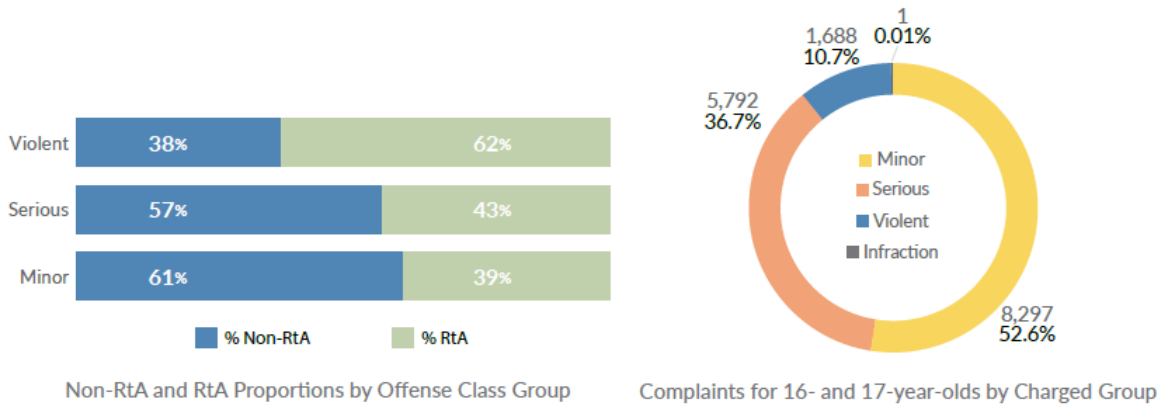
Top 10 Offense Types

Top 10 Juvenile Offenses: CY 2023			
Offense (M) misdemeanor (F) felony (S) status offense	Complaints	Distinct Juveniles	Complaints per juvenile
Simple assault (M)	4,204	3,513	1.2
Break or enter a motor vehicle (F)	2,895	560	5.2
Simple affray (M)	1,510	1,430	1.1
Larceny (M)	1,309	911	1.4
Communicating threats (M)	1,196	979	1.2
Resisting public officer (M)	1,192	1,051	1.1
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)	1,140	1,047	1.1
Larceny of motor vehicle (F)	1,079	582	1.9
Possess handgun by minor (M)	999	825	1.2
Breaking and or entering (F)	936	553	1.7

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Raise the Age Offenses

Since the implementation of Raise the Age in 2019, the number of 16- and 17-year-old juveniles served in Community Programs has increased by 72% as those youth are more likely to receive intensive community intervention services. As reflected by the data below, most complaints involving the Raise the Age population are minor. In 2023, 21% of offenses committed by Raise the Age juveniles were school-based, representing a slight decrease from 23% in 2022.



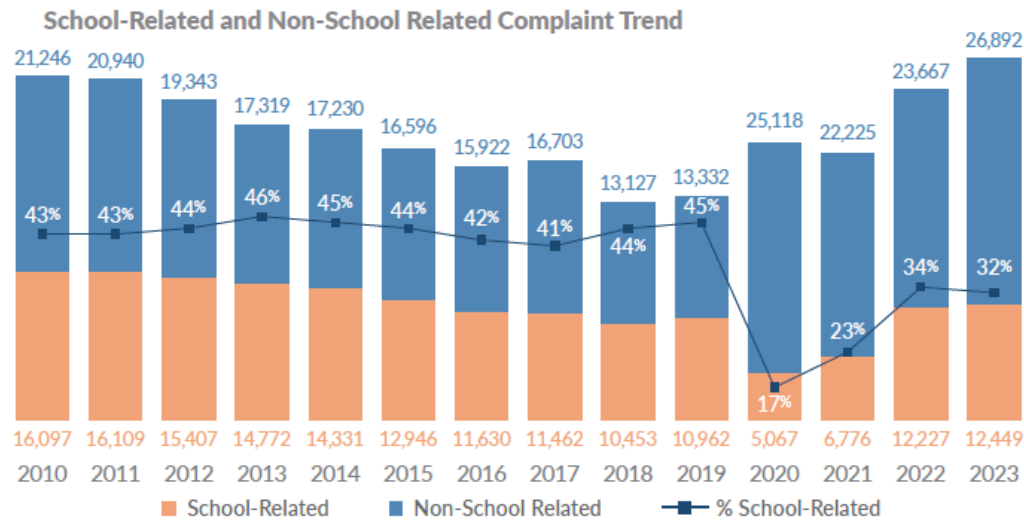
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School-Based Offenses

A school-based offense is defined as having occurred on school grounds, school property (buses, bus stops), or at an off-campus school-sanctioned event such as field trips or athletic events, or whose victim is a school. Schools include any public or private institution providing elementary, secondary, or post-secondary education. This definition excludes homeschools, preschools, and day cares.

As reflected below:

- The percentage of school-based offenses remained fairly consistent from 2010 to 2019; however, there was a significant decrease between 2019 and 2020 due to school closures resulting from the pandemic
- The top three offense categories for school-based offense complaints are simple assault, simple affray, and disorderly conduct at school – all misdemeanor offenses



*School-based offenses decreased in 2020 and 2021 largely due to the coronavirus pandemic and accompanying school closures.

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Top 10 School-Based Offenses: CY 2023		
Charged Offense		Complaints
(M) misdemeanor	(F) felony (S) status offense	
Simple assault (M)		2,477
Simple affray (M)		1,371
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)		1,132
Communicating threats (M)		675
Possession of weapons other than firearms and explosives on school grounds (M)		659
Truant < 16 (S)		596
Simple possession schedule VI controlled substance (M)		393
Communicating Threat of Mass Violence on Educational Property (F)		355
Assault government official / employee (M)		319
Disorderly Conduct by engaging in fighting or other violent conduct or in conduct creating the threat of imminent fighting or other violence (M)		272

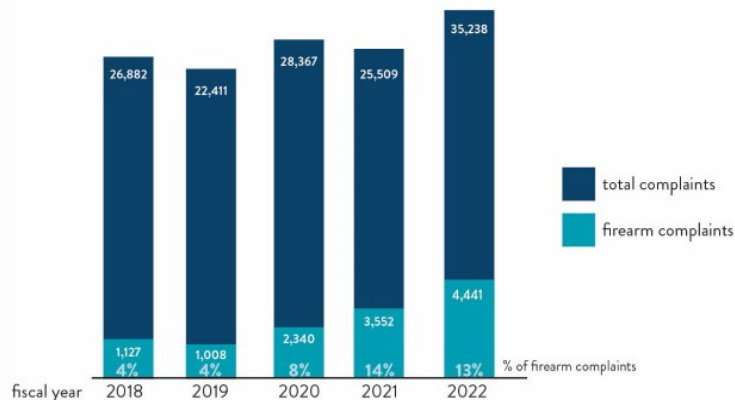
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Juvenile Firearm Offense Trends

In October 2022, the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention published a research brief on Juvenile Firearm Offenses, which reviews and identifies trends in juvenile firearm offenses. This includes data from 2018 – 2022, which has seen the impacts of Raise the Age implementation that includes 16- and 17-year-olds in the age of juvenile jurisdiction, as well as potential effects of the pandemic. From FY2018 to FY2022, juvenile firearm complaints rose from 1,127 to 4,441. In 2022, firearm complaints make up 13% of the total complaints on juveniles (*Juvenile Firearm Offenses: Research Brief*).

In 2023, the Division began its community-focused campaign NC S.A.F.E. (Secure All Firearms Safely), which centers around firearm storage and safety. The public safety campaign is based in community outreach and partnerships designed to provide gun owners with toolkits, resources, and materials like cable gun locks and personal gun vaults. The inaugural NC S.A.F.E. Week of Action was proclaimed by Governor Roy Cooper in June 2023 (<https://governor.nc.gov/governor-proclaims-north-carolina-safe-week-action-2023/>).

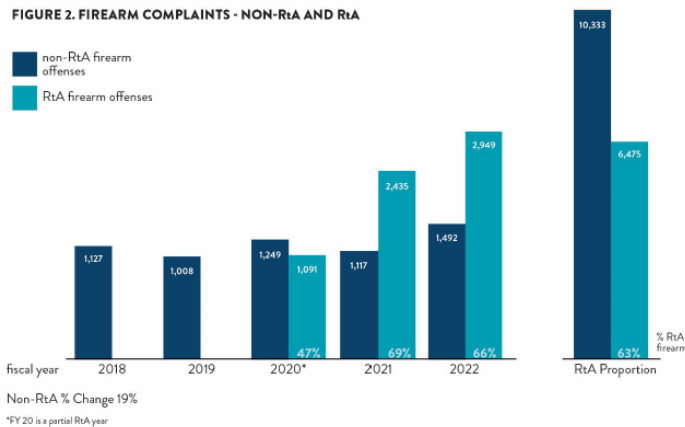
The State Advisory Group plans to continue prioritizing gang and gun violence through the administration of Title II funding for community-based violence intervention programs.



Juvenile Firearm Offenses: Research Brief

Raise the Age and Non-RtA Firearm Complaints

With the inclusion of the Raise the Age youth population, firearm offenses have seen upward trends in volume. Firearm offenses by non-RtA youth have increased by a noticeable 19% in fiscal years 2020-2022. Prior to Raise the Age, these youth were charged at under 500 juveniles per year.



Juvenile Firearm Offenses: Research Brief

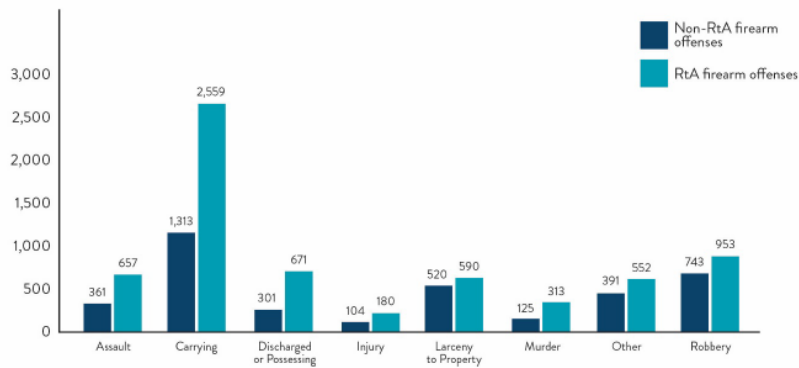
Raise the Age and Non-RtA Firearm Offense Groups

For purposes of identifying trends in the research brief, the Division grouped similar individual charged firearm offenses into offense categories that include:

- Assault (with a firearm)
- Carry or Possess (a firearm)
- Discharge (of a firearm)
- Injury to Personal Property (with a firearm)
- Larceny (of/with a firearm)
- Murder (with a firearm)
- Robbery (with a firearm)
- Other

As reflected below:

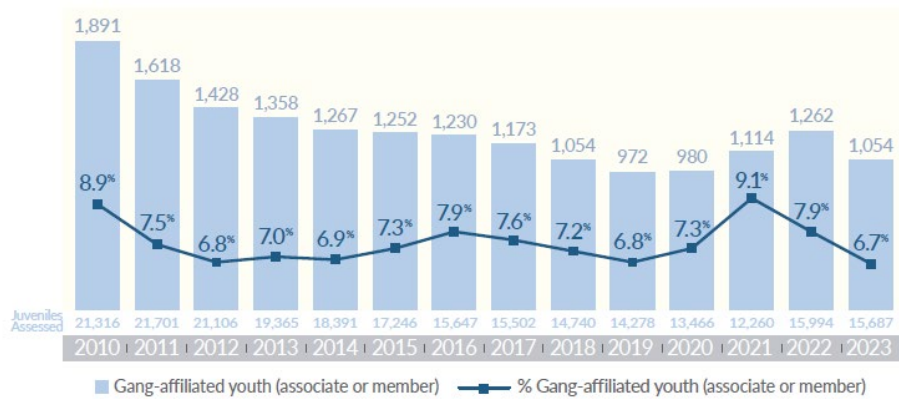
- Carrying or Possessing a firearm is consistently the most common offense (1,792), accounting for an increase of 134% since the implementation of Raise the Age; this is significant in proportion to the individual offense categories
- Firearm complaints for the Raise the Age population are higher than non-RtA in all offense groups



Gangs

While the number of gang-identified youth has decreased since 2010, slight increases and fluctuations have been observed since 2020. Though the number of youths identified as gang-affiliated has not changed significantly, the percentage of gang-affiliated youth has decreased by 2.4%. The State Advisory Group plans to continue prioritizing gang and gun violence through the administration of Title II funding for community-based violence intervention programs.

Juvenile Gang Associates or Members 2010-2023



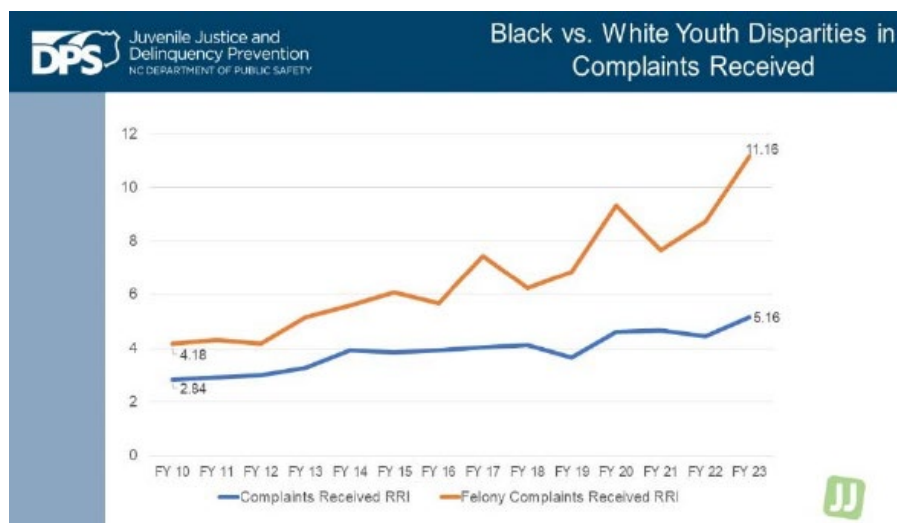
Trends in Disproportionality

In January 2024, the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention published a research brief on Trends in Disproportionality, which identifies existing disparities for Black youth at certain key decision points of the juvenile justice system using data from NCJOIN, the Division’s database for juveniles and their cases, and population data from NC OSBM. In North Carolina, and across the country, racial disparities in decision making and outcomes exist throughout the juvenile justice system. The research brief includes data trends from FY2010 – FY2023 and identifies the relative rate index (RRI),

which represents the rate that Black youth encounter the juvenile justice system in comparison to their white counterparts at key decision points. RRIs above one (1) indicate disproportionate minority contact at that stage of the system (*Trends in Disproportionality Research Brief*).

Complaints Received, including felony complaints

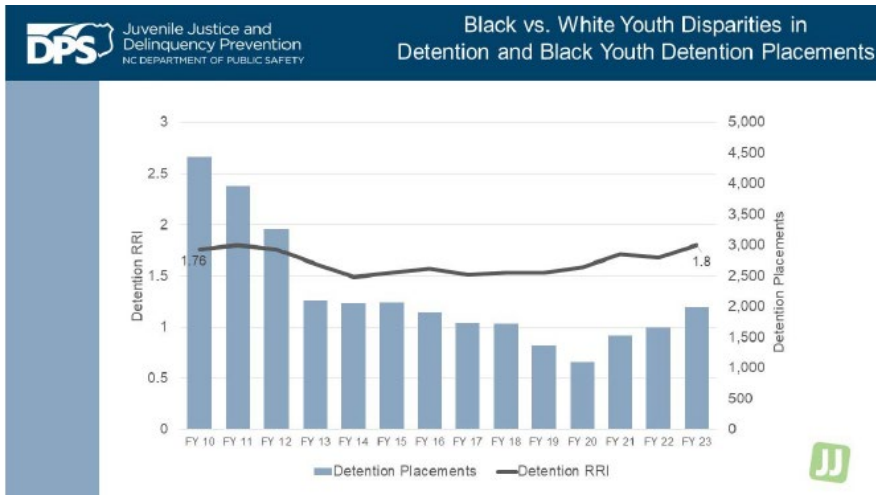
- RRI for all complaints (misdemeanor and felony) is 5.16, making Black youth 5.16 times as likely to receive a complaint as white youth in 2023
- RRI for felony complaints is 11.16, making Black youth 11.16 times more likely to receive a felony complaint as white youth in 2023; this amount has nearly tripled since FY2010



Trends in Disproportionality Research Brief

Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) Placements

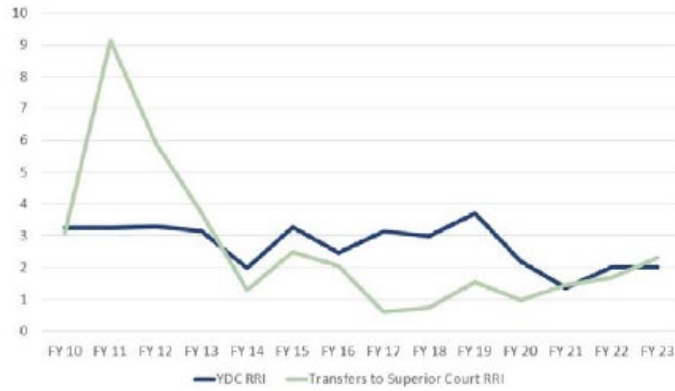
- There have been progressive decreases in detention placements since 2010, though placement has slowly increased since the implementation of Raise the Age
- Detention RRI has remained relatively consistent though the number of placements have saw a significant decrease from 2010 – 2014
- RRI for detention placements is 1.8, making Black youth 1.8 times more likely to be placed in a Juvenile Detention Center in 2023



Trends in Disproportionality Research Brief

Youth Development Center (YDC) Placements and Transfers to Superior Court

- Data indicates reduced disparities overall since 2010, but recently growing disparities since the inclusion of Raise the Age youth
- While the percentage of youth by race placed in YDCs fluctuates, it continues to show large, and recently growing disproportionality against Black youth
- As with other trends, rates have decreased significantly since FY2010 but have seen recent increases
- Relatively few cases result in YDC placement or transfer, making fluctuations between years are make disparities more noticeable
- As the pandemic followed implementation of Raise the Age, original projections were impacted due to court shutdowns and school closures



Trends in Disproportionality Research Brief

IV. Title II Grant Project Implementation

North Carolina provides for the coordinated use of funds provided under Title II with other Federal and State funds directed at juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs. Applications for funding are approved by the State Advisory Group and, ultimately, the full Governor's Crime Commission. Consideration for applications is additionally supported by the recommendations of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee and the Children's Justice Act Task Force.

Changes Impacting the GCC Funding Cycle

In 2023, the State of North Carolina experienced two major changes that impacted the application cycle:

1. The North Carolina Accounting System (NCAS), the primary financial accounting system for most state agencies, was retired approximately October 1, 2023. This is the system through which grant payments are processed. The transition to the North Carolina Financial System (NCFS), the new state government financial system began at that time and required state agencies have computer systems with the ability to integrate and communicate with the system.
2. The Grant Enterprise Management System (GEMS) did not have the capacity to work with the new state financial system. This required that the GCC transition to a new grant management system, Enterprise Business Services (EBS), for all grant and payment activities. EBS is used by several state granting agencies and therefore has planned integration with NCFS.

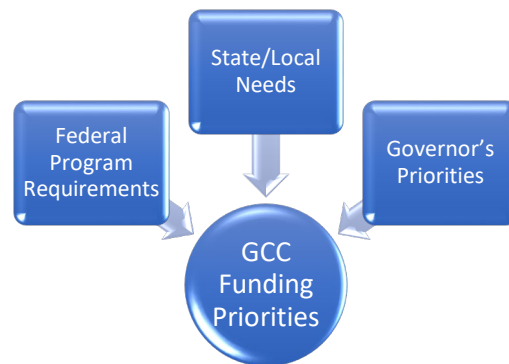
Due to the transition between systems and the predicted glitches that arise with a new system, the GCC was unable to accept subrecipient applications, a process typically occurring from November 1 to January 31 of each year. As a result of the suspension of our grant application cycle resulting from the inability to accept applications in the new grant management system, the State intends to accept applications for funding in the final quarter of CY2024.

Additionally, the Department of Public Safety experienced a reorganization that included an organizational divorce with the Department of Adult Corrections. In addition, the unanticipated consequences of the 2020 pandemic have caused subrecipient programs difficulties in the delivery of services over the last few years. The State and its subrecipient programs have experienced unprecedented challenges maintaining organizational capacity, resulting in difficulty expending federal funds.

New and continuing subrecipient programs will be supported with FY2023 Title II grant funds and any unspent or reverted funds from previous but active Title II Formula Grant funds. The Governor’s Crime Commission supports projects that are not only aligned with the goals and priorities of the State Advisory Group, but also critical to the youth in communities across the State. North Carolina assures that consideration will be given to, and assistance will be available for, approaches designed to strengthen the families of delinquent and other youth to prevent juvenile delinquency. To the extent practicable, the State will give priority in funding to programs and activities that are based on rigorous, systematic, and objective research that is scientifically based.

Funding Priority Development and Grant Selection

The State Advisory Group determines its funding priorities in consideration of multiple factors, including but not limited to: the federal program requirements, State and local needs, and the Governor’s priorities for criminal justice. This also includes supporting efforts the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, especially in consideration of the Division’s strategic plan and priorities, where allowable and allocable.



Governor Cooper’s Criminal Justice Priorities

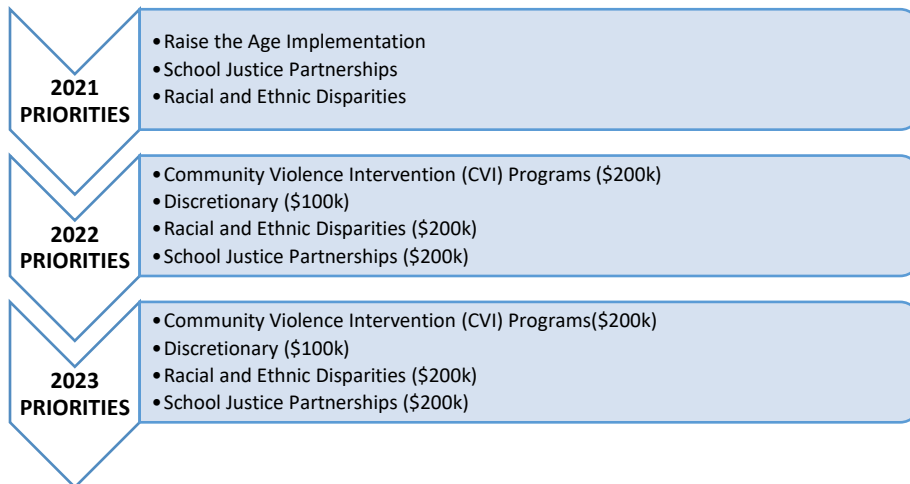
Governor Roy Cooper provided the 2024-2024 priorities for the full Governor’s Crime Commission, which includes goals that may be accomplished by the different Committees. These priorities balance the GCC’s long-standing support of local law enforcement agencies and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, with updated priorities to reflect the current needs of the criminal justice system. Priorities include recommendations from various groups, including: the Task Force for Safer Schools, the Child Fatality Task Force, the Convening on Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion, and the Task Force on ACEs-informed Courts (Memo: Governor Cooper’s Criminal Justice Priorities). These priorities are addressed between all Committees of the Governor’s Crime Commission.

Consistent with previous years, these priorities are to:

- Reduce crime and keep schools and communities safe
 - Prioritize violence prevention and intervention programs
 - Invest in measures to keep students safe in schools
 - Enhance prevention efforts and preparedness for mass shootings
 - Improve public safety by raising awareness on firearm safety to prevent accidents, injuries, and suicides
 - Make communities safer and break the cycle of crime by improving reentry services
 - Address substance use disorders and the opioid epidemic
- Support law enforcement as a profession
- Support victims
 - Help victims of sexual assault and abuse
 - Help victims of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, and elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation
 - Address trauma in order to prevent today's victim from becoming tomorrow's defendant
 - Support restorative justice and rehabilitative programming

State Advisory Group – Previous Funding Priorities

The Juvenile Justice Planning Committee (serving as the SAG) continues to focus on critical issues concerning the state of juvenile justice in North Carolina. The SAG's funding priorities for Title II funding experienced slight changes from 2021 – 2023 in an effort to balance and navigate the difficulties experienced by programs and communities during the pandemic. Some changes include shifting priorities from Raise the Age Implementation to Community Violence Intervention Programs designed to address the uptick in firearm and community violence. Additionally, funding caps were instituted for individual applications per funding priority in an effort to manage unspent funds and other difficulties seen by funded programs. Finally, the introduction of a Discretionary funding priority was recommended in an effort to capture innovative, allowable projects that do not meet the criteria for the other funding priorities.



The State Advisory Group remains committed to supporting projects and initiatives that seek to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice. The SAG strives to support programs in rural communities of the State, and continues to support programming specifically for the treatment and needs of at-risk and justice-involved girls.

Current/Future Goals and Priorities

The State Advisory Group and Racial and Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee were afforded the opportunity to participate in the development of the State’s plan during a combined meeting, which served as a Three-Year Planning Retreat. While funding priorities will be recommended and moved forward for approval in the third quarter of the fiscal year, the SAG identified resources, needs, and opportunities where Title II funds have the potential to impact juvenile crime. Primarily, the SAG recommends strengthening efforts to support educational partners and institutions through School Justice Partnerships, an area of concern and strong interest. Other high priority areas include using Title II to support strategies that address gang prevention efforts and gun violence in communities. Transportation barriers for youth has also been an area of concern over time, and the SAG remains interested in supporting initiatives and partnerships with transportation providers for the benefit of youth at risk and in need.

Additionally, the State Advisory Group intends to increase its emphasis on evidence-based programming in an effort to support measures that demonstrate measured and data-driven successes.

Outcomes/deliverables of programming include a reduced recidivism and the measurement of impacts related to R/ED reduction efforts. Creating opportunities for youth that are engaging, accessible, and yield desirable outcomes is paramount to impacting youth crime. Understanding the root causes of juvenile crime is necessary to determining strategies that will equip them to live crime-free. These underlying

issues require an approach that encompasses education, community support, mental health services, and opportunities for personal growth.

Strong approaches recommended by the SAG and R/ED Subcommittee include:

- Comprehensive assessment and early intervention, including root-cause analyses that identify factors that contribute to delinquency
- Educational support and vocational training, including enhanced educational programs that engage youth (tutoring, mentoring, and after-school programs) and programs that offer skills and pathways to employment
- Accessible mental health services for youth, as well as family counseling services that help create stable and supportive home environments
- Community engagement and support, such as mentorship programs and the establishment of community centers that offer safe spaces for youth to engage in positive activities
- Restorative justice programs and practices that focus on rehabilitation and reconciliation rather than punishment
- Policy advocacy and reform, including through the funding of programs that support preventative services
- Training for law enforcement and juvenile justice personnel on best practices for interaction with youth
- Youth empowerment and leadership programs through programming that gives youth a voice in the development of policies that affect them

The North Carolina Juvenile Justice System, through continued partnership with the Governor's Crime Commission and the combined efforts of the State Advisory Group and R/ED Subcommittee, can implement strategies to impact and combat youth crime. The overall goal of these efforts, including emphasis on the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities, is to provide North Carolina's youth with pathways for a brighter future.

V. Additional Assurances

North Carolina further affirms that the State:

- meets the requirement to provide such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures necessary to assure prudent use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received under the Title II Formula Grants Program.
- will meet the requirements for passthrough funds under 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a), Section 223(a)(5)
- will provide for an equitable distribution of the assistance received under section 222 [34 U.S.C. § 11132] within the State, including in rural areas.
- assures that not less than 75% of the total Title II funds provided to the state less the amount set aside for the SAG, shall be used for, through grants or contracts with priority in funding given to entities meeting the criteria for evidence-based or promising programs detailed through (A)-(W) (“Program Areas”).
- that (A) any assistance provided under this Act will not cause the displacement (including a partial displacement, such as a reduction in the hours of non-overtime work, wages, or employment benefits) of any currently employed employee; (B) activities assisted under this Act will not impair an existing collective bargaining relationship, contract for services, or collective bargaining agreement; and (C) no such activity that would be inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement shall be undertaken without the written concurrence of the labor organization involved.
- complies with the requirement to provide reasonable assurance that federal funds made available under this part for any period will be so used as to supplement and increase (but not supplant) the level of the State, local, tribal, and other non-Federal funds that would in the absence of such Federal funds be made available for the programs described in this part, and will in no event replace such state, local, tribal, and other non-Federal funds
- will not expend funds to carry out a program if the recipient of funds who carried out such program during the preceding 2-year period fails to demonstrate, before the expiration of such 2-year period, that such program achieved substantial success in achieving the goals specified in the application submitted by such recipient to the state agency.
- affirms that if the state receives an amount that exceeds 105 percent of the amount received under this section in FY 2024, all such excess would be expended through or for programs as part of a comprehensive and coordinated community system of services.
- A percentage, not to exceed 5 percent, of funds received by the State under section 222 (other

than funds made available to the State Advisory Group under section 222(d)) that the State will reserve for expenditure by the State to provide incentive grants to units of general local government that reduces the caseload of probation officers within such units.

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