

## Wisconsin Youth Justice Innovation Grants 2018 - 2019

Award Recipient (YJ)	Project Area	Project Summary
Dane County	School Justice Partnership	Dane County's project addresses the arrest and exclusionary discipline practices in their schools. The county plans to work with the school system, law enforcement, and other community agencies serving youth between the ages of 10 to 17 years old. The county will implement restorative justice training and school based restorative justice alternatives to arrest and exclusionary disciplinary practices. They will also develop diversion plans, employment programming (including employability skills and entrepreneurial training), and truancy prevention and support services for the youth and their families. Dane county will also increase their partnership with Wisconsin Family Ties so they can provide in home family/school truancy counseling and the needed support to address barriers that exists between families and the school.
Green County	School Justice Partnership	Green County will develop a comprehensive truancy initiative designed to prevent juvenile intake referrals for habitual truancy, increase support youth and families at risk of court involvement due to truancy, prevent expulsion and/or increase support and reinstatement of expelled students, and increase overall collaboration between school, law enforcement, and human services. The county will hire a full time school liaison to implement the project, and will provide a higher level of support for youth and families in the program at the highest risk. Green County will also provide direct support for expelled youth if needed, and increase use of rewards and incentives for positive school outcomes.
Jackson County	School Justice Partnership	Jackson County will develop and support a multi-disciplinary team including law enforcement, school officials, and DHHS to identify youth that are starting to struggle with their behavior in school or in the community, and provide appropriate interventions to avoid the need for law enforcement intervention and/or exclusionary discipline. To serve these goals, Jackson County will add a YJ worker to serve on the multi-disciplinary team and be a liaison to the school districts; will create a Youth Job Development Program to help youth find and maintain employment; will provide training for team members in evidence-based practices (including Carey Guides and BITS); provide support to families in order to remove barriers to school attendance; and implement reward programs in order to positively influence school attendance and positive behavior.

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Vernon County (in partnership with Crawford County)	School Justice Partnership	Vernon County, in partnership with Crawford County, will hire a full time staff member that will work with schools, law enforcement, families, and human services professionals in both counties. The overall goal is to enhance the partnership between schools, families and the YJ system to ultimately improve the ability of students to self-regulate, thrive and be behaviorally supported more effectively in school settings. The general outcomes sought include a decrease youth justice referrals, a decrease in crisis and behavioral contact between schools and law enforcement, and improved relationships between the different agencies and the youth and their families. The new staff person will provide crisis/behavioral response to the different agencies when needed, will ensure that youth needs are met, will identify risks and create treatment plans for youth, and will refer youth to the appropriate providers. The two counties also plan to provide training for schools and law enforcement on trauma-informed care to support the overall goal of the project.
Waushara County	School Justice Partnership	Waushara County will implement a “Rapid Youth Justice Response” model which will mobilize youth justice workers to assist school personnel with a structured approach to in-school behavior incidents, with the goal of helping school professionals identify and support students with behavioral needs, and diverting them from YJ system involvement. The youth justice workers will assist with de-escalation when needed, will identify the needs of students and families, and will work together to address those needs without court intervention. The model effectively responds to low risk behaviors (disorderly conduct, walking out of class, etc.) and engages youth and their families in appropriate services and restorative justice practices in a timely manner, without the need for a referral to juvenile court.
La Crosse County	Robust Case Planning	La Crosse County’s overall goal is to create a system shift in the way they work with youth and their families, and fill identified gaps in the services delivered to youth in the youth justice system. La Crosse will implement the Functional Family Probation model of case management for all YJ cases, and will use Functional Family Therapy (FFT) with youth at risk of out of home placement due to behavior, as well as those youth identified with significant mental health and family needs. YJ worker caseloads will be reduced to approximately 12 per worker to implement this new model. The La Crosse System of Care (SOC), which was created in 2016, will focus on developing and providing multi-systemic wraparound community supports, so youth and families can access a complete array of services and supports that are individualized, family-driven, culturally competent, and community based.

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Washington County	Robust Case Planning	Washington County will provide in-home, intensive family services to youth in the YJ system. These services focus on home management, building parental capacities, behavior management, mentoring opportunities, and preserving the family unit, and are provided by the Family Training Program (FTP). FTP provides a structured approach: in home assessment, in-home family training that attempts to reach a series of short-term behavioral goals, work with youth in a mentoring role to help them find employment and practice social skills in the community, and weekly face-to-face contact with the family. This approach provides strategies that can be used throughout the life of a case, and helps families build skills to increase their confidence and independence in the management of their own family dynamics. The overall goal is to preserve families by keeping children in their natural homes.
Ashland County	Alternatives to Detention	In partnership with the Bad River Tribe, Ashland County will implement a volunteer based program (led by a new coordinator position) that provides alternatives to detention, while also addressing prevention. The approach will focus on individualized, community based sanctions that will be community service oriented, so that secure detention will only be used when a youth is a serious risk to public safety. Development of a rewards and sanctions grid will help ensure a shift to the use of sanctions that are community based and replicate a volunteer-community services model. This model has built-in positive reinforcements, and will also use rewards for successful completion of sanctions, as well as rewards for successful time on supervision. The overall goal is to give youth who have made mistakes the opportunity to make amends and become a valued member of the community.
Sheboygan County	Alternatives to Detention	Sheboygan County's overall goal is to decrease the use of secure detention for non-public safety issues. Sheboygan will develop a system of graduated responses to supervision violations that pairs the use of sanctions and incentives, providing a research-based approach to rule compliance and progress towards goals. Case plans will include approach goals (goals youth formulate around an area of interest or spark), and will use the Rewards and Sanctions Carey Guide to identify meaningful rewards and link behaviors with rewards in the first months of a case. All YJ workers will be trained in the 10 Steps of Risk Reduction by The Carey Group to reinforce this approach to case management. Further, the county will enhance its use of community services as an alternative sanction to detention. Finally, select youth with significant trauma histories will be referred to participate in Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) led by trained staff; NMT is an approach to clinical work that is trauma-informed and incorporates key principles of neurodevelopment.

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Walworth County	Alternatives to Detention	Walworth will develop a range of interventions needed to hold youth accountable in ways they can learn from their mistakes and reserve the use of detention for when there is a threat to public safety. The county will provide enhanced services to families through certifying parent coaches, contracting with a behavior analyst for families who would benefit from those services, and using tools (such as Carey BITS) to enhance case management. YJ workers will provide services and an incentive program so youth are more likely to engage in positive behaviors instead of the negative ones that make them eligible for placement in detention. Walworth will develop a graduated rewards and sanctions system that incorporates the goals of a collaboratively developed case plan, and will implement accountability programs and practices that consider victim impact. To decrease the use of out-of-home placements, electronic monitoring, or detention, they will also increase, retain and use qualified respite providers for youth with challenging behaviors and mental health needs. Finally, they will develop sustainable youth activities and programs that target teaching/encouraging pro-social behaviors and skills, and connecting youth to supportive adults and their communities.
Lincoln County	Community Partnership	Lincoln County will build on existing community partnerships to create a “youth justice services group” that will promote the use of community interventions woven into supervision that focus on skill development and long term connections. The program will work with youth in the YJ system as well as developing a proactive diversion/prevention program, in partnership with schools. The network of community partners will include BIGS with BADGES program (police officers firefighters, EMTs serve as mentors for youth); HAVEN, which provides housing financial support and provides advocacy for children; a local youth facility designed to provide a healthy recreational space for teens; UW Extension, which organizes an after school program; and many others.

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Racine County	Community Partnership	<p>Racine County will implement a Credible Messenger Program based on a model proven successful. The program seeks to offer meaningful mentoring, promotion of positive social emotional well-being, academic achievement, personal development, and career development and provide youth with tools that assist them in staying out of the juvenile and criminal justice systems. The program will target adjudicated delinquent youths that score medium or high on the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument, chronically involved in the justice system, gang involved youth, youth returning from State Corrections or the alternatives to Corrections through Education Program. The Credible Messenger Program brings services to youth and their families in their communities. Mentors will be hired from the targeted neighborhoods to work with youth in groups and individually. There will be 24/7 on call support available for support, guidance and advice. The program will use evidence-based curricula “Thinking for a Change” and “Interactive Journaling” which through journaling assesses youth readiness to change and then provides strategies that lead to success. Youth who continue to engage in negative behavior will not be expelled or rejected and when a youth does not attend a meeting the mentor/messenger will seek out the youth and continue engaging with that youth. Racine will also assist with stabilizing the youth home environment to reduce stress and direct the youth’s focus back into the programming, and help connect the youth and family with enrichment activities.</p>
Eau Claire County	Continuation (Alternatives to Detention)	<p>Eau Claire County’s goal is to reduce the days used at the Eau Claire Academy and the detention center, decreasing alternate care placements and keeping youths connected to their families and communities. Eau Claire plans to use the fund to support the Supporting Actions Resilience and Knowledge (SPARK) program. The program has been operational for 5 months and funded by the innovation grant received last year. It serves as an alternative to detention and supports reunification, diversion and early intervention efforts in the county.</p>

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Jefferson County	Continuation (Robust Case Planning)	Jefferson County is interested in starting an evidence based in home family therapy program. The therapist will be dedicated to youth justice families, which will eliminate the wait for families placed on a waitlist. It will also eliminate transportation issues of youths and their families so they do not have to drive far in order to get the needed services. In addition, Jefferson County will use the funding to sustain programs that were implemented by the innovation grants funding last year. The county uses a live school app that allows case managers to track the progress of the youth and their families and provide them with rewards. Jefferson County offers trauma focused therapy but recognizes youth have different ways of coping and wants to implement alternative therapeutic programs such as sensory-based programming, neurofeedback, equine or pet related therapy and mindfulness activities (e.g., martial arts).
Oneida County (in partnership with Vilas County)	Continuation (School-Justice Partnerships)	Oneida County, Vilas Department of Social Services, the Oneida sheriff's department, judges, corporation counsel's office, Rhinelander and Northland Pines are part of a truancy task force to reduce incidents of truancy. By receiving the grant, the task force has had a broader impact by enhancing the approach used to engage youth through education in Trauma Informed Care and Motivational Interviewing. The grant also assists with the increased availability of psycho-social interventions such as restorative justice, coping and support training and guiding pathways. Last year's grant also funded a report center where youth could receive after school tutoring. The continuation grant would provide additional training in Motivational Interviewing and Trauma informed Care for new staff in both Oneida and Vilas counties.
Portage County	Continuation (Robust Case Planning)	Through the innovation grant, Portage County has had great success in assisting youth between the ages of 12 and 17 at third Gateway center. Through the grant the county contracted with a certified art therapist and certified music therapist to provide weekly sessions to juvenile justice youth at the Portage Gateway Report Center. The county also is able to collaborate with experts locally to provide weekly STEAM sessions for the youth. The goal is to offer youth greater ability to process their feelings relating to trauma, use self-expression to cope and to introduce the youth to education and career options that they would have not considered otherwise. The county would use the continuation grant to enhance and expand last year's innovation grant project to meet the need of the population that they are serving.