



# OJJDP FACT SHEET

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## Expansion of OJJDP's Comprehensive Strategy

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Encouraged by increased interest in its Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is offering training and technical assistance to additional sites. An innovative strategic planning initiative, the Comprehensive Strategy is aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency, improving juvenile justice systems, and identifying and controlling the small population of serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders.

In the past, OJJDP selected sites to receive Comprehensive Strategy training and technical assistance through a competitive application process. As a result of growing requests from the field and increased resources available to the initiative, OJJDP has now opened up the program to other States and communities that wish to receive training and technical assistance and participate in the strategic planning process.

### Background

OJJDP launched a national training and technical assistance initiative for the Comprehensive Strategy in 1995, with the publication of its *Guide for Implementing the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders*.<sup>1</sup> In 1996, in partnership with Developmental Research and Programs, Inc. (DRP), of Seattle, WA, and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), of San Francisco, CA, OJJDP began intensive Comprehensive Strategy training and technical assistance in three pilot sites: Duval County, FL; Lee County, FL; and San Diego County, CA. OJJDP expanded the initiative in 1997 by selecting five States—Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Rhode Island, and Texas—through a competitive process to receive the intensive training and technical assistance. Using the same competitive

process, OJJDP selected three additional States (Ohio, Oregon, and Wisconsin) for such assistance in 1998.

Since the selection of these States and their participating local communities, OJJDP, DRP, and NCCD have partnered with the coordinating State agencies to develop and implement 5-year comprehensive strategic plans in up to six local sites. The plans are based on the establishment of a continuum of juvenile delinquency prevention, early intervention, and graduated sanctions programs and services and use a data-driven, research-based, and outcome-focused approach. OJJDP's training and technical assistance initiative for the Comprehensive Strategy strives to mobilize communities to create a multidisciplinary continuum of care that can respond in a timely, effective, and appropriate manner to a community's prevention, intervention, and graduated sanctions needs.

### Program Planning

A four-phased planning process was created to help communities develop a comprehensive strategy in each site. This ongoing process includes mobilization, assessment, planning, and implementation.

During the mobilization phase, every segment of the community (law enforcement, courts, corrections, schools, government agencies, social service agencies, businesses, civic organizations, the faith community, parents, and private citizens) is engaged in developing a coordinated approach that addresses risks that threaten the healthy development of youth and identifies ways to ameliorate those risks.

The assessment phase—during which communities assess risk factors and identify systematic responses to those factors—forms the basis of the prevention and graduated sanctions components of the Comprehensive Strategy. During this phase, communities use risk-focused planning to structure prevention efforts and guide the objective decisionmaking process for appropriate responses to system-involved youth. Communities also develop

<sup>1</sup> Howell, J.C., ed. 1995. *Guide for Implementing the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders*. Summary. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

an inventory of available resources for addressing juvenile problems, a process that provides a detailed analysis of existing gaps in resources, services, and programs. The assessment phase also provides communities with the information and data they need to effectively coordinate prevention services with the juvenile justice system's response to delinquent behavior.

The plan identifies and systematically addresses prioritized community risk factors through the establishment of a complete range of prevention and early intervention services and graduated sanctions programs for juvenile offenders. The strategic planning framework enables communities to develop new programs and enhance existing services to ensure that these efforts are based on research and focused on outcomes and that they address risks while promoting the social development of all youth. Forty-two local comprehensive strategic plans have been completed since OJJDP's training and technical assistance initiative began in 1995.

The Comprehensive Strategy's planning process requires a significant time commitment from participants; however, as reflected by a variety of outcomes, participating communities benefit from the intensive training and technical assistance. Many local communities report that the planning process has enhanced coordination between various agencies and service providers, thus reducing duplication of services. Improved communication also has led to a better understanding of the prevention services and sanctions options for juveniles. Communities have used momentum gained during the planning process to reallocate resources to support effective programs during the implementation phase and to encourage and promote greater accountability for agencies providing services for children and families. Additionally, several communities have successfully accessed local, State, and Federal funds to support activities identified in their plans.

In working with existing Comprehensive Strategy sites, OJJDP has learned valuable lessons about effective development and implementation of strategic planning efforts. These include understanding the importance of gaining key leadership, agency, and community support; maximizing existing resources and systems;

marketing the effort; and developing ways to improve the training and technical assistance components of the initiative. OJJDP also has learned that many communities are interested in receiving assistance to strengthen their implementation of a seamless continuum of services for youth and families.

## For Further Information

To access information on Comprehensive Strategy training and technical assistance, State, tribal, and local agencies, courts, and governmental departments should contact:

State and Tribal Assistance Division  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
810 7th Street NW.  
Washington, DC 20531  
202-307-5924

Findings and experiences of the three pilot sites are described in the OJJDP Bulletin *Comprehensive Strategy: Lessons Learned From the Pilot Sites* (September 2000, NCJ 178258). To obtain a copy of this Bulletin or other OJJDP publications, contact:

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse  
800-638-8736  
301-519-5600 (fax)  
[www.puborder.ncjrs.org](http://www.puborder.ncjrs.org) (Internet)

To view examples of local Comprehensive Strategy plans, visit OJJDP's Web site at [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org) and click on the Programs link to the Comprehensive Strategy.

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*The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.*

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