



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Memorandum

To: Juvenile Probation Chiefs
From: Shandra Carter, Executive Director
Date: August 21, 2025
RE: Discretionary State Aid Grant

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) is now accepting applications for Community Projects under the Discretionary State Aid (DSA) grant program. These projects are intended to serve probation and/or parole youth. While applications for any innovative or impactful project will be considered, priority will be given to proposals targeting the following focus areas:

Priority Program Areas

- Assessment Centers/Youth Diversion Centers
[About Assessment Centers](#)
[Model Programs Guide | Home | Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#)
- School/Justice Partnership, School-Based Diversion
[Home - School Justice Partnership National Resource Center](#)
- In-Home Family Services/Support (ex: family partners, case management, counseling/therapy)
[Multisystemic Therapy \(MST\): An Overview | Office of Justice Programs](#)
[Functional Family Therapy | Office of Justice Programs](#)
[Multidimensional Family Therapy as a Community-Based Alternative to Residential Treatment for Adolescents With Substance Use and Co-Occurring Mental Health Disorders | Office of Justice Programs](#)
[Partnering With Youth and Families: A Best Practices Guide for Youth Justice Stakeholders | Office of Justice Programs](#)
- Youth Substance Use Services (prevention, intervention, and/or treatment)
[Behavioral Health Resources for Criminal and Juvenile Justice | Office of Justice Programs](#)
- Youth Mental Health Services (ex: counseling, youth sexual behavior treatment, psychiatric medication management)
[Behavioral Health Resources for Criminal and Juvenile Justice | Office of Justice Programs](#)
- Re-entry/Aftercare Services/Support (supports probation re-entry/aftercare from post-adjudication residential and/or TJJD state facility parole re-entry/aftercare)

NOTE: Departments applying for funding are not required to use the evidence-based, research-based or best practice models in the links below each priority; the links are provided simply as a resource. While departments are encouraged to use evidence-

based, research-based or best practice models as a framework, due to cost and provider availability limitations, fidelity to the model is not a requirement.

Grant Background

The Community Projects initiative fulfills the requirements of 223.001(c), Human Resources Code. The grant is for juvenile justice programs and services, including regional programs and services, that are provided in a non-residential setting and that are evidence-based and designed to that improve a juvenile probation department's ability to serve youth locally, improve outcomes, and decrease the likelihood of out of home placement or commitment to TJJD.

Time Line

June 25, 2025	Applications distributed to eligible departments
July 30, 2025	Applications are due to TJJD
August 20, 2025	Notices of award given to applicants

Contact Information

- Grant/Application Questions: Ashley Kintzer – Ashley.Kintzer@tjtd.texas.gov
- Programmatic/Treatment Questions: Susan Palacios – Susan.Palacios@tjtd.texas.gov
- Data/Logic Model Support: Research Team – Research@tjtd.texas.gov

Project Parameters

- Awards made under the Discretionary State Aid grant program. All terms and conditions of the State Financial Assistance Contract and General Grant Requirements documents apply.
- Funding will be managed and tracked in the Grant Portal (FLUX) under Discretionary State Aid: Community. Additional funding years may be approved, up to six years total, contingent on program performance relative to the established criteria.
- Grant funds will be awarded to programs focused on identified target populations of need, with specific recidivism reduction goals and utilizing research-based practices.
- There must be a single grant application for each project. Similarly, reporting through the grant period will require a separate report for each project.

Performance Metrics

Projects will be evaluated using the following measures:

- o number of juveniles enrolled in the program who complete the program;
- o number of juveniles enrolled in the program who successfully complete the program;
- o percentage of juveniles enrolled in the program who successfully complete the program;
- o cost for successful completion of program;
- o average number of service hours per juvenile;

- o number of juveniles recidivating (one- and two-year recidivism for re-arrest or re-referral);
 - o percentage of juveniles who recidivated;
 - o percent of juveniles with subsequent detention/disposition/out-of-home placement/enrollment in other programs;
 - o percent of juveniles with subsequent higher offense level/referral/disposition;
 - o number of juveniles served as a result of training;
 - o analysis of performance across all community project grants; and
 - o results of fiscal and program monitoring visit(s).
- Grants will be awarded through a competitive application process, with no limit to the number of requests for funding that will be considered. Requests will be evaluated based on alignment with grant program requirements and identified strategic focus, potential juvenile justice system impact and funding availability.
 - Financial and data reporting will occur under Discretionary State Aid: Community, and TJJD will issue program naming conventions and data entry protocols within two weeks of awarding grant funds. Departments will be required to report program-defined output and grant-defined performance measures annually.
 - Funding will be subject to the same auditing requirements as all other state aid grant funds, as well as definitions of allowable and unallowable expenditures. Refunds will be due to TJJD if expenditures are determined to be unallowable under the terms of the State Aid and Financial Assistance and General Grant Requirements contract.

Application Components

- Departments must submit application and logic model forms by the application due date to receive consideration.
- Applicants must describe the target population for the proposed project and the manner in which the population was identified.
- Applicants must describe the proposed residential project in detail, including:
 - o specific program interventions, curricula to be used, and intensity and frequency of services to be provided;
 - o how the proposed services are consistent with data-driven and research-based practice for the target population. Applicants may include attachments demonstrating that a proposed program or service is research-driven;
 - o the way in which a youth's risk and treatment needs will be identified, how program interventions address identified needs, and how the program will be responsive to individual youth strengths and needs,
 - o the expected level of licensure and/or training of the service providers, and

- o organizational structure in place to support implementation of program approaches and interventions with fidelity.
- Applicants must clearly describe how project success will be measured, including specific project-defined output and grant-defined outcome measures and how data to report on these measures will be collected, maintained, and reported.
- Applicants must provide a cost analysis that gives the total project cost and an itemization of the cost categories included in the analysis.
- Local financial or in-kind matching funds are not required, but may be considered in the review process alongside other requested information.

Application Submission

- Applications may be submitted to TJJJ electronically in the Grants Portal (FLUXX).
- Applications received after July 30, 2025, will not be considered.