



**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
FY 2021 – 2023  
COMPREHENSIVE THREE-YEAR STATE PLAN  
TITLE II FORMULA GRANTS PROGRAM**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

Louisiana Revised Statute 15:1226, the Juvenile Delinquency and Gang Prevention Act of 1993, as provided for in Chapter 13 of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and its administration are hereby placed under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice. The purpose of this project is to continue the support of state and local projects as outlined by the SAG (State Advisory Group) in the 2021-2023 Three-Year Comprehensive State Plan. The goals and objectives of this report is to confirm that Louisiana meets all twenty-eight requirements of the formula grants program as stated in the 2021 Title II solicitation. Funding will be used to increase the availability of delinquency prevention and intervention programs for at risk youth, juvenile justice system improvements, and to maintain compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP Act. (deinstitutionalization of status offenders, separation of juveniles from adults in secure facilities, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and reduction of racial and ethnic disparities (RED) in the juvenile justice system) This project plans to support both state and local efforts.

Funds will be allocated to new and continuation projects that address the State Plan. Each funded project must submit the OJJDP performance measurements via a quarterly program report and a final program report, which includes their short-term and intermediate outcomes, to Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE). LCLE compiles each sub-recipient's program reports and submits the results in the Annual Performance Report to OJJDP via the GMS system. Along with the submission of the annual report, on-site monitoring visits to ensure goals and objectives are being met and to provide any needed technical assistance. Each sub-recipient's performance in meeting its goals and objectives help determine future funding.

The Three-Year Plan will address the needs, and intervention plans as related to jail removal, separation, deinstitutionalization of status offenders and racial and ethnic disparities. It will also address resources in our state, areas of need, along with budgetary obligations addressed with proposed funding.

## **STATE'S PRIORITY JUVENILE JUSTICE NEEDS / PROBLEM STATEMENTS**

The SAG identified five juvenile justice needs/problem statements and has determined funding should be directed to programs that address these areas. These programs will not only serve juveniles, but the family and society as well. The SAG's goal for the 2021-2023 State Plan is to fund programs that address Racial and Ethnic Disparities, delinquency prevention education, and mental health/substance abuse. A detailed discussion for each area is provided.

- **Mental Health Services:**

In accordance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, the goal of the juvenile justice system is to divert youth from formal processing of the adult justice system. This in turn resulted in an increased need of community-based programs to treat juvenile offenders. The rate of youth with mental disorders within the juvenile justice system is found to be consistently higher than those within the general population of adolescents. Estimates reveal between 50 to 75 percent of juveniles entering the juvenile justice system meet the criteria for a mental health disorder. Commonly found mental health disorders in youth offenders include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, oppositional defiant disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is defined by either sustained inattention, characterized in part by forgetfulness and distractedness, or ongoing hyperactivity-impulsivity. Several studies have indicated that childhood ADHD leads to increased risk of developing a substance use disorder during adolescence or adulthood. Specifically, children with ADHD have an increased chance of substance use, with the increased likelihood ranging from 1.47 to 3 times, where the former was based on the development of a substance use disorder and the latter on lifetime use of an illicit drug other than marijuana.

Depression encompasses feelings of sadness, pain, gloom, or anger. Clinical depression specifically refers to situations wherein a person's depressive feelings interrupt their daily life. Depression may result from stressors such as parental divorce, parental substance abuse, depression of a family member, or feelings of inadequacy. These stressors can lead to feelings of sadness, which some adolescents have reported to be a motivator for them in deciding to begin substance use.

The high prevalence of mental health disorders within the juvenile justice system emphasizes the need for varying levels of treatment options. The individual nature of mental health disorders requires effective screening and assessment processes, as well as varied treatment options. LCLE will seek evidence-based programs that offer multiple treatment options. While the effectiveness of some programs offers limited evidence, specific therapeutic models will be given priority.

One of the goals of funding mental health treatment is so that the juvenile justice system is not the sole provider of mental health services for juvenile offenders. The first stages of contact with a juvenile offender are at the arrest and referral to juvenile court. The goal would be to identify

mental health disorders at this stage and divert them from processing and referred to community treatment services. Many youths can be diverted if their mental health needs are identified at an early stage and if system of care options are in place. There will be a focus on programs that identify mental health disorders prior to processing. This will require adequate assessment tools that will result in accurate screening and early identification of candidates.

By focusing on mental and behavioral health, local jurisdictions can develop and improve programs that address youth mental health needs. These programs will help with early identification of youth with mental health conditions, it will improve service and coordination, reduce the risk of juveniles being recycled through the system, which will ultimately lead to better outcomes for the youth and their families.

- **Delinquency Prevention:**

The prevention of juvenile delinquency is an essential part of crime prevention in society. The successful prevention of juvenile delinquency requires efforts on the part of the entire community to ensure the successful development of adolescents into productive law-abiding adults.

Engaging in delinquent behavior can lead to drug use and dependency, dropping out of school, incarceration, adult criminal behavior and injury. Early intervention and prevention of delinquent behavior can divert juveniles from the adverse consequences that can result from delinquency.

There are four identified risk factors that increase a juvenile's likelihood to engage in delinquent behavior:

- Individual risk factors
- Family risk factors
- Peer risk factors
- School and community risk factors

Studies done on juvenile delinquency have produced many different individual risk factors. Studies have cited substance abuse, antisocial behavior, cognitive disabilities, hyperactivity, and physical problems as individual risk factors. Two commonly discussed individual risk factors are attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and depression.

- **Education:**

Studies have identified that educational risk factors for delinquency include academic failure starting as early as elementary school, inadequate school climate, truancy, and economic deprivation. School discipline can also contribute to school disengagement. It is important that providing services to educationally at-risk students improves the possibility of better long-term outcomes, including future employability.

Graduation rates, using the last four years of data, continue to be a focus overall in Louisiana but differences between racial and ethnic students is even more troublesome. Differences in ethnic groups continue as well. The 2016 graduation rates show an overall rate for all students at 77%,

with white students more successfully graduating at a rate of 82.7% The graduation rates among race and ethnicity are substantial. Hispanic students graduate at a rate of 67.1% in 2019. Black students graduate at 75.6%. White students graduate at a rate of 85.7% and Asian students at a rate of 90.2% in 2019. Graduation rates have increased in almost all groups since 2016, with Native American students having the largest increase from 74.9% in 2016 to 88.6% in 2018. The troubling statistic is the significant decrease in graduation rates among Hispanic students. There has been a 7% decrease during that time.

Louisiana ranks among the highest in terms of dropout rates of high school students. Dropping out of school at such a young age can have negative social and economic consequences. Dropout rates of high school students has remained steady until 2019 where there was a decrease in dropout rates in all high school grades.

Black youth continue to be over represented in the number of negative consequences and disciplinary actions taken for behavior. Black students make up the majority of discipline cases in the state. White and Asian youth are underrepresented. The primary reasons for school discipline are instigating or participating in fights, willful disobedience, disturbing class, treating authority with disrespect and leaving the school grounds without permission.

Truancy has been identified as one of the top educational problems in the United States and is considered an important predictor of dropping out of school and later delinquent behavior. Louisiana has seen a steady rise in truancy numbers for the past three years of reported data. the larger issue of why kids are truant, the conditions under which we see children and youth struggling to go to and remain in school, continues to be a challenge. Truancy can start as early as elementary school and the need for prevention should begin there. However, with limited interaction between agencies in Louisiana, this will be difficult to combat.

- **Compliance Monitoring:**

For the past three years, Louisiana has remained in compliance with the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. (Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Separation, Jail Removal) Documentation can be found in the compliance manual which was submitted with the annual compliance report. However, data collection has become increasingly difficult in that same time frame. Fewer law enforcement agencies are meeting the December 15<sup>th</sup> date of returning all secure data to the Commission. This information has to be requested several times in some instances. One reason for the difficulty lies in the high turnover rate among juvenile officers at law enforcement agencies. Another reason for the difficulty collecting data is that the Commission still utilizes the mail to send surveys to all departments. This has become increasingly inefficient in that surveys do not always reach the appropriate person in the agency.

Louisiana Children's Code Article 306(F) states that the court authorizing the detention of the child in adult jail or lockup pursuant to Paragraph B or D of this Article shall submit a written report delineating appropriate reason for the continued custody to the judicial administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court for review and shall submit copies to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice and to the Sheriff or Chief of Police of the facility in which the child is being detained within seven (7) working days of the court's decision.

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement is now responsible for ensuring that the procedures are properly followed.

- **Gender Specific Programs:**

The SAG and LCLE are mindful that each child has unique needs and is therefore committed to addressing individual needs to include specific services to support prevention programs that address the unique needs of girls, boys and Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender through programming.

- **Rural Area and Native American Programs:**

In Chapter 57 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, the distribution of funds requires that a percentage of a district's funding based on the state's crime rate must be used to fund programs that address issues in rural areas.

The LCLE staff and SAG continue to seek ways to encourage the Native American Tribes to use the funds to implement or enhance programs within the Tribes. In the past, due to the minimum allocated amount, eligible Native American Tribes have not accepted the Native American pass-through amount. In an effort to encourage the Louisiana Native American Tribes into considering the acceptance of an allocation for a proposed project, the LCLE staff has slightly increased the allocation set aside for Tribes and has had to date, two meetings with representatives of the federally-recognized Tribes to explain the state's plan for its JJDP programs.

- **Use of Restraints:**

In 2013, Governor Bobby Jindal named the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) the agency to determine juvenile detention and correctional facility standards. During this time, DCFS banned the use of restraints in juvenile detention centers and correctional facilities for all juveniles. Louisiana has eliminated the use of abdominal restraints, leg and ankle restraints, wrist restraints behind the back, and four-point restraints on known pregnant juveniles, unless credible, reasonable grounds exist to believe the detainee presents an immediate and serious threat of hurting herself, staff, or others; or reasonable grounds exist to believe the detainee presents an immediate and credible risk of escape that cannot be reasonably minimized through any other method.

- **Alternatives to Detention:**

In 2020, Louisiana passed a House Bill 158 requires that all juvenile detention facilities, including facilities owned or operated by any governmental, profit, nonprofit, private, or public agency, to be licensed by the Dept. of Children and Family Services in accordance with rules promulgated by the department.

Prohibits any juvenile detention facility from detaining a child who is alleged to have committed a delinquent act for any of the following purposes or reasons, except when the child is charged with the commission of a serious offense or has a history of adjudications based on prior serious offenses: (a) To punish, treat, or rehabilitate the child. (b) To allow the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian to avoid the parent's, guardian's, or legal custodian's legal responsibilities relative to the child. (c) Solely to satisfy a demand made by a victim, law enforcement, or the community that a child be detained. (d) To facilitate further interrogation or investigation. (e) To facilitate further assessment or evaluation. (f) The unavailability of a more appropriate facility.

Provides that on and after July 1, 2020, a detention screening instrument shall be administered for any child placed in secure detention when taken into custody without a court order for alleged commission of a delinquent act. With regard to the detention screening instrument, new law does all of the following: (a) Requires the La. Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Statewide Leadership Collaborative (the JDAI Collaborative) to support the statewide implementation of detention screening instruments and the training process and requirements for those persons who will utilize the instruments. (b) Requires detention screening instruments to assess the child only to determine the child's risk to public safety while a current arrest is pending and the risk of failure to appear in court for the pending case. (c) Requires the detention screening instrument to be selected from tools that are being utilized as of Jan. 1, 2019, by local jurisdictions in the state. Further provides that a detention screening instrument being utilized by a jurisdiction as of Jan. 1, 2019, is sufficient to satisfy requirements of new law. (d) Requires a copy of the completed detention screening instrument to be provided to the juvenile detention facility for any child who is admitted to its custody and requires the facility to keep a record of the results of the instrument and other specified information.

## **IMPLEMENTATION (SERVICES and ACTIVITIES)**

Projects are funded at both the local and state level. Goals 1 and 2 will be achieved through projects funded at the local level while Goals 3, 4, and 5 are funded at the state level.

The LCLE staff and SAG works with eight local law enforcements planning districts (LEPD) which are designated statutorily to assist the designated State's Administering Agency (LCLE). These eight LEPD are divided by geographic area. Each LEPD has its own council whose representation includes law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and non-profit organizations that provides services to juveniles and victims. Funds awarded to the State are distributed to each LEPD on a formula-based percentage. This formula is updated every ten years after the U.S. Census is released. Each LEPD's percentage is based on the population and crime statistics within their respective districts. Louisiana provides an equitable distribution of the assistance received within the state, including in rural areas. This occurs through the creation of the law enforcement planning districts throughout the state. This information, in conjunction with youth crime analysis data, helps inform the funding decisions made.”

### **Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils**

District 1	Northwest Law Enforcement Planning District	11.07%
District 2	North Delta Law Enforcement Planning District	10.77%
District 3	Red River Delta Law Enforcement Planning District	9.74%
District 4	Evangeline Law Enforcement Planning Council	10.66%
District 5	Capital District Law Enforcement Planning District	15.95%
District 6	Southwest District Law Enforcement Planning Council	10.44%
District 7	Metropolitan/Jefferson Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	15.48%
District 9	Orleans Office of Criminal Justice Coordination Council	15.89%

**NOTE:** The formula was revised upon release of the 2010 U.S. Census Report.

The SAG implemented a policy to restrict the award amount for a project funded at the district level. “Each district cannot allocate its funds to a project less than the lowest allocated amount to a law enforcement planning district.” For example: If the lowest LEPD’s allocation is \$25,000, the remaining LEPDs cannot allocate any project under \$25,000. Using the LEPD formula percentages to allocate funding based on the federal award received, each LEPD will only be able to fund one project; thus, a total of eight projects will be funded at the local level. This method is more beneficial to address a smaller number of projects to adequately address issues with more funding than to have several projects with minimal funding. Projects are funded for no more than three (3) twelve-month project periods. Projects that do not meet the stated goals and objectives at the end of Year 2 are not funded for the final twelve-month project period. Louisiana has strong internal fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures to ensure prudent use intended use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received under this title.

Each District submits a plan outlining the needs of their area. These plans are forwarded to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement for review. The need areas of the state are then chosen to address the needs of the Districts. The Juvenile Justice Specialist with assistance from the State Advisory Group will complete the Three-Year Plan with the need areas outlined in the District reports. The law enforcement planning districts advertise the council’s allocation for potential eligible applicants pursuant to the JJDP Act. Each LEPD chooses the potential project that is evidence-based program or practice and will address the state’s problem statements, goals and objectives. Potential applicants must demonstrate in their application how their project will help achieve the state’s plan, its activities/services, time line of activities/services, location and time of services, estimate number of juveniles and/or families to be served, and how the project is coordinated with other agencies within their community.

The activities/services of Goals 1 and 2 include, but are not limited to, providing delinquency prevention programs (not limited to prevention, control, school and community prevention programs, drug and alcohol abuse, and other such programs that can prevent and reduce the rate of delinquent juvenile behavior), counseling (both individual and group), mental health services (assessment, treatment plans and discharge plans); age-appropriate educational activities, which includes tutoring, mentoring, prevention of truancy, suspension and expulsion; community service, substance abuse (prevention and intervention), family relationships and parenting skills, and programs designed specifically for female offenders.

The LCLE staff and SAG continue to seek ways to encourage the Native American Tribes to use the funds to implement or enhance programs within the Tribes. In the past, due to the minimum allocated amount, eligible Native American Tribes have not accepted the Native American pass-through amount. In an effort to encourage the Louisiana Native American Tribes into considering the acceptance of an allocation for a proposed project, the LCLE staff has slightly increased the allocation set aside for Tribes and has had to date, two meetings with representatives of the federally-recognized Tribes to explain the state's Plan for its JJDP programs.

Project activities funded at the state level will ensure the State's compliance of the core requirements of the JJDP Act.

1. Goal 3 Objective 1: Activities will address Program Area 21, Racial and Ethnic Disparities. Activities/services include, but are not limited to, continuing to establish a statewide infrastructure to support RED Reduction; using the most recent RED assessment, select priority jurisdictions based upon OJJDP guidance; implementation of DMC Reduction Model in selected local jurisdictions; monitor and evaluate the progress of selected jurisdictions.
2. Goal 4 Objective 1: Activities for Program Area 27, Juvenile Justice System Improvement, include, but are not limited to, providing a two and one-half day Governor's Conference to train approximately 400 professionals in the juvenile sectors throughout the state; provide other training(s) as needed; bring in national and local experts to provide insight and guidance of newest evidence-based models and best practices in addressing issues involving youth and their families, juveniles, and the juvenile justice system.
3. Goal 5 Objective 1: To meet the requirements of Program Area 19, the Compliance Monitor addresses the first three core requirements. Activities include, but are not limited to, conducting on-site visits to one-third of all facilities that securely detains juveniles. This includes sheriff's offices and police departments and their substations, juvenile detention centers and correctional facilities, and court holding facilities to ensure 100% is completed by the end of the three-year plan. Training and technical assistance are provided to any facility that request assistance.
4. Goal 5 Objective 2: For Program Area 28, Planning and Administration, activities include, but are not limited to, perform administrative duties, evaluation, and monitoring functions as mandated by the JJDP Act of 2002. LCLE staff along with the SAG will continue to promote the exchange of ideas between agencies that provides services to youth. We seek opportunities to provide forums for the exchange of unifying the coordination of efforts among the various components of programs and services for youth.
5. Goal 5 Objective 3: Activities under Program Area 32, State Advisory Group Allocation, include, but are not limited to, work in conjunction with LCLE staff in accordance with the JJDP Act; review and recommend approval of funding to eligible recipients; conduct committee and subcommittee meetings as needed; submit annual report to the Governor; and, provide and attend needed training.

## **STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Louisiana's juvenile justice system is comprised of three major components: law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Each of these components has options in which they can handle/treat a juvenile with whom they come in contact. There are several factors that determine how a juvenile offender is handled by Louisiana's juvenile justice system. These factors include the severity of the criminal offense allegedly committed by the juvenile, prior criminal record of the alleged juvenile offender, the prospects for the offender's rehabilitation, and the concern for public safety. These factors, when they surface along the continuum of contact points influence decisions as to how best to assist the juvenile found to be in need due to mistreatment, and as to either warn and release the alleged juvenile offender; or place the offender in the formal juvenile justice system.

Contact between the juvenile and the juvenile justice system can be initiated in one of three ways. A complaint and/or referral are received by juvenile authorities about the treatment of a juvenile; juvenile authorities receive a complaint about the alleged illegal activity of a juvenile; or a law enforcement officer observes illegal activity on the part of a juvenile. Each component of Louisiana's juvenile justice system has options as to how they handle/treat a juvenile in need of assistance or a juvenile offender.

The structure of Louisiana's juvenile court system is comprised of designated Juvenile Courts, District/Parish Courts, and City/Municipal Courts. Article 116 of the *Louisiana Children's Code* defines a juvenile court and a juvenile court judge as follows:

- A juvenile "Court" is defined as any city, parish, district, or juvenile court, or its judge, when exercising juvenile jurisdiction. A judge of a mayor's court, or a justice of the peace, is not included.

- A juvenile “Judge” is defined as the judge of a court exercising juvenile jurisdiction (as defined above).

How a juvenile “flow” through the system depends on the manner in which the juvenile is brought to the attention of the juvenile authorities in his/her parish of residence. Only children ages 10 to 17 are dealt with as delinquents. Children under 10 are addressed through the Families in Need of Services (FINS) program, a parallel system for children who have committed status offenses. Youths who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday are tried as adults for criminal or traffic offenses. (Louisiana State Constitution Article 5, Section 19). As of July 1, 2020, youths aged 17 who commit misdemeanor and felony grade offenses are now to be considered juveniles.

The options available to law enforcement and the courts vary depending on which process is chosen to handle the juvenile. If a complaint/referral is received alleging the juvenile is in need of assistance, and if a determination has been made that the juvenile in question has suffered serious harm, or is in imminent danger of suffering serious harm, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services is statutorily charged with intervening on the juvenile’s behalf.

The first point of contact for delinquency cases is with law enforcement, which includes three divisions: State Police, Parish Sheriff’s Offices, and City Police Departments (including Campus Police). Any of these agencies can take part in the initial contact with a juvenile. If a complaint of criminal activity on the part of a juvenile is reported to a law enforcement agency, or if a law enforcement officer self-initiates action against a juvenile, several decisions can be made at this level ranging from counsel and release to formally charging the juvenile which could lead to secure confinement. In some jurisdictions, the officer can refer the juvenile to one of the service network providers (e.g., FINS, substance abuse treatment, etc.), or use a more formal approach and refer the juvenile to the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ), the District Attorney’s Office, or seek detention or shelter care. Some jurisdictions, particularly in the larger cities, require

the juvenile offender be taken to an intake unit or the designated juvenile court. See flow charts below:

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The State Advisory Group (SAG) has established funding priorities of #6 Delinquency Prevention, #12 Mental Health Services, #19 Compliance Monitoring, #21 Racial and Ethnic Disparities, #27 Juvenile Justice Systems Improvement, #28 Planning and Administration; and #32 State Advisory Group.

### **Purpose Area #6 Delinquency Prevention**

**GOAL:** To fund comprehensive juvenile delinquency prevention programs that meet needs of the youth through collaboration of local systems.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To fund at least three projects in this purpose area that consist of parental involvement.
- To fund at least two projects in this purpose area that involve community partnerships.
- To fund at least one project in this purpose area that involves law enforcement.

### **Purpose Area #12 Mental Health**

**GOAL:** To increase access to mental health services by funding programs that identify and treat behavior health concerns at the earliest opportunity.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To increase mental health services.
- To fund at least one mental health projects that utilizes multidisciplinary treatment teams.

### **Purpose Area #19 Compliance Monitoring**

**GOAL:** To maintain compliance with the jail removal, sight and sound separation, racial and ethnic disparities and deinstitutionalization of status offenders.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Implement an electronic data collection system.
- Conduct at least two JJDP training sessions at juvenile officer academies.
- Continue on-site monitoring visits to measure compliance with the core requirements.

**Purpose Area #21 Racial and Ethnic Disparities**

**GOAL:** To increase data collection ability of our agency and reduce disparities among the contact points in the juvenile justice system.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To reduce disparities among the contact points of arrest and pretrial detention of youth of color in five parishes.
- To increase diversion cases for youth of color and reduce the disparities in this area.
- To increase data collection in at least two of the five contact points.

**Purpose Area #27 Juvenile Justice Systems Improvement**

**GOAL:** To implement statewide programs that increase the knowledge and capability of juvenile justice employees.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To hold an annual juvenile justice conference.
- To hold an annual School Resource Officer training for new and veteran SROs.

**Purpose Area #28 Planning and Administration**

**GOAL:** To improve statewide coordination and collaborative planning.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Staff will work with the Governor's Office to ensure that the SAG remains in compliance with membership requirements.
- Staff will monitor changes to federal laws and statutes that will impact the juvenile justice system and report them to the State Advisory Group.

**Purpose Area #32 State Advisory Group**

**GOAL:** To plan use of SAG allocated funds to assist in effective performance of duties and responsibilities.

**OBJECTIVES:** To maintain a state advisory group that represents the requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

- Work closely with the staff of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Governor's office and provide insight and sound advice on funding decisions related to juvenile justice.
- Hold committee and subcommittee meetings to address particular issues the SAG has prioritized.
- Review and approve applications that are eligible for funding to ensure these programs meet best practice standards.
- Support travel and per diem cost of members to attend meetings and trainings.

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURE DATA**

During the implementation of the LCLE Egrants System, a grants management system, the Federal Program Purpose Area's mandatory performance (outputs and outcomes) measurements and at least two non-mandatory (output and outcome) measurements were added to the Egrants System. Prior to the release of the state's funding solicitation, the juvenile justice specialist reviews each Federal Program Purpose Area's performance measures via the Data Reporting Tool (DCTAT) for updates and makes the necessary changes/additions.

When an applicant applies for funding, they must choose the appropriate Federal Program Purpose Area(s). Once the application is approved, the Egrants System automatically lists the required performance measures to be completed by the subgrantee. The subgrantee is required to report each performance measurement in their quarterly program report. The juvenile justice specialist compiles each subgrantee's quarterly program reports and enters the data into the DCTAT website. Once all the subgrantees' performance data is entered, the juvenile justice specialist submits the State's Annual Performance Report via JustGrants by November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

## **COLLECTING & SHARING JUVENILE JUSTICE INFORMATION**

### **a. DESCRIPTION OF GATHERING AND SHARING INFORMATION AND DATA**

In an effort to reform and restructure the juvenile justice system and to improve the availability and quality of programs and services available to assist juveniles who are at risk of becoming part of the system, as well as those who are already involved in the juvenile justice system, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act established Interagency Agreements For Information Sharing Concerning Juveniles. This interagency effort helps gather comprehensive data and actively shares and disseminates data to those agencies responsible for making informed decisions regarding the treatment, care, security, and rehabilitation of juveniles within the state. The sharing and integration of appropriate data and information relating to child protection, delinquency, families-in-need of services, and other concerns provided in the *Louisiana Children's Code* may have numerous benefits for the children and families involved in the juvenile justice system, as well as for the state and local juvenile justice agencies attempting to provide services for them. Not only can such data and integration serve the best interests of the child and family, contribute to higher levels of effectiveness in service delivery and have greater efficiency and productivity. It eventually leads reductions in the costs of juvenile justice services by reducing redundant data entry, expediting the processing of cases, and contribute to better performance and greater accountability by all involved parties. Procedures have been established to protect the rights and privacy of all individuals participating in these programs remain confidential. All agencies that contract with LCLE are compliant with HIPAA and other relevant laws related to information sharing and privacy concerns.

The following agencies are involved in facilitating agreements regarding the sharing of information of juveniles: the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Education, The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Department of Labor, Courts exercising juvenile jurisdiction, Offices of District Attorneys, Law Enforcement Agencies, Schools, Truancy Assistance Service Centers, Families-in-Need of Services Offices, Indigent Defender Boards and other juvenile justice agencies, and Indigent Defender Boards.

Pursuant to Section 223(a) (28) of the JJDP Act, the State assures that juvenile offenders whose placement is funded through Section 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672) receives 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).

Louisiana does not have a central point from which juvenile justice information and data can be obtained and shared. Each agency, whether state or local, has its own system. Juvenile justice information, such as currently released reports, available funding from other sources, and juvenile-related trainings, will be received and shared via attendance at meetings, from mail or email, or by visiting another agency's website. Many state agencies follow the routine practice of making their reports available from their websites.

Depending on the information obtained, the juvenile justice specialist will determine who will receive the information. Information is disseminated to the SAG members, subgrantees, and/or other individuals employed by the state or local agency. For example, if information is received that would benefit judges; the juvenile justice specialist will forward the information to the coordinator of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. SAG members will forward information to the juvenile justice specialist for dissemination and will discuss the information at their regularly scheduled meetings. The Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) program coordinator is invited to provide a report on the EUDL-funded projects to the SAG members at its regularly scheduled meetings. This will allow the EUDL coordinator and the juvenile justice specialist to coordinate activities between both programs and ensure that no duplication of services occur within the State.

Information on proposed and approved legislative laws (both State and Federal) that would affect the juvenile justice system is disseminated to SAG members at each regularly scheduled meeting. The makeup of the SAG members allows them to return to their communities to disseminate and share the information learned within their profession. Any local or state agency can follow and obtain any new Acts or revisions to Acts via the Louisiana Legislature's website. The SAG's Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature provides juvenile crime data, problems and needs, funding recommendations.

Individuals, local and state agencies can attend scheduled meetings of the Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission and listen to each agency report on their progress on the Juvenile Justice Reform Act.

One of the most accurate methods of collecting data is through direct contact with an individual agency or with a counterpart in that agency. Often counterparts have an understanding of how

data are collected and utilized in his agency and their expertise could be instrumental in evaluation needs or progress made to meeting and solving problems found in the juvenile system.

**b. BARRIERS IN GATHERING AND SHARING INFORMATION AND DATA**

Specific barriers include: system compatibility between state and local levels, funding to upgrade antiquated systems, and training and developing research-oriented personnel who are knowledgeable in the collection and interpretation of data.

There are also non-specific barriers to information sharing, such as different contacts with the same parish may collect and interpret the same data in different ways. For example, this week five juveniles may be “sent” to juvenile court and the district attorney counts them as five referrals. The court may choose to place two of them under informal adjustment agreements and then adjudicate the other three through the formal court process, complete with a disposition. The clerk of the court could then record only three juveniles as being referred to juvenile court, because under his/her definition all referrals must include adjudication. Depending on who is contacted, a data researcher can come up with two valid yet different answers to his query about how many juveniles were sent to court this week.

**COORDINATION OF STATE EFFORTS**

**State Efforts to Promote Youth Development**

Louisiana’s juvenile justice system is a network of interrelated local, state, public and private agencies, and institutions designed to prevent and address juvenile delinquency. The State’s primary goals are to reduce and prevent juvenile delinquency in Louisiana by supporting programs and strategies that are either innovations grounded in research or evidence-based practices. Programs funded through this award encompass the major needs of Louisiana that include the development of programs that, divert youth from the justice system when appropriate, reduce delinquency and recidivism, provide training for juvenile professionals, and assist youth service providers. It is important to provide services to youth prior to entering the juvenile justice system and include coordinated efforts among several systems to assist the youth in making wiser decisions and develop creditable behaviors.

**Coordination of State Agency with Non-Justice System Agencies**

Coordination among state agencies helps build stronger relationships and increased communication with stakeholders and other state agencies to enhance service delivery. Service coordination addresses the needs of the youth, with options allowing progressive movement throughout the system. Improved coordination streamlines and consolidates juvenile information. The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) is the central agency in the state's juvenile justice system network. LCLE can link its network of service providers so agencies can best serve juveniles and their families. Louisiana's State Advisory Group (SAG) has special knowledge of the juvenile justice system and come from many different agencies. The group meets on a quarterly basis. The SAG also promotes community partnerships and delinquency prevention programs that address the development of educational, training, research, prevention, diversion, treatment and rehabilitative programs in Louisiana's Juvenile Justice System.

LCLE uses Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to establish partnerships between agencies. The Interagency MOUs established express a common purpose of data and information sharing among the agencies and allow agencies to take advantage of statistics, reference material, and other juvenile information. MOUs ensure that all parties are in agreement of their partnership roles. These partnerships outline decisions based on data collected by both agencies. These frameworks also allow other partners to join in and contribute to coordination efforts.

In an effort to enhance coordination and overall consistency of data collection, LCLE has utilized funds from the award to promote improved data collection. This data can be shared among state and local juvenile justice agencies throughout the state.

LCLE also works in coordination with the Annie Casey Foundation to promote the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI). This initiative is a collaborative effort that will give the state another valuable data cache from which agencies can access valuable information. It was found that there was too much emphasis on detention as a punishment which was becoming widespread in Louisiana. With the help of local juvenile detention centers throughout the state, an emphasis has been placed on finding other options to correct delinquent juvenile behavior. JDAI has proven to be effective in helping participating detention centers safely reduce their detention populations. The data from these efforts is collected and analyzed in quarterly meetings to determine the effectiveness of the efforts utilized. This information is used to define a clear and well-targeted population for services and develop a broad array of services to meet the different needs of the juvenile population. LCLE and Annie Casey have also collaborated on legislation that has been passed since the last three-year plan. The final stage of raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction so that 17-year old offenders are treated as juveniles was completed on July 1, 2020. Also, in 2019, the Louisiana Legislature passed detention reforms that required all jurisdictions to use a detention screening instrument beginning 2021.

Every year the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Family and Youth Counseling Agency hold a three-day conference on Juvenile Justice issues and other relevant matters. The Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice offers professionals serving youth the opportunity to learn about best practices and challenges to prevent delinquency, strengthen the juvenile justice system, and protect children. Currently, there is no other statewide conference on juvenile justice committed to support programs and activities that improve outcomes for youth. The conference is coordinated by practitioners that understand the need for professional training and technical assistance. The Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice focuses on the

latest research, developments, and challenges facing our field today. Attendees learn about emerging challenges, interventions and solutions to better serve youth. The conference offers training opportunities to increase coordination, knowledge and better outcomes for youth. In addition, participants also receive innovative information introducing new trends and issues that impact the core work of juvenile justice agencies and state holders. Due to the pandemic an in-person conference was unable to be held in 2020; however the conference was rescheduled for January in an online format.

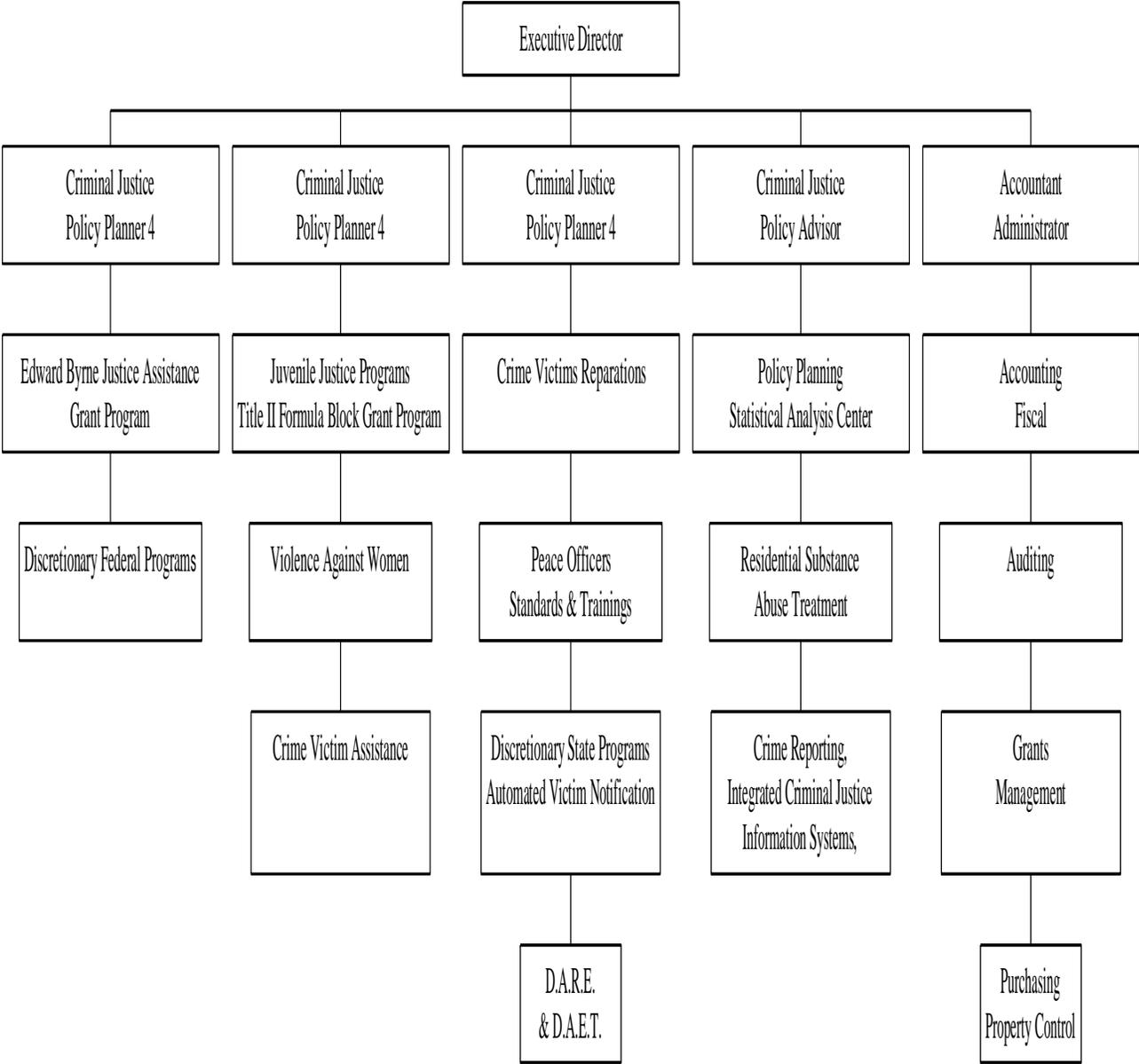
LACLE has recently partnered with the Louisiana Supreme Court in an effort to increase our capacity at collecting statewide juvenile court data. We are currently exploring all available avenues to increase the amount of data provided to LACLE from all courts that deal with juvenile matters.

### **Plans to Improve Coordination and Joint Decision Making**

To effectively combat delinquency, Louisiana must improve coordination between agencies. Louisiana must identify the strengths and weaknesses in coordination efforts. The coordination recommendation should also come from the communities that the agencies serve by regularly seeking comments, recommendations, and opinions from communities and juveniles in the juvenile justice system. Louisiana must continue to strengthen the relationships between agencies. Agency representatives must meet regularly so that all parties in the juvenile justice system are working on one accord.

**FORMULA GRANTS PROGRAM STAFF**

**LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



**OTHER PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE LOUISIANA  
COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**A. Federal Programs**

1. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program
2. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant
3. Crime Victim Assistance
4. Crime Victims Reparations
5. Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
6. Firearm Background Enhanced Data Sharing Implementation (FBCI)
7. National Criminal History Improvement Program
8. Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act
9. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program
10. Sexual Assault Services Program
11. S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women
12. Other Discretionary Federal Programs

**B. State Programs**

1. Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E)
2. Act 832 / D.A.E.T.
3. Peace Officer Standards and Training Program (POST)
4. Crime Victims Reparations
5. Innocence Compensation Fund
6. Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Program
7. Truancy Assessment Service Centers Program

**C. Information Systems**

1. Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (ICJIS)
2. Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) (LIBRS)
3. Louisiana's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (LUCR)
4. NICS Records Improvement Program

**D. Policy Planning**

1. Louisiana Sentencing Commission
2. Statistical Analysis Center
3. Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse
4. Children's Advocacy Clearinghouse

## STAFFING AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Formula Grants, along with matched state funds, fund the following positions at the percentages shown.

	Formula Program	State Funding
<b>I. Program Staff</b>		
Demetrius Joubert, Juvenile Justice Specialist	50.00%	50.00%
Demetrius Joubert, Compliance Monitor	50.00%	0.00%
Rutha Chatwood, Federal Programs Section Manager	8.00%	15.00%
<b>II. Administrative Staff:</b>		
Jim Craft, Executive Director	2.00%	2.00%
Hope Davis, Human Resource Director	2.00%	2.00%
Lisa Dreher, Administrative Assistant 5	2.00%	2.00%
Verna Hamilton, Executive Staff Officer	2.00%	2.00%
<b>III. Computer Staff</b>		
Anthony Myles, IT Technician	0.00%	2.00%
<b>IV. Grants Staff:</b>		
Kim Lax, SAC	3.00%	3.00%
Shantia Jones, JDAI/RED State Coordinator	3.00%	3.00%
Martha Addison, Grants Manager	3.00%	3.00%
Melanie Vick, Contracts/Grants Reviewer 3	3.00%	3.00%
Roxanne Langston, Contracts/Grants Reviewer 2	3.00%	3.00%
<b>V. Fiscal Staff:</b>		
Denise Hernandez, Accountant Administrator	3.00%	3.00%
Kelli McKnight, Accountant Manager	3.00%	3.00%
Casey Forbes, Accountant 3	3.00%	3.00%
Tammy Davis, Accountant 2	3.00%	3.00%
Melinda Bender, Auditor 3	3.00%	3.00%

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement is the designated state agency responsible for preparing the 3-year plan. These statutes were established on July 31, 1980. Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:1204 states that the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement shall Oversee, review, and approve the preparation of the state plan and its implementation. Louisiana Revised Statute 15:1207 states that The functions of the staff of the commission shall include but not be limited to the following: (1) Preparation, development, and revision of comprehensive plans based on an evaluation of law enforcement and criminal justice problems within the state.

The State Advisory Group (SAG) shall be afforded the opportunity to review, comment and advise, not later than 30 days after their submission to the advisory group, on all juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications submitted to the state agency.

The state of Louisiana has established a Human Trafficking Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to assist state and local leaders in developing and coordinating human trafficking prevention programs, to identify gaps in prevention and intervention services, to conduct a continuing comprehensive review of all existing public and private human trafficking programs, to increase coordination among public and private programs to strengthen prevention and intervention services, and ultimately, to make recommendations with respect to human trafficking prevention and intervention.

Louisiana affirms that recommendations regarding compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (11), (12), and (13) are submitted to the chief executive officer and the legislature of the state annually.

Louisiana affirms that contact and regular input is sought from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the JJ system. Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement maintains statutory authority over all juvenile detention and juvenile correctional facilities. The Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice serves on the SAG and provides regular opportunities for SAG members to meet with juveniles who are currently under their jurisdiction to gather input.

Louisiana provides for the active consultation with and participation of units of local government or combinations thereof in the development of the state plan which takes into account the needs and requests of units of local government. Louisiana has regional youth justice teams that met quarterly throughout the past year, providing opportunities for communication between the state agency, units of local government, and other local justice stakeholders. This structure gives localities an opportunity to give input into the state plan and juvenile justice priorities.

Louisiana provides for an equitable distribution of the assistance received within the state, including in rural areas. This occurs through the creation of the state regional youth justice teams that help inform local entities as well as the state about challenges and needs throughout the state. This information, in conjunction with youth crime analysis data, helps inform the funding decisions made.

Louisiana provides for the coordination and maximum utilization of juvenile delinquency programs, programs operated by public and provide agencies and organizations, and other related programs in the state. This occurs through quarterly meetings with stakeholders, as well as the

involvement of SAG members who have connections to various programs throughout the state. SAG subcommittees involve representation spanning multiple departments and sectors across the state. There are cross-system collaborations in place that allow for planning and coordination through committee meetings and regional collaboration groups. Information gathered from regional and subcommittee groups is shared at the SAG meeting to consider how to incorporate into the state plan.

Louisiana has developed an adequate research, training, and evaluation capacity within the state through the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement which is dedicated to providing high quality data, research and evaluation services to an array of entities including federal, state and local governments. In addition, the SAG has supported an evaluation of a state-funded juvenile diversion program; this evaluation has yielded useful information leading to improvements in the operations of diversion programs, including training for staff involved in those programs.”

Louisiana complies with the DSO core requirement, and the documentation can be found on page 7 of the compliance manual submitted in the compliance tool.

Louisiana complies with this Sight and Sound Contact core requirement, and the documentation can be found on page 7 of the compliance manual submitted in the compliance tool.

Louisiana complies with the Jail Removal core requirement, and the documentation can be found on page 8 of the compliance manual submitted in the compliance tool.

Louisiana complies with providing for an Effective System of Monitoring, and the documentation can be found on pages 11-22 of the compliance manual submitted in the compliance tool.

Louisiana provides assurance that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, family income, disability.

Louisiana provides assurance that consideration will be given to and that assistance will be available for approaches designed to strengthen the families of delinquent and other youth to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Louisiana has established procedures to protect 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. All agencies that contract with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement are compliant with HIPAA and other relevant laws related to information sharing and privacy concerns.

Louisiana affirms that 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; activities assisted under this Act will not impair an existing collective bargaining relationship, contract for services, or collective bargaining agreement; and 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.”

Louisiana has strong internal fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures necessary to ensure prudent use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received under this title.

Louisiana assures that federal funds made available under this part will be used to supplement and increase (but not supplant) the level of the state, local, and other nonfederal funds that would be used in the absence of such federal funds made available for these programs, and will in no event replace such state, local, and other nonfederal funds.

Louisiana will give priority to the extent practicable in funding programs and activities that are based on rigorous, systematic, and objective research that is scientifically based. <State agency> is prioritizing dissemination of evidence-based practices by supporting training and technical assistance for agency staff and service providers. Some projects include evaluation components; others include programmatic fidelity requirements.

Louisiana crime data section provides an analysis of juvenile crime for the years (define periods), showing declines in indicators of delinquent activity among juveniles at state and local levels. Effectiveness of funded programs is reviewed annually by the SAG and used to inform continuation funding decisions.

Louisiana affirms that funds will not be provided to carry out a program if the recipient of funds has failed during the preceding 2-year period to demonstrate, before the expiration of the 2-year period, that the program achieved substantial success in achieving the specified goals. Programs submit quarterly progress reports. When subaward applications are reviewed, prior program performance is considered as one of the factors for funding.

Louisiana complies with the VCO requirement, and the documentation can be found on page 25 of the compliance manual submitted in the compliance tool.

Louisiana affirms that if the state receives an amount that exceeds 105 percent of the amount received under this section in FY 2000, all such excess would be expended through or for programs as part of a comprehensive and coordinated community system of services. Louisiana has compared the amount received in FY 2000 of \$857,536 with the amount to be received in FY 2018 of \$626,481, and the FY 2018 amount does not exceed 105 percent of the FY 2000 amount.

Louisiana 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. Child and Family Services Information System is a statewide system automating services Child and Family Services; this project streamlined record keeping and service delivery through new hardware and software in all of Louisiana's parishes, regions, and facilities. Local detention screeners are able to query the database and determine whether the juvenile or the family is involved in a child welfare case and provide relevant information to the court for establishing a pre-trial release and treatment plan. A second database which contains all court records is housed in the Judicial Department and is accessible to all judges, magistrates and probation offices.

