REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

on behalf of the

North Dakota Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group

Purpose

The North Dakota Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (SAG) is requesting proposals to conduct a preliminary assessment of North Dakota’s juvenile justice system, including a review of North Dakota Century Code 27-20 (Uniform Juvenile Court Act) and related statutes, and develop a plan to improve outcomes for youth that come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

The framework for a statewide plan needs to be developed to ensure that: 1) youth are being matched to the appropriate services; 2) limited resources are being used for youth that have the highest risk of reoffending and programs that are supported by research to improve outcomes; and 3) youth of different races, ethnicities, and genders are treated equitably across the juvenile justice continuum. The assessment should take into consideration recent system improvements that have been made throughout the continuum and previous and concurrent assessments related to racial, ethnic, and/or gender disparities.

The assessment conducted, including potential revisions to NDCC 27-20, and the plan developed will be provided to the SAG, the interim Judiciary Committee, and the Commission on Juvenile Justice. The SAG will report the information provided to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to meet the requirements of section 223 (a)(15) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA).

Background

The North Dakota SAG was established pursuant to the JJDPA, one of the most successful standard-setting statutes that recognizes the value of citizen-driven efforts to prevent and stem delinquency. Membership of the SAG is appointed by the governor’s office based on the composition requirements set by the JJDPA. The SAG is responsible for advocating for juvenile justice reform based on best-practice research and overseeing the state’s compliance with the JJDPA.

North Dakota’s interim Judiciary Committee will be conducting a study of the juvenile justice process pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 3031, which concludes that “an effective resolution of juvenile justice issues must address recidivism, improve service access, efficiently use system resources, and collaborate with other service systems to identify the spectrum of needs of a juvenile involved in the system”.

A Commission on Juvenile Justice has been created by Senate Bill 2313, and pursuant to section 4, will be reviewing North Dakota Century Code 27-20 and advising on effective intervention and resources for youth.

Proposal Requirements

Applicants should submit a detailed plan for the purpose items listed above. Activities that will aide in the accomplishment of the purpose items should be clearly identified, including what data – qualitative and quantitative – would be collected and how the applicant plans to work with system stakeholders to achieve desired outcomes. Stakeholders should include but are not limited to youth and families, law enforcement, juvenile court, juvenile corrections, human services, non-profit service providers, schools, treatment providers, and local committees established to address disparity. An explanation of how the activities will produce the desired outcomes should be provided.

A report would need to be compiled and the information presented to the SAG, interim Judiciary Committee, and Commission on Juvenile Justice no later than July 31, 2020.
Up to a total of $50,000 is available for conducting the assessment to develop a statewide plan. The intent is to determine what strategy is best for improving outcomes for youth in North Dakota’s juvenile justice system, and if funding were made available, to implement the plan. Thus, potential applicants should have the capacity to implement the plan that is developed; however, there is no guarantee if or when funding would be made available to do so.

Proposals should be as thorough and detailed as possible for the SAG is able to evaluate the capacity and expertise needed to improve outcomes in North Dakota’s juvenile justice system. Proposals must include:

a. **Project Description (40%)**:  
   - Description of the proposed assessment process and procedure  
   - Means to obtain and use qualitative and quantitative data  
   - Process for ensuring stakeholder input, both state and local  
   - Project timeline including dates for proposed activities and outcomes  
   - Estimated cost of completing the plan (if additional funds were made available)

b. **Description of Expertise (40%)**:  
   - Proven research and data analysis capacity  
   - Experience partnering with states to conduct quantitative and qualitative analysis to produce outcomes in juvenile justice systems, from diversion to reentry  
   - Experience working with state and local stakeholders on policy and practice  
   - Experience working simultaneously with various branches of government  
   - Familiarity with North Dakota’s juvenile justice system  
   - Ability to leverage other sources of funding for implementation of the statewide plan

c. **Budget (20%)**:  
   - Provide a detailed budget for conducting the assessments that covers all expenses associated with the project, including contractual fees, travel, supplies, and any other costs  
   - Include a proposed payment schedule for the project

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**Award Process**

Proposals should be emailed no later than 5:00 pm on October 25, 2019 to: ljahner@ndaco.org. Late submissions will not be considered. Proposals will be scored by the SAG using the requirements specified above.

Notification of awards or denials of funding will be made by November 30, 2019. A contract will be initiated with the successful applicant for a project period of December 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020.

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**Reporting Requirements**

Because JJDPA Title II funds will be used, and the funds will be used to further the purpose of the Act, the award of funding will be considered a subaward and not a contract and thus, subgrantees will be required to follow applicable federal rules and the necessary reporting requirements.

Subgrantees are required to submit quarterly progress and financial reports on forms provided by the SAG. The progress report describes activities during the quarter and the accomplishment of objectives as set forth in the approved project proposal. In addition, subgrantees will be required to report on federal output and outcome performance measures.

Any questions regarding this request should be directed to Lisa Jahner at (701) 328-7320 or via email at ljahner@ndaco.org.