



National Assessment Center Association

Proposal for Technical Assistance: North Dakota Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group

Introduction	<p>The National Assessment Center Association (NAC) guides a national partnership of Assessment Centers that advance best practice through advocacy, education, technical assistance, and community engagement. NAC supports jurisdictions in the exploration, planning, early implementation, and sustainability phases of Assessment Center development and operations by providing training, consultation, and resources aligned with the Assessment Center Framework.</p> <p>The North Dakota Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (ND-JJSAG) is currently in the exploration phase and is requesting training and consultation to inform the planning of a pilot Assessment Center. The pilot will align with and help advance several goals outlined in the 2024-26 Three-Year Delinquency Prevention Plan (“2024-26 Plan”).</p> <p>NAC will support the ND-JJSAG by deepening understanding of the Assessment Center Framework, facilitating a process that connects Assessment Center best practices with goals from the 2024-26 Plan, and identifying actionable next steps for launching a local pilot.</p>
Scope of Work	<p>NAC staff and/or consultants will serve as active partners to the ND-JJSAG planning team. Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bi-weekly virtual consultation meetings with the ND-JJSAG team• Identification of opportunities to align Assessment Center development with goals in the 2024-26 Plan• Support development of a pilot project plan, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Shared language and vision among partners regarding the Assessment Center’s goals, scope, and role◦ Guidelines for assessing community readiness◦ Support for key decisions related to financing, pilot design, operations, and sustainability◦ Recommended timelines based on project goals◦ A framework for measuring outcomes from the pilot stage◦ Criteria and guidance for selecting pilot community site(s)• Written summary report of activities completed and recommended next steps at the conclusion of the contract period

Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-weekly virtual consultation meetings with NAC staff. • Written summary report of activities completed and recommended next steps for advancing from Exploration Phase to Planning Phase.
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2026 – June 2026 – Bi-weekly virtual consultation focused on developing the pilot project plan • July 2026 – September 2026 – Bi-weekly virtual consultation focused on transitioning from the Exploration Phase to the Planning Phase
Budget	<p>\$23,200</p> <p><i>Includes one year of NAC membership at the State - Emerging level.</i></p>

Note: Planning Phase Activities may include the following:

- 1) Monthly Planning Calls w/ State Partners
- 2) Bi-weekly Planning Calls w/ Pilot Site Partner(s)
 - a. Individual or cohort (depending on number of pilot sites selected)
- 3) Assessment Center 101 Training and Action Planning (in person)
 - a. Can be a cohort training if more than one pilot site selected
- 4) Assessment Center Intervention Mapping (per pilot site)
 - a. An iterative process to understand why and how youth move through local systems—and where a Center can intervene to prevent deeper involvement. Includes:
 - i. Data analysis and stakeholder interviews
 - ii. Development of a youth systems map
 - iii. Community convening to identify prevention/diversion opportunities
 - iv. Needs–assets matching to align gaps with community strengths
- 5) Operational plan that is in alignment with the Assessment Center Framework and includes measurement and a CQI plan (i.e., preparation to participate in the Assessment Center Outcomes and Reporting Network)