



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

Iowa is a Finalist to Receive Intensive Technical Assistance to Develop a Comprehensive Statewide Plan to Improve Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

February 16, 2016

In November 2015, representatives from Iowa participated in a 50-State Forum on improving outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. The team included Senator Steve Sodders; David Boyd, State Court Administrator; Chad Jensen, Chief Juvenile Court Officer of the 5th Judicial District; and Steve Michael, Administrator of the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning of the Iowa Department of Human Rights. The forum was sponsored by the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

As a result of Iowa's participation in the conference, there is an opportunity to qualify for intensive technical assistance (TA) to assist in the development of a comprehensive statewide plan to improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. The plan must be a collaborative process involving all three branches of the government and multiple local and state agencies. The development of the plan will allow Iowa to compete for federal funding, up to \$1 million, to implement the plan.

Iowa is one of eight finalists being considered to receive the TA, but only three states will be selected. The final selections will be made in April 2016. If Iowa is selected, a task force of lawmakers, executive branch officials selected by Governor Branstad, judicial leaders, and local government partners will be formed to oversee the development of the 9-12 month planning process.

You are invited to participate in the next phase of the selection process. Representatives from the Council of State Governments (CSG) will be conducting a site visit in Iowa on **March 14th and 15th**, to assess our readiness and commitment to develop the statewide plan. The site visit will include:

- A presentation on "What Works to Reduce Recidivism" to state leaders;
- Facilitated discussions with small groups to determine Iowa's challenges and key opportunities for improving outcomes for youth; and
- Assessments, with state leaders, the interest, capacity, data, and political support necessary to take advantage of this intensive TA opportunity.

Your unique perspective is important to demonstrate to CSG that Iowa is ready to work together to develop a comprehensive plan for the juvenile justice system, and recognize the challenges that must be overcome. Please plan on taking time during the site visit to participate in the discussions. The tentative agenda for the site visit is below:

Monday, March 14

9:00 am – 10:30 am	Leadership Team – Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branch leaders
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Legislative Leaders
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Prosecuting Attorneys Training Coordinator (PATC), Public Defender's Office
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	Chief Justice Cady (tentative)
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Juvenile Court Judges, district court administrators
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Data – Research Staff (e.g. CJJP, ICIS)

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

Tuesday, March 15

8:00 am – 8:45 am	Planning Staff – Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
8:45 am – 10:15 am	Department of Human Services, Iowa Workforce Development, Department of Education, Department of Human Rights, Department of Public Health
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Service providers (e.g. community-based and residential facilities)
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm	Chief Juvenile Court Officers
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	Speaker of the House and House Majority Leader – Rm 231 (behind House Chambers)
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Site Visit De-Brief

Please let me know the available times you are able to participate.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Steve Michael, Division Administrator
Division of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning - Iowa Department of Human Rights
(515) 242-6122
steve.michael@iowa.gov