State of Connecticut/Strategic Planning for Community Supervision
Project Abstract

**Problem Statement.** Connecticut has identified five critical problem areas within the juvenile justice system: (1) comprehensive treatment of the needs of youth (substance abuse, mental health, truancy, etc.); (2) serious gaps in youth services; (3) data interoperability; (4) disproportionate minority contact (DMC); and (5) overreliance on confinement. Statewide reform efforts have not yet focused sufficiently on reentry of juvenile offenders from confined settings to their communities, especially high-need youth.

**Target area and population.** The strategic planning efforts will initially focus on the state’s highest need and risk youth in confinement or released to community supervision from the four largest urban areas. These youth often have multiple service needs and/or diagnoses. In particular, with implementation of Raise the Age, planning is needed to better meet the needs of older youth in the system and those who are in the adult system.

**Project goals and objectives.** The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) has proposed planning goals and objectives to address each identified problem area, as well as initial five-year system goals. Proposed system goals include:

- Reduce number of justice-involved youth by 30% over 5 years;
- Reduce number of youth in confinement by 30% over 5 years; and
- Reduce youth recidivism by 50% over 5 years.

During the planning period, the JJPOC will: launch an inclusive planning process; develop implementation strategies for community supervision and reintegration reform; and advance data quality and interoperability. JJPOC will issue quarterly narrative reports outlining progress and conduct an internal process evaluation of all program outcomes.

**Project strategy.** The JJPOC will develop a strategic plan for long-term reform and short-term actions addressing the five major issues and to achieve the identified system goals. Planning will prioritize improvements in reentry strategies to strengthen continuity of care throughout the reentry process; risk assessment tools; case planning, especially around reentry; restorative justice interventions; and disproportionate minority contact throughout the system.

**Significant partnerships.** The JJPOC has partnered with the Tow Youth Justice Institute, Central Connecticut State University, the Office of Policy and Management, state juvenile justice and child service agencies, nonprofit and advocacy organizations, families, youth, and other academic and research organizations.

**Anticipated outcomes and major deliverables.** At the end of the planning period, JJPOC will have a strategic plan for juvenile justice reform to be implemented throughout the State of Connecticut, including recommendations for evidence-based interventions and policy related to community supervision.