

Kansas

Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee

2025 Annual Report



Executive Summary

The Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) remains committed to continuous improvement. In collaboration with system stakeholders and the communities they represent, the JJOC continues to sustain strategies that support justice-involved youth, strengthen cross-agency partnerships, and ensure the implementation of evidence-based practices with fidelity and sustainability.

In 2025, the JJOC continued its efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of current practices and policies, using that insight to guide ongoing system improvement. Subcommittee's brought perspectives from outside community partners, subject matter experts, and staff from various state agencies to provide insight and recommendations towards the challenges of the juvenile justice system. System stakeholders continue to navigate an ever-evolving landscape shaped by legislative changes, policy revisions, and changes in community perspectives; and take stock of lessons learned throughout the years, to adapt and innovate interventions for Kansas' youth. While challenges remain, the collective efforts of JJOC and the broader community have led to meaningful advancements-positively impacting youth and families as they navigate a complex, multi-agency system.

The JJOC is proud of the progress made to date and remains focused on setting and reaching new accomplishments in the year ahead.

Key Takeaways

- **During FY 2025, a total of 4,642 cases filed, compared to 3,565 cases in FY 2024. Of the FY 2025 filings, 62% were misdemeanors and 37% were felonies.** While overall case filings remain significantly lower than pre-juvenile reform levels, FY 2025 saw an increase in the number of juvenile offender case filings compared to the previous year.
- **The Immediate Intervention Programs (IIP)¹ continues to make a significant impact with 93% of pre-file and 93.4% of post-file youth successfully completing the program.** As youth justice system agencies expand efforts to divert youth from formal court processing, 87 more youth were diverted in FY 2025 compared to FY 2024.
- **In FY 2025, issuing youth a Notice to Appear resulted in an 88.7% compliance rate.** Of the 3,917 youth issued a Notice to Appear, 3,476 complied by reporting as directed to a Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) for intake and process.
- **Most of the justice involved intake events in FY 2025 resulted in assessment and placement in a community-based environment.** Specifically, 77% of intake events led to community-based placements, while 21% resulted in detention placements.

¹ One of the goals of SB 367 is to divert youth, assessed as low risk to recidivate/reoffend, away from the juvenile justice system, while holding them accountable and providing age-appropriate supervision. Pre-file IIP occurs after a youth has been charged, to avoid court; Post-file IIP occurs once youth are already engaged in the court process.

- **Placement decisions for adjudicated youth continue to reduce the use of the Juvenile Correctional Facility (JCF), currently maintaining an average daily population (ADP) of almost half the youth than in the years prior to SB 367.** While the ADP slightly increased in FY 2025 to 163 youth – 14 youth more than in FY 2024; the ADP in FY 2015 (just prior the passing of SB 367) included 282 youth; and in FY 2012, 360 youth.
- **The JJOC continues to increase the amount of reinvested funds, resulting from the reduced use of secure placements, that are allocated to support the implementation of community-based and evidence-based practices for youth.** At the end of FY 2024, the carryover balance was \$38.2 million. The JJOC Reinvestment Subcommittee approved a plan of \$37.1 million dollars for FY 2025. At the end of FY 2025, after calculating expenditures and appropriations, the balance was \$31.7 million. For FY 26, the JJOC is recommending \$34.3 million be available for community programs.
- **Community Programs for Juvenile Justice Grants (CPJJ) –** Launched in FY 2025, “rolling grants” offer year-round funding opportunities instead of limiting awards to once every year or two. With applications accepted and awarded several times a year, this flexible approach helps communities access funding more quickly when new needs arise. In its first year, it resulted in \$7.1 million in funding directed toward local programs and services in Kansas communities.
- **Grant Campaign -** Working alongside the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), the JJOC helped create and share a media announcement highlighting new grant opportunities to strengthen community-based services for youth. The JJOC provided input for the announcement, joined video interviews, and shared the message through its own communication channels to reach a wider audience, resulting in YouTube ads and videos, and with local news outlets.
- **A new work group convened by the Legislative Subcommittee** to address concerns in the community and foster a collaborative understanding of the issues, and different perspectives on possible solutions. Its creation was thought to bridge differing views on legislation and develop informed recommendations.

JJOC Members

Don Hymer (*JJOC Chair*) Assistant District Attorney, Johnson County

Stephanie Springer (*JJOC Vice Chair*) Chief Court Services Officer, 27th Judicial District

Delia York (*Data Subcommittee Chair*) District Court Judge, 29th Judicial District

Lara Blake Bors (*Legislative Subcommittee Chair*) Juvenile Defense Attorney

Melody Pappan (*Reinvestment Subcommittee Chair*) Director, Permanency Services, TFI

Steven Stonehouse (*Communications Subcommittee Chair*) Director of Corrections, Sedgwick County

Rachel Bell, Policy Analyst, Office of the Governor

Jeff Butrick, Director of Community Based Services, Kansas Department of Corrections

Christopher Esquibel, Chief of District Court Operations, Office of Judicial Administration

Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Senator, District 29

Richard Flax, District Court Judge, 23rd Judicial District

Rebecca Gerhardt, Director of Permanency and Licensing, Department for Children and Families

Bob Lewis, Representative, District 123

Megan Milner, Deputy Secretary, Adult and Juvenile Community Based Services,
Kansas Department of Corrections

Connie O'Brien, State Board of Education, District 4

Jarrold Ousley, Representative, District 24

Randy Regehr, Director of Community Corrections, Reno County

Rodney Smith, Captain, Kansas City Police Department

Mary Snipes, Family Victim Advocate

Jeffrey Zmuda, Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections

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I. Overview

Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC)

Created by Senate Bill 367 (SB 367), the JJOC is tasked with overseeing the implementation of youth justice system policies and practices, and guiding efforts to facilitate the ongoing evaluation and measurement of the impact policies and practices have on the justice involved population and public safety. In addition, the JJOC works to build cross-system collaboration to better serve youth, streamlining practices between agencies and local jurisdictions, and reinvesting costs from policy changes into statewide grants and funding opportunities. The JJOC seeks to execute its duties as effectively and collaboratively as possible, and to dedicate themselves to improving their operations as a committee and embrace new and innovative strategies for supporting the youth and families of Kansas. Finally, the JJOC continuously works to build their capacity to drive meaningful system improvements, support system stakeholders and the legislature in making data-informed decisions to best support the youth and communities in Kansas.

Vision Statement

Improve the lives and well-being of all youth in Kansas.

Mission Statement

The Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) is a statutorily defined, multidisciplinary team of stakeholders of youth-serving systems. The JJOC is responsible for regularly reviewing information and data on progress and outcomes across all parts of those systems. The JJOC provides policy and funding recommendations and influences stakeholders across agencies and branches of government, on sound, data-driven, evidence-based implementation, and sustainability of juvenile justice reforms.

JJOC Structure and Operations

The JJOC and its subcommittees continued to work collaboratively to ensure coordinated, streamlined efforts that reflect the shared commitment of all members. To support the JJOC's overarching vision, members activity contributed by serving on subcommittee's, each focused on a core area: **communication**, **reinvestment**, **legislation** and **data**. In 2025, the JJOC strengthened its operational structure and solidified key practices within each subcommittee. These enhancements included the standing agenda items, improved attendance and participation, and the integration of additional resources to support each subcommittee's goals and purpose. This progress stemmed from a priority of the committee to deepen member engagement and foster a more active, involved committee environment.

The **Communications Subcommittee** supports all other subcommittees in planning and facilitating communication across the JJOC and with system stakeholders, branches of government, and community members. This subcommittee assists with developing and disseminating information related to JJOC activities, important updates about the youth justice system and the availability of community resources or funding; supports the development of legislative testimonies, communications with legislators and manages the completion and distribution of the annual report.

The **Reinvestment Subcommittee** focuses its work on monitoring costs saved from the reduced use of secure placement for youth, to ensure that costs are reinvested into the development and implementation of evidence-based community programs for justice-involved youth, and youth experiencing mental health crisis and their families, and to determine funding allocation for a variety of grants. The subcommittee disseminates information about funding opportunities, vets grant recipients, and reviews state and JJOC budgets.

The **Legislative Subcommittee** supports the JJOC in engaging in legislative efforts related to or impacting the youth justice system. This subcommittee monitors legislative activities and, when necessary, is responsible for drafting responses and input to proposed legislation on behalf of the JJOC. The subcommittee serves as a connection between the JJOC and the legislature, facilitating collaboration and communication and ensuring that efforts to improve youth justice policies practices are evidence-based and data-informed.

The **Data Subcommittee** is responsible for overseeing the JJOC's data capacity in defining and reporting performance measurements associated with assessing the impact of youth justice policy and practice implementation. The subcommittee collects, analyzes and reviews aggregate data from state agencies; prepares data presentations for quarterly JJOC meetings; and prepares analyses required for the JJOC's annual report. In addition, the subcommittee assists agencies to troubleshoot limitations in data policies and practices and identify solutions.

Post Legislative Audit

In January 2020, the Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit (LPA) released a comprehensive evaluation of Senate Bill 367 (SB 367) and its impact on the Kansas juvenile justice system. The report assessed the effectiveness of the reforms and identified several ongoing challenges for the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) and system stakeholders.

In 2024, several efforts were undertaken to address emerging challenges that have impeded progress on key performance measures. Representatives from the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) and the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) have continued to meet regularly to develop solutions. Notably, this includes collaboration with the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) to conduct a focused analysis of the technical difficulties related to integrating disparate data systems—an essential step toward achieving final performance measurement goals.

Additionally, the JJOC re-established the Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Steering Committee to review the effectiveness of the KDAI and to guide the implementation of necessary updates. These collaborative initiatives are ongoing at the time of this report and reflect the committee's commitment to continuous improvement.

As discussed in multiple forums over the past year, further adjustments to the juvenile justice system remain necessary. The LPA report identified 11 core responsibilities assigned to the JJOC. These responsibilities continue to guide the committee's efforts, with ongoing attention to implementation, evaluation, and refinement.

The JJOC remains committed to monitoring progress as it relates to the audit's findings and recommendations. The table below outlines the progress made to date on the 11 responsibilities identified by the LPA:

Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee – Monitoring Requirements	
1. Monitor KDOC expenditures to identify new state savings resulting from the bill's reforms Status: Implemented; ongoing effort	Description: The JJOC continuously monitors the EBPA to ensure that reinvested costs are effectively utilized to implement evidence-based community programs and practices for justice-involved youth.
2. Develop and monitor training efforts related to the bill reforms Status: Implemented; ongoing effort	Description: The Office of Judicial Administration developed a training protocol for juvenile court judges, defense attorneys, and county and district attorneys. The training protocol was released July 12, 2017, and includes the recommendation that the aforementioned groups obtain continuing education in several areas.

<p>3. Define program outcomes and recidivism to help measure bill’s success</p> <p>Status: Implemented; ongoing effort</p>	<p>Description: In 2017, the JJOC formed a data subcommittee that developed a definition of recidivism² that was adopted by the JJOC. The subcommittee began the process of identifying outcome and performance measures related to SB 367 and continued to develop strategies for improving data collection, troubleshooting challenges, and reporting to the JJOC quarterly.</p>
<p>4. Approve a plan developed by KDOC and OJA to gather and review juvenile data to evaluate performance measures, outcomes, recidivism, and costs</p> <p>Status: Implemented; ongoing effort</p>	<p>Description: Representatives from OJA and KDOC serve on the JJOC data subcommittee and developed a plan identifying what data must be collected to effectively evaluate performance measures, outcomes, recidivism, and costs. This plan is structured in two phases – the first capturing data that is currently available and accessible for collection and reporting, and the second capturing data that OJA and KDOC are working to make available and accessible for collection and reporting.</p>
<p>5. Analyze data on probation extensions and how they were used</p> <p>Status: Partially implemented</p>	<p>Description: The data subcommittee, with the cooperation of KDOC and OJA, have identified data sources to collect this data pertaining to probation extensions. The agencies have focused on coordinating and organizing their data collection efforts and the necessary adjustments to account for the newly rolled out online case management system, referred to as Odyssey. Technology challenges prevented this from being accomplished this year but remain a focus of the subcommittee.</p>
<p>6. Review detention risk-assessment data to identify any disparate treatment</p> <p>Status: In Process</p>	<p>Description: From 2021 to 2024, efforts focused on completing a validation analysis on the Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument. In 2023, a memorandum of understanding was executed with OJA, KDOC, and the technical assistance provider. In 2024, a validation study was completed. In 2025 JJOC re-introduced a steering committee to advance the report’s recommendations. The steering committee meets once a month to pursue new implementations following the recommendations from the assessment.</p>
<p>7. Analyze gaps in the juvenile justice system</p> <p>Status: Implemented; ongoing effort</p>	<p>Description: The JJOC reinvestment subcommittee is tasked with monitoring EPBA activity and identifying gaps in programs and services in the community for justice-involved youth. In addition, as the data subcommittee continues to expand their data collection capacity, the JJOC collectively improves their ability to identify gaps in the juvenile justice system through data-informed discussions and data analysis.</p>

² ‘Recidivism’ is measured as a delinquency adjudication or adult conviction in Kansas while under court supervision or in KDOC custody, or within 24 months of discharge from supervision or custody.

<p>8. Study and address disparities of mental health treatment among juvenile offenders</p> <p>Status: In Process</p>	<p>Description: In 2022, the JJOC partnered with the Opioid Response Network (ORN). An evaluation was completed, and results shared among JJOC and other invested state agencies. In 2023 a workgroup was created with various Kansas agencies such as KDOC, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF), and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to examine disparities and identify initiatives to implement in Kansas. In 2024, JJOC and KDOC partnered with Council of State Government and KDADS to evaluate outcomes for youth with behavioral health needs through implementation of the Stepping Up Initiative. This continues to be an ongoing process with community partners to support coordination and implementing best practices.</p>
<p>9. Monitor fidelity of implementation efforts</p> <p>Status: Implemented; ongoing effort</p>	<p>Description: In 2022, the JJOC started to focus on this requirement and began to incorporate regular data reviews during quarterly JJOC meetings. Data subcommittee members from KDOC and OJA are responsible for preparing the quarterly data update for the JJOC, highlighting key takeaways in the data from their respective agencies and discussing progress made in the subcommittee's efforts to expand data collection. Going forward, each agency will improve the consistency and comprehensiveness of the data presented during the quarterly report outs.</p>
<p>10. Make recommendations for continued improvement on areas such as confidentiality, confinement, and juvenile due process</p> <p>Status: In Process</p>	<p>Description: In 2023, JJOC participated in multiple conversations with a variety of community partners and stakeholders in conversations covering confinement and juvenile due process. JJOC continues to work with The Gault Center on juvenile defense to improve juvenile due process. In 2025, work continued with the Gault Center to support a statewide Youth Defense Workgroup with multiple state and community partners to sustain a statewide youth defense system.</p>
<p>11. Make recommendations when consensus between KDOC and OJA does not exist on implementation reform</p> <p>Status: In Process</p>	<p>Description: As part of recently passed HB 2021, JJOC and OJA have increased communication and collaboration to cooperate in implementation of past and future reform. However, a formal process has not yet been established.</p>

The Evidenced-Based Programs Account (EBPA)

SB 367 required savings from the policy changes that decrease out-of-home placements to be set aside into the EBPA and charged KDOC with developing a process to disperse funds. The EBPA supports programs related to intake, diversion, probation and conditional release through KDOC administered grants. These grants provide funding to community-based organizations and Juvenile Corrections Advisory Boards ([Appendix B](#)) to create and sustain evidence-based programs targeted to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and to allow youth to remain in the community when appropriate.

The Innovation Funds, developed in 2023, became the first opportunity for community organizations to have the option to apply for grants at multiple points throughout the year. Now commonly referred to as “rolling grants”, this approach addresses the needs in the community by creating a more flexible funding stream, and acknowledging that sometimes, there is a necessity to apply for funding outside of the one-time grant award period. These rolling grants can be applied for at any time, and awards are given multiple times throughout the year. The grant is not limited to only justice involved youth. Under House Bill 2021, passed in May 2023, this grant provides support for youth and their families, youth experiencing behavioral health crisis and their families and children who have been administered a risk and needs assessment and have been identified as needing services.³ Funding information for the EBPA is further explained in the Reinvestment Subcommittee section of this report.

EBPA funds get invested into communities through different pathways:

- **Statewide Contracts:** JJOC approves and recommends contracts with organizations that offer statewide services to justice involved youth and supervision agencies.
- **Juvenile Corrections Advisory Boards (JCAB) Grants:** Grants awarded to regional or county JCABs who then fund programs in their communities.
- **Reinvestment Grants:** Grants available to Boards of County Commissioners in each Judicial District to implement evidence-based programs and practices.
- **Regional Collaboration Grants:** Competitive grant opportunities to support regional collaboration among counties to deliver services that otherwise may be difficult to deliver efficiently.
- **Community Programs for Juvenile Justice Grants (CPJJ):** Using the Innovation Grant funding, this grant is to help support communities in providing services to youth and families, including justice involved youth and those identified as Child in Need of Care who are at risk for juvenile justice involvement.

³ K.S.A. 38-2292 (Youth identified as CINC - Child in Need of Care)

II. Subcommittee Report Outs

Communications Subcommittee

The Communications Subcommittee supports all other subcommittees in planning and facilitating communication with system stakeholders, branches of government, and community members. This subcommittee is tasked with developing and disseminating information related to the committee activities, including the drafting, publication, and distribution of the JJOC Annual Report. For the first time, the annual report will be supplemented with a one-page summary designed specifically for legislative and policy decision makers.

In 2024, the JJOC was asked to complete and publish the Annual Report before its statutory deadline to support legislative interim committee meetings. The Communications subcommittee successfully met this request and published the 2024 Annual Report on November 12th, 2024.

Throughout 2025, the subcommittee continued its work in distributing newsletters, updates, and information. In response to community feedback and requests from other JJOC subcommittees, the Communications subcommittee developed and distributed an informational bulletin that outlines the status of the Evidenced Based Practice Account (EBPA). The bulletin provided notice to community partners on EBPA's financial status and included projections for future funding availability. The primary objective of this bulletin was to communicate that funding through EBPA is expected to be significantly reduced in coming years. As a result, many current grant-funded programs may no longer be sustainable under existing funding models. This communication prompted several organizations and stakeholder groups to begin discussions about the potential impact of these funding reductions.

One of the ongoing challenges for the Communications Subcommittee is delivering information to a broad and diverse group of stakeholders — including program providers, practitioners, and community partners — many of whom are not deeply engaged in the juvenile justice system. Balancing brevity with clarity, and specificity while being useful remains a key focus. The subcommittee benefits greatly from the diverse perspectives of its members, which include individuals from both within and outside of justice organizations. This blend of experience and outsider insight has proven invaluable in shaping effective communication strategies. In addition, as a statewide body, the JJOC and its Communications Subcommittee recognize the importance of tailoring

**Community Programs
Juvenile Justice Involved
Youth Programs**

Opportunities for the development and implementation of evidence-based community programs and practices for juvenile offenders, juveniles experiencing mental health crisis and their families... (KSA 75-52, 164)

Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee
Improve the lives and well-being of all youth in Kansas.

SENATE BILL 367

Rolling Grant Opportunities **How to Apply** (click)

Information

- Applications accepted after May 15th
- Reinvesting funds into Evidence-Based and Promising Practices programs exist in the community.
- Available throughout the year, beginning Fiscal Year 2025. First round deadline July 15th.
- Supporting services for:
 - Juvenile offenders and their families
 - Juveniles experiencing behavioral health crisis and their families
 - Children who have been administered a risk and needs assessment and have been identified as needing services pursuant to KSA 38-2292

Eligibility

- Any organization or agency may apply
- Priority to those demonstrating a low availability of evidence based community programs for juveniles will be given priority.
- Non Competitive Awards
- Grant award period of 2 years
- Technical Assistance will be provided in the application process

✓ Obtain Grant information from www.doc.ks.gov/juvenile-services/grants

✓ Multiple award opportunities throughout the year, not a one time deadline

For more information contact Matt Billinger, Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee Coordinator at matthew.billinger@ks.gov

This funding was made possible through the passage of Senate Bill 367 which reallocated funds originally used to maintain children's correctional facilities and now is used to keep kids in their communities and offer support.

information to reflect the local context in each of the state’s counties, making it clear how policy or funding changes may impact communities at the local level. The subcommittee manages a distribution list of 100+ members to ensure stakeholders and community members stay informed.

JJOC Quarterly Newsletter – The JJOC Communications Subcommittee convenes following each full Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) meeting to review key highlights and develop a summary of discussions and decisions. These summaries are distributed via a quarterly newsletter to an email distribution list currently comprising 118 recipients. This list includes representatives from government agencies, community partners, and individual community members. The distribution list is open to all interested parties—there are no specific eligibility criteria. Anyone who requests to receive JJOC communications is added to the list and will continue to receive all future newsletters and updates.⁴

EBPA Bulletin – In May 2025, following the passage of this year’s appropriations bill, the Communications Subcommittee issued an informational bulletin regarding the status of the Evidence-Based Practice Account (EBPA). Given the legislative removal of \$10 million from the EBPA, the bulletin was intended to proactively inform programs and stakeholders of the potential implications this reduction may have on the availability of future funding for programming targeted for youth in Kansas. The JJOC remains committed to transparent communication about budgetary developments that may impact juvenile justice initiatives across the state.

Grant Announcement – In partnership with the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), the JJOC supported the development and release of a media announcement highlighting multiple grant opportunities aimed at expanding community-based services for juveniles. This effort included providing content to the KDOC Public Information Office, participating in recorded video interviews, and leveraging JJOC communication channels to amplify the message.

The media campaign was highly effective, generating immediate interest from service providers who were previously unaware of the available funding opportunities. As a result, more grant funding was directed toward local communities to support juvenile justice initiatives. Coverage of the grant information appeared on YouTube and local news outlets, significantly increasing public awareness. Given the success of this effort, the JJOC plans to repeat this outreach strategy in 2026 to ensure continued engagement and equitable access to grant opportunities.



⁴ To be included in the distribution list for publications, please email matthew.billinge@ks.gov.

Reinvestment Subcommittee

Evidence-based Programs Account (EBPA)

The Reinvestment Subcommittee is responsible for making allocation recommendations to the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) from the EBPA. Established through the passage of Senate Bill 367, the EBPA is funded through savings generated by diverting some youth from detention facilities and group homes—allowing them to remain in their communities when appropriate.

In accordance with state statute, these funds must be used *“for the development and implementation of evidence-based community programs and practices for justice-involved youth, youth experiencing mental health crisis, and their families.”*⁵ By supporting community-based alternatives, the EBPA helps divert appropriate youth from detention and directs them to programs proven to be more effective and less costly.

For both Fiscal Year FY 2024 and FY 2025, the JJOC approved an allocation plan recommending \$36.5 million in available funding each year. Through Legislative action, \$10 million was re-allocated to the state’s general fund (SGF). This 2-year period was somewhat different in that funds were allocated for each fiscal year, however, KDOC released those funds during FY 2024 for JCAB Grants and Reinvestment Grants, causing a decrease in expenditures in FY 2025.

At the start of FY 2025, EBPA had a carryover balance of \$38.2 million. By the end of the fiscal year, the balance had decreased to \$31.7 million. In addition to FY 2025 expenditures, there was \$5.4 million that was awarded during the fiscal year to community programs; however, those funds will be expended until FY 2026. A more detailed breakdown of expenditures is seen in Appendix A.

The JJOC remains committed to transparent stewardship of EBPA resources and ensuring that funds are used in alignment with the legislative intent to strengthen Kansas’s juvenile justice system through evidence-based, community-centered solutions.

CPJJ (Rolling Grants)

At the request of both legislators and community members, the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC), in partnership with the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), developed a new, flexible grant opportunity: the Community Programs for Juvenile Justice (CPJJ) grants. Unlike traditional grant models in Kansas that operate within fixed application windows, CPJJ grants are open for application year-round. Funding is awarded quarterly, allowing applicants to seek support when needs arise, rather than being limited by strict deadlines.

This approach represents a significant shift away from the traditional “missed deadline” model, offering communities the opportunity to propose timely solutions and receive support throughout the year. The CPJJ grant structure was designed to be responsive, inclusive, and aligned with the evolving needs of youth and families across the state.

⁵ KSA 75-52,164 “All expenditures from the evidence-based programs account of the state general fund shall be for the development and implementation of evidence-based community programs and practices for juvenile offenders, juveniles experiencing mental health crisis and their families ...”

Importantly, the scope of the CPJJ grants extends beyond justice-involved youth. Following the passage of House Bill 2021 in May 2023, eligibility was expanded to include:

- At-risk youth and their families
- Juveniles experiencing a behavioral health crisis, and their families
- Children who have received a risk and needs assessment indicating the need for services, pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2292

Fiscal Year 2025 marked the first year of CPJJ grant awards, resulting in \$7.5 million in funding directed toward local programs and services. Due to the initial success and strong demand, these grants will remain a funding priority as long as resources are available.

CPJJ Grants FY 2025				
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name**	# of youth served	Amount Awarded*
18th - Sedgwick	Heartland 180, INC.	180 Degrees and One Circle For Sedgwick County (7/1/24-7/1/26)	25	\$499,104.40
18th - Sedgwick	Mirror, Inc.	Evidence Based SUD Treatment for Juvenile Justice Involved Youth (7/1/24-7/1/26)	34	\$500,000.00
29th- Harvey, McPherson-Wyandotte	Heartland 180, INC.	Wyandotte One Circle (7/1/24-7/1/26)	15	\$468,626.80
1st-AT-Atchison	Atchison County Community Corrections	Evidence Based Programming (10/1/24-10/1/26)	49	\$429,221.07
1st-LV-Leavenworth	Leavenworth County Community Corrections	Youth Justice Resource Center (10/1/24-10/1/26)	39	\$499,995.79
18th - Sedgwick	Heart of A Champion	One Heart Project (10/1/24-10/1/26)	19	\$497,920.00
1st-LV-Leavenworth	Just Pivott, LLC.	Just Pivott (10/1/24-10/1/26)	26	\$500,000.00
3rd - Shawnee	Crossroads Restoration Inc.	Crossroads Restoration (10/1/24-10/1/26)	6	\$500,000.00
28th- Ottawa, Saline	St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church	Hope in 3D in Salina (1/1/25-1/1/27)	29	\$500,000.00
18th - Sedgwick	St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church	Hope in 3D in Wichita (1/1/25-1/1/27)	27	\$500,000.00

27th- Reno	Wisdom in Motion	Wisdom In Motion Youth Mentoring Program for At-Risk Youth (1/1/25-1/1/27)	16	\$271,647.00
3rd - Shawnee	Community Connections	Justus (4/1/25-4/1/27)	Not Available	\$500,000.00
3rd - Shawnee	Family Peace Initiative	FPI Youth Initiative Shawnee County Court Services (4/1/25-4/1/27)	Not Available	\$481,356.00
11th- CR- Crawford	The Restorative Justice Authority	Community Engagement Services (4/1/25-4/1/27)	Not Applicable	\$419,219.00
Total			211	\$7,017,656.06

* Funds awarded for a two-year grant period. The grantees received 1 payment on 7/7/2023.

** Dates provided with the Program Name indicate the program was offered for a duration less than the grant period.

JDC Grants

Following the passage of House Bill 2021 in 2023, funds from the Evidence-Based Programs Account (EBPA) were made available to county and regional Juvenile Detention Centers (JDC). These funds have been instrumental in supporting the implementation of standardized risk and needs assessments, enhancing case planning services, and expanding access to behavioral health, mental health, and substance use treatment services for youth in detention. The primary use of these funds was to establish a standardized assessment tool, a swift and accurate screening for behavioral and substance abuse concerns. In FY 2025, 1,127 youth were given this assessment. This resulted in 294 youths receiving behavioral health services and 203 received substance abuse services. It was discovered that 83.5% of youth screened were recommended for a behavioral health referral. This funding has not only strengthened in-facility services but has also improved continuity of care by facilitating smoother transitions from detention back into the community. The JJOC has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from detention centers regarding the practical use and impact of these funds. For many facilities, this funding marked the first time they were able to provide on-site mental health and substance use treatment services—often multiple times per week. Detention center staff described the grants as “invaluable,” citing their transformative effect on the quality and consistency of care available to youth during detention.

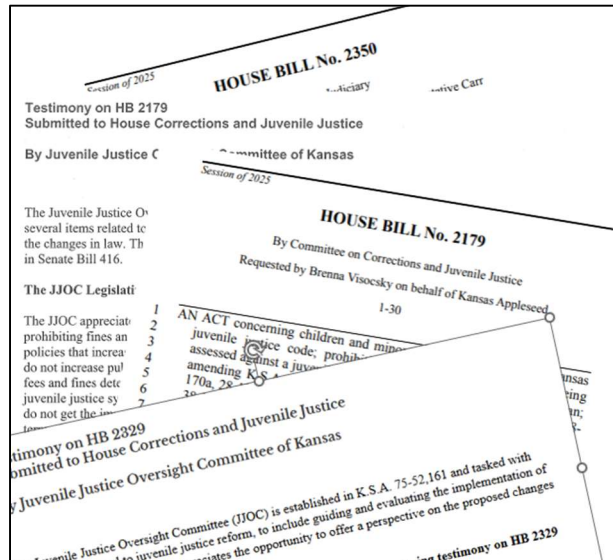
Juvenile Detention Center, Behavioral Health Grant FY 2025		
Judicial District and County Served	Detention Center	Amount Awarded
25th- Finney, Greeley, Hamilton, Kearney, Scott, Wichita	25th Judicial District Community Corrections	\$73,000.00
18th - Sedgwick	Sedgwick County Dept. of Corrections	\$623,692.02
7th- Douglas	Douglas County Criminal Justice Services	\$91,900.00
10th- Johnson	Johnson County Department of Corrections	\$127,944.00
8th - Dickinson, Geary, Marion, Morris	North Central Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Facility	\$217,198.80
27th - Reno	Reno County Youth Services	\$116,352.00
3rd -Shawnee	Shawnee County Department of Corrections	\$276,759.75
11th- CR- Crawford	Southeast Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Center	\$61,600.00
Total		\$1,588,446.57

Legislative Subcommittee

This is the second year the legislative subcommittee has provided for the JJOC by engaging in efforts to develop and advocate for legislation related to the youth justice system. This subcommittee monitors legislative developments and, when appropriate, drafts responses and provides input on proposed legislation on behalf of the JJOC. It serves as a liaison between the JJOC and the legislature, promoting

collaboration and effective communication. The subcommittee encourages legislative efforts to improve youth justice policies and practices are grounded in evidence and informed by data. Throughout 2025, the Legislative Subcommittee remained actively engaged in monitoring and responding to proposed juvenile justice legislation. Meeting multiple times each a month during the legislative session, the subcommittee worked diligently to ensure timely and *evidence-based* information on behalf of the JJOC.

During the most recent legislative session, the subcommittee drafted and submitted testimony on several key bills, including HB 2329, 2179, and 2325. In addition to written testimony, the



subcommittee chair met with legislators to discuss JJOC's position and concerns. We extend our sincere appreciation to Representatives Bob Lewis and Jarrod Ousley, and Senators Stephen Owens, Oletha Faust-Goudeau, and William Clifford for their time and engagement. The JJOC submitted testimony can be found on the Kansas Legislature Webpage, for the following proposals:

HB 2329: https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/HB2329/testimony

HB 2179: https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/HB2179/testimony

HB 2325: https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/HB2325/testimony

Following the conclusion of the session, the subcommittee initiated the formation of a dedicated workgroup in response to the ongoing discussions surrounding HB 2329 and HB 2325, which were ultimately combined into a signed proposal (HB 2329). While the JJOC supported the overarching goals of these bills to address concerns in the community, members of the committee suggested the bill was not evidenced based and not data driven. The workgroup was formed to foster a collaborative understanding of both the proponents' intentions and the concerns raised by those in opposition.

The workgroup convened for the first time on June 26th, focusing on clarifying its purpose and outlining a roadmap for its work. It agreed to hold in-depth discussions on various elements of the legislation during multiple meetings and deliver thoughtful recommendations to the Legislative Subcommittee at the appropriate milestones. Anticipating continued legislative interest in these topics, the subcommittee plans to draw upon the workgroup's insights, alongside additional research and feedback from JJOC members, to develop formal recommendations and/or propose amendments for consideration by legislative partners.

Throughout the year, the subcommittee also engaged in broader discussions on potential changes to the juvenile code. These conversations reflect the committee's ongoing commitment to thoughtful reform. However, the need to balance the diverse perspectives of JJOC stakeholders has been a recurring challenge. While this diversity enriches the dialogue, and ensures a more comprehensive view, it also requires careful coordination and consensus building in balancing the fiscal responsibility necessary to manage the EBPA while addressing needs in the community. The Legislative Subcommittee remains committed to an inclusive and transparent process and encourages all JJOC members to participate in meetings and share their insights. We value the broad expertise within the committee and believe it is essential to develop effective and equitable juvenile justice policy.

Data Subcommittee

The Data Subcommittee plays a critical role in supporting the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) by overseeing the development and advancement of data capacity across agencies involved in youth justice. Its core responsibilities include defining and reporting performance measures to assess the impact of juvenile justice policy and practice implementation. The subcommittee collects, analyzes, and reviews aggregate data submitted by state agencies, prepares data presentations for quarterly JJOC meetings, and contributes essential analyses for inclusion in the JJOC's Annual Report.

In 2024, the Data Subcommittee significantly expanded the number of performance measures collected and reported, reflecting continued efforts to enhance data-driven oversight. This work included identifying and addressing challenges in current data collection practices across partner agencies. The subcommittee engaged in close consultation with the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) to gain a deeper understanding of each agency's datasets and data collection methodologies.

To further strengthen its efforts, the subcommittee-initiated partnerships with technical assistance providers—both within Kansas and out of state—to explore innovative solutions for addressing data limitations and improving overall capacity. These collaborations help to identify viable strategies for enhancing the accuracy, consistency, and completeness of youth justice data across systems.

Looking ahead, the Data Subcommittee remains focused on building sustainable data capacity to effectively report on the performance measures outlined in previous reform. In addition to these efforts, the subcommittee will begin collecting and analyzing programmatic data related to newly implemented youth justice programs and practices. This will provide critical insights to system stakeholders, enabling more informed evaluation of program effectiveness and overall impact on justice-involved youth.

Through these efforts, the subcommittee continues to reinforce its commitment to advancing transparency, accountability, and data-informed decision-making within the Kansas youth justice system.

III. Performance Measures

The JJOC, the Data Subcommittee, and collaborating agencies, continue to strengthen data collection policies and practices to more effectively identify trends across Kansas’ youth justice system and to evaluate the impact of youth justice policies and practices. Since the enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 367, the JJOC has made substantial progress in building data capacity and advancing performance measurement efforts. More recently, focused efforts on identifying limitations in existing data infrastructure and practices, working closely with agencies to develop strategic solutions that support more comprehensive and accurate reporting. These ongoing efforts aim to enhance the JJOC’s ability to assess outcomes and monitor the effectiveness of youth justice policies and practices over time.

The following section presents a sampling of aggregate data collected and analyzed in partnership with the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA), reflecting continued progress in system accountability and performance measurement.

Staff and Stakeholder Training

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) remain committed to equipping staff and stakeholders with the knowledge and tools necessary to deliver high-quality services to justice-involved youth. By investing in targeted training opportunities—some of which are supported by Evidence-Based Practices Account (EBPA) funding—both agencies aim to ensure that youth receive individualized services and interventions that are aligned with their assessed risks and needs.

Training Topic	KDOC	OJA
YLS New User and Case Planning	27	23
EPICS New User and Refresher	92	28

These training courses are particularly critical, as they equip staff who work directly with justice-involved youth with the skills needed to address behaviors associated with delinquency. By focusing on evidence-based strategies, training supports efforts to reduce recidivism, enhance public safety, and—most importantly—help youth navigate their justice involvement in a constructive and positive direction.

The Kansas Dept of Corrections Community Supervision Standards for Juvenile Services requires written policy, procedure, and practice be provided for all staff and volunteers prior to any job assignments, and that initial training be completed within one year of hire, for all staff carrying a caseload. Caseload carrying staff must also complete forty (40) staff development hours annually. Those topics include, but are not limited to:

- Juvenile Justice Basics
- Effective Practices in Correctional Setting (EPICS)
- Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLS)
- Graduated Responses
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Case Planning
- Gender Responsivity
- Overview of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice systems
- Juvenile Offender and CINC
- Community Supervision Agency Policies

In addition, the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) is statutorily⁶ required to develop or designate a training protocol for judges, defense attorneys who work in the juvenile court, and county and district attorneys. The training protocol was released July 12th, 2017. It recommends this same group obtain continuing education in at least one of the following areas:

- Trauma-informed care of adolescents
- Principles of Effective Intervention
- Juvenile justice legislative updates
- Evidence-based sentencing
- Cognitive behavioral intervention
- Adolescent mental health issues
- Adolescent brain development
- Other topics related to juvenile justice

OJA's website hosts a training report tool, for stakeholders to submit information about the number of training attendees throughout the year. As of September 24th, 2025, 316 individuals reported participating in 989 hours of continuing legal education or continuing judicial education training as outlined in the protocol.

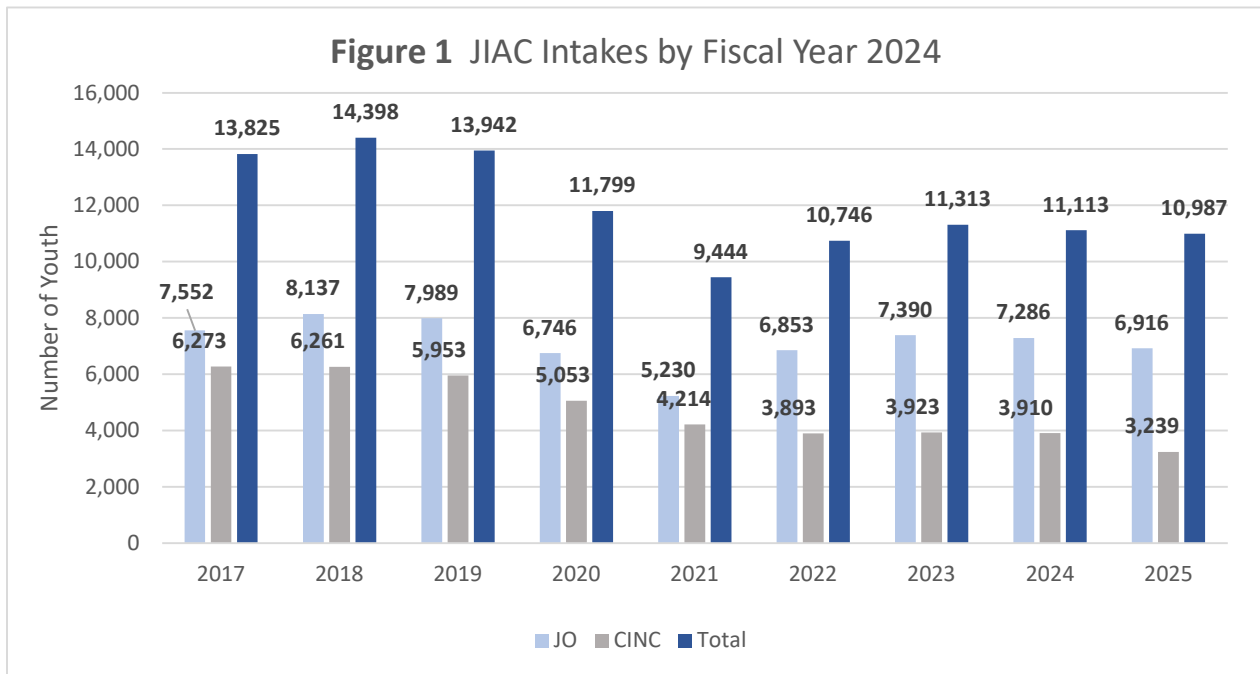
Court Services Officers (CSO's) who work with youth are statutorily required⁷ to receive training in evidence-based programs and practices. OJA currently contracts with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) to train CSO's. The Institute is a national leader in evidence-based practices training. CSOs receive training in use of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) risk and needs assessment, case planning, and evidence-based practices, including Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). Between July 1, 2024, and June 30th, 2025, 23 CSOs attended 460 hours of training. Additionally, OJA provides access to on-demand, e-learning modules purchased from UCCI.

⁶ K.S.A. 20-318a

⁷ K.S.A. 38-2394

Juvenile Intake and Assessment

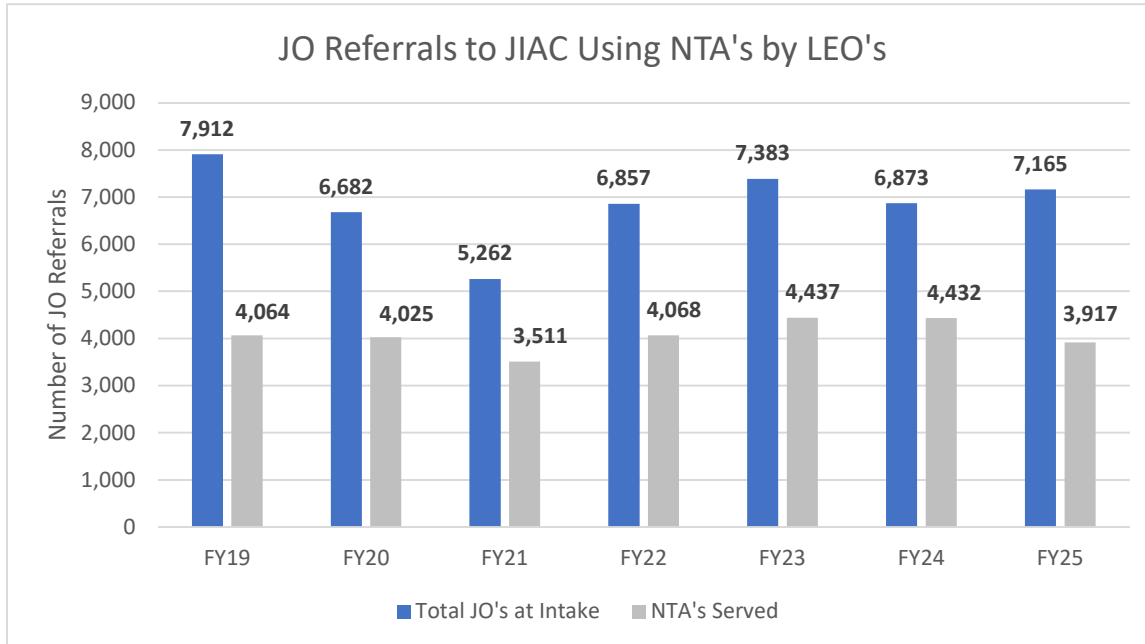
Juvenile Intake and Assessment Centers (JIAC) operate in all 31 judicial districts across Kansas, providing intake evaluations for Children In Need of Care (CINC), those alleged to have committed a juvenile offense (JO), and/or those who are taken into custody by law enforcement agencies. The two most significant reforms to JIAC operations occurred early in the implementation of SB 367 – the ability to issue Notices to Appear (NTA), and the statewide use of the Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument. Data in Figure 1, reflects a constant decline in intakes from 2018 to 2021, followed by an increase in intakes starting in FY 2021, possibly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and courts working through case backlogs created during the pandemic. However, the total number of intakes remains below the levels recorded in 2017, after the passage of SB 367. In FY 2025, there was a slight decline in the number of intakes with both Juvenile Offender (JO) cases and Child in Need of Care (CINC) cases compared to the previous year. The total number of youths coming through intake has had an overall trend downward over the past 8 years.



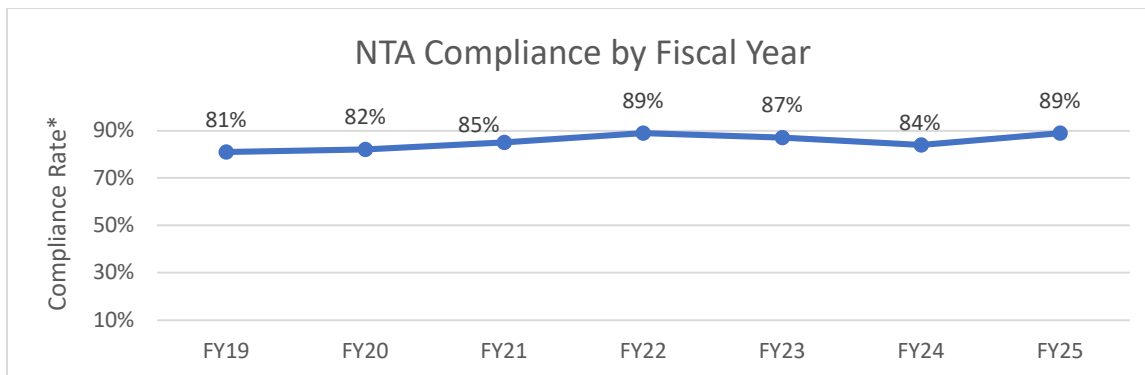
In FY 2025, the breakdown of intakes showed that 15.4% of all intakes were for felony charges, 57.1% for misdemeanors, and 24.3% for CINC cases. This breakdown is similar to the previous year (FY 24; 15.5% felony, 55% misdemeanors, 27% CINC)⁸. Of those juvenile offenders that went through JIAC in FY2025, 57% were issued a Notice to Appear in lieu of being immediately transported to Juvenile Intake. Notices To Appear (NTA) are similar to citations and allow the youth to be processed at a later scheduled time at JIAC rather than being taken into custody and transported to the center immediately. The use of NTA's is at the discretion of the LEO involved, allowing those officers to determine if there is significant reason that immediate detention is necessary. The NTA process continues to be a valuable tool for law

⁸ Other reasons for intake include out of state cases, status offenses, and general holdings, that account for less than 4% of intakes.

enforcement and JIAC centers. Since FY 2019, NTA's have been issued in 50-65% of JIAC referrals. Even at its lowest use, the first year the option was available, NTA's were used in slightly more than 50% of intake incidents. Doing so reduces the time law enforcement officers are required to transport youth to JIAC locations and reduces the need for JIAC staff to be immediately available and utilized.

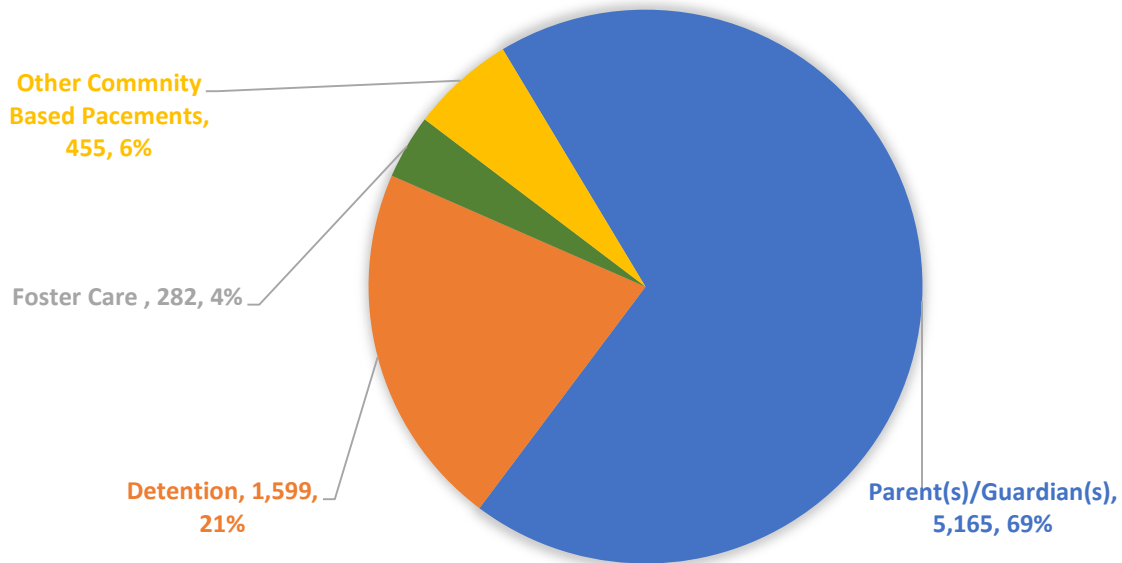


Additionally, we continuously track data that reflects that year after year, over 80% of youth issued an NTA, do appropriately follow up with JIAC as directed. In FY 2025, there were 3,917 NTAs issued. Of those, 89% of the youth complied with the order to report to JIAC.



The KDAI intends to make recommendations whether a youth would be better served in detention or within the community, based on their likelihood to engage in delinquent activity or failure to appear in court. Most of the justice involved intake events resulted in a community-based placement. 21% of intake events resulted in placement detention, while 79% resulted in community-based placement. 1% is categorized as others. Keeping in mind that around half of all youth are not immediately brought to intake by LEO. Releasing to a parent or guardian occurred in 88% of all community-based placements, or 69% of all intake events. Youth were released to Foster Care in 4% of all intake events.

Figure 4. Intake Placement Outcomes for Justice Involved Youth



Number of Youth with Other Community Based Placements

Relative	Group Home	DCF	Emergency Shelter	Other	Self	Friend	House Arrest
186	177	43	128	76	33	27	3

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory

The YLS/CMI is a standardized and evidence-based risk and needs assessment used to identify potential risk of reoffending, determine intervention targets, measure change, and establish the foundation for case management practices. Currently over 350 community supervision officers use the YLS/CMI. In 2021, OJA and KDOC entered into a contract with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) to utilize its Certify System for annual recertification of assessors. Both KDOC and OJA provide booster training to ensure fidelity with the YLS/CMI.

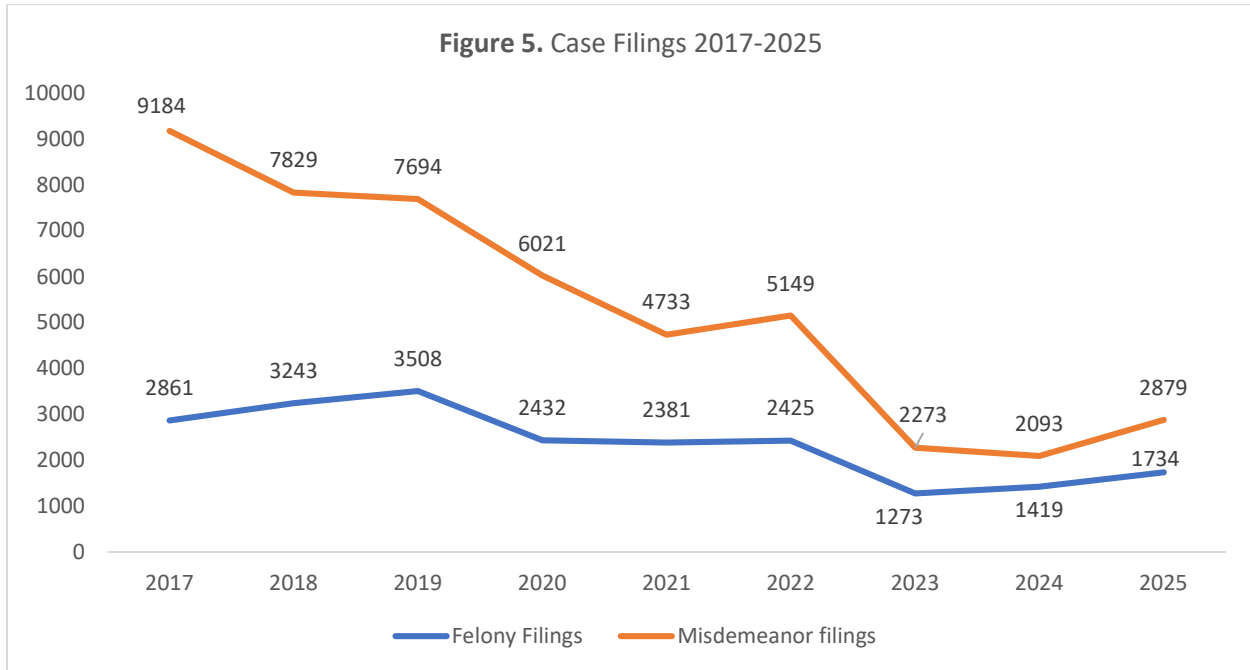
In FY 2025, OJA completed 1,543 YLS/CMI assessments, while community corrections in local jurisdictions completed 1,194 assessments. Assessment results indicate that most youth under court or community supervision are classified as moderate or low risk (see table below). If a Youth Level of Service (YLS) assessment is completed by Court Services at the time of adjudication, and the youth is subsequently sentenced to Community Corrections, the YLS is attributed to Court Services for this table.

Court Services			Community Corrections		
	2024	2025		2024	2025
Very High Risk	19 (1%)	20 (1%)	Very High Risk	11 (1%)	17 (1%)
High Risk	362 (23%)	347 (24%)	High Risk	221 (17%)	171 (14%)
Moderate Risk	786 (51%)	774 (53%)	Moderate Risk	622 (48%)	576 (48%)
Low Risk	376 (24%)	307 (21%)	Low Risk	445 (34%)	430 (36%)

Formal Court Processing

Overall, Kansas has seen a decline in juvenile offense case filings over the past 8 years. Between Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and FY 2024, there was a significant reduction in case filings, reduced by 60%. While there was an increase in filings since last year, it is still a reduction of 46% since FY 2022. In FY 2025, there were 4,642 filings for juvenile offense cases. Figure 5 (below) shows decline after FY 2022.

Case filings for misdemeanor offenses have been reduced over the past 8 years, limiting formal court processing for those less serious cases. In FY 2025, there were 2,879 case filings for misdemeanors in comparison to 2,093 in FY 2024; in 2017 there were 9,184 cases and in 2020 there were 6,021 cases in comparison. Despite a significant decrease in felony case filings between FY 2022 and FY 2025 (a difference of about 1,000 cases), there was an increase of 315 felony case filings in FY 2025.



Earned Discharge Credit (EDC)

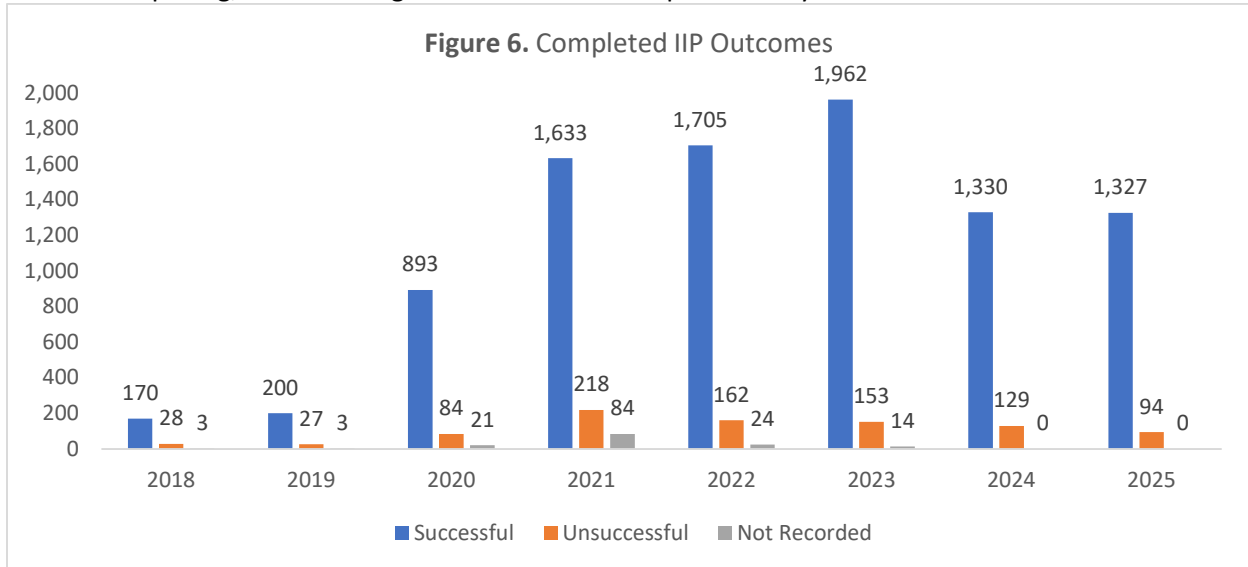
Kansas Supreme Court Rule 1801 was adopted to establish the process for earning credits and allows the judicial administrator to adopt procedures and forms related to the calculation of EDCs. The judicial administrator adopted these procedures and forms in March 2018 for use by Court Services Officers. To enhance collaboration and encourage consistency, the Office of Judicial Administration shared its procedure and forms with the Department of Corrections. Beginning in July 2018, all court services and community corrections began reporting the number of EDC days awarded.

Community Corrections - In FY 2025, a total of 2,337 juvenile probationers supervised by Community Corrections Officers received 16,359 credited days towards their sentence. Comparatively to the previous year (2,572 probationers and 18,004 days).

Court Services - In FY 2025, a total of 753 juvenile probationers supervised by Court Services Officers received 6,174 credited days towards their sentence. Comparatively to the previous year of 10,829 days.

Immediate Intervention Programs

The Immediate Intervention Programs (IIP)⁹ is making great impact with 93% of pre-file and 93.4% of post-file youth completing the program successfully by remaining in substantial compliance with their case plan and avoiding adjudication or conviction of a new offense. With youth justice system agencies utilizing opportunities to divert youth away from formal court processing, there was a decrease in the number of youths who were diverted in FY 2024, then in FY 2023. Looking back at overall case filings increasing the past two years, but IIP numbers have been declining, it is assumed that courts are using IIP in less cases. Which is surprising, when looking at the successful completions of youth in IIP.



⁹ One of the goals of SB 367 is to divert youth, assessed as low risk to recidivate/reoffend, away from the youth justice system, while holding them accountable and providing age-appropriate supervision. Pre-file IIP occurs after a youth has been charged, to avoid court; Post-file IIP occurs once youth are already engaged in the court process.

IV. Cross-agency collaboration

The JJOC supports initiatives across the state that focus on building cross-system collaboration to improve services, programs, and interventions for all youth and their families in Kansas. These efforts aim to enhance the overall effectiveness of youth-serving systems by fostering cooperation among stakeholders. The JJOC contributes funding and subject matter expertise, and many of its members are individually involved in these initiatives. The following section, written by program providers, are brief descriptions of these efforts; additional details can be found in Appendix G.

Crossover Youth Practice Model

Three counties in Kansas have implemented the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM), a collaborative approach designed to address the complex needs of crossover youth and their families, and to ensure that services and interventions are appropriate and effective. In July of 2025, three new counties were chosen to implement the CYPM, with initial meetings being conducted in September. The State Policy Team (SPT) meets regularly to review and discuss policies and procedures related to treating crossover youth; recommend improvements and enhancements; and respond to legislative activity that impacts the crossover youth population. In addition, this Model encourages agencies to work together to identify gaps in programming and services, and to troubleshoot challenges. The Office of Judicial Administration (OJA), Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), and Department for Children and Families (DCF) collaborate regularly to facilitate data sharing and evaluate the effectiveness of CYPM in Kansas.

Juvenile Defense

The JJOC, in partnership with The Gault Center, has continued to build, strengthen, and grow the youth defense community in Kansas. The Gault Center (formerly the National Juvenile Defender Center) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting justice for all children by ensuring excellence in youth defense. To that end, The Gault Center's work in Kansas has been centered on strengthening youth defense across the state, providing training and support, and highlighting the need for a state-wide youth defense system. The Gault Center has worked with the JJOC on two primary objectives during the last fiscal year to: 1) Develop youth defense standards for consistent and effective representation of young people; and 2) Launch and Facilitate a Statewide Youth Defense System Workgroup

Family Engagement

In 2025, KDOC and JJOC continued their work with Family Engagement in partnership with Public Consulting Group (PCG) through staff training and the distribution of a Family Engagement Guide. Family Engagement Guides were circulated to help families better understand and navigate the juvenile justice system and available programming for youth. Handbooks are available at local Community Service Agencies and can be found online.

In early Fall, PCG conducted four in-person trainings in Salina, Dodge City, El Dorado, and Topeka to train staff and supervisors in best practices for facilitating Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings - an evidence-based approach to actively involve youth, families, and their support systems in planning and decision-making. Over 75 staff from 27 Judicial Districts completed training to facilitate CFT meetings. Trained facilitators gained essential tools and insights to enhance their work with youth and families, practiced facilitation skills that empower families and elevate their voices, and participated in a learning community focused on shaping the future of family-centered care across the juvenile justice system.

Gender Responsivity

KDOC has partnered with the Bauman Consulting Group since FY23 to provide juvenile justice stakeholders with the opportunity to complete Gender-Responsive Principals and Practices, a self-paced virtual course designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to integrate gender-responsive practices into their daily work. This training is required as a part of the initial orientation for new staff. During FY25, five courses were offered and 36 staff completed the training.

Stepping Up

Throughout FY 2025, The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center has engaged in a variety of activities to strengthen behavioral health outcomes for youth involved in or at risk of involvement with the justice system. The CSG Justice Center conducted a statewide assessment, established actionable recommendations, and developed implementation steps through strategic planning, legislative engagement, and technical assistance. A key focus was launching the Stepping Up for Youth (SU-Y) initiative, including a pilot program in seven counties to apply a new framework for local system improvement. These efforts reflect a coordinated, multi-agency approach to advancing youth-focused reforms across Kansas.

Jobs For America's Graduates-Kansas (JAG-K)

JAG-K is an evidence-based program that prepares students for successful futures through post-secondary education and employment opportunities. More than 50% of JAG-K participants qualify for free or reduced lunches, are students of color, and/or live in a single-parent home or are separated from their parents.

For the 2024-2025 school year, JAG-K programs numbered 121 in 54 school districts across the state, serving 6,526 students. JAG-K also serves residents at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex.

Student achievement data listed in the 2023 Annual Report represents information collected for the graduating class of 2023, which concluded a year of follow-up by JAG-K in July of 2024. That cohort reported a graduation rate of 98% and a 90% positive outcomes rate (which means 90% of JAG-K graduates are either in post-secondary education, military service, or in the workforce full-time one year after graduation).

The Kansas JAG program launched 12 years ago during the 2013-2014 school year. For the eleventh consecutive year, the Jobs for America's Graduates national organization announced that the Kansas affiliate earned the organization's highest award for the graduating class of 2024. This award, named the 6 of 6 Award — bestowed upon those JAG programs that meet or exceed performance measures in six categories:

- Graduation rate
- Employment rate
- Full-time employment
- Total full-time positive outcomes
- Connectivity rate
- Continued education rate

V. Looking Forward

Summary

The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC), in partnership with the State of Kansas, remains committed to making meaningful and lasting improvements within the youth justice system. While we acknowledge the progress made in recent years, we also recognize that continued effort is required. Our focus must remain on sustaining successful initiatives while carefully adjusting those that are less effective. As we move forward, we must ensure that in addressing minor gaps in the system, we do not inadvertently undermine the progress we've already achieved.

No justice system is without flaws; however, through vigilance, responsiveness to emerging challenges, and a commitment to data-informed decision-making, we can continue to move closer to a more equitable and effective youth justice system. The JJOC serves as a forum for confronting these challenges, fostering collaboration, and promoting thoughtful, evidence-based solutions.

Data remains a cornerstone of our efforts. The JJOC continues to champion a multi-system approach to data collection and analysis—an endeavor that, while complex, is essential. As systems across the state improve their data management capabilities, our ability to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities for improvement grows stronger. Over the past year, the JJOC and its Data Subcommittee have made significant strides toward building a comprehensive and sustainable data infrastructure that supports year-over-year evaluation of Kansas's juvenile justice system.

Following the validation of the Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI), the JJOC reconvened the KDAI Steering Committee to implement the study's recommendations. With several JJOC members participating in the committee, we remain committed to supporting its work and advancing its outcomes.

As new issues arise—whether localized in specific counties or more broadly affecting the state—the JJOC remains engaged and responsive. Informed by the discussions throughout 2024, the Legislative Subcommittee has identified key priorities for 2025, including policy adjustments, accurate information-sharing, and potential legislative proposals. These efforts will focus on topics such as fines and fees, fleeing and eluding cases, and case length extensions.

Together, through sustained collaboration and a focus on smart reform, we are shaping a youth justice system that better serves Kansas youth, families, and communities.

Appendix A – JJOC Allocation Plan and Expenditures

Title	Budgeted '24	Budgeted '25	Expended '24+'25
CJI/Technical Assistance/Staffing	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$92,398
Community Organization Grants	\$605,748	\$605,748	\$1,078,410
Community Based Sex Offender Risk Assessment Treatment	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$356,000
Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM)	\$246,000	\$246,000	\$310,812
CYPM staff for DCF/OJA	\$173,000	\$173,000	\$176,204
Culturally Responsive Services	\$60,000	\$,000	\$0
Family Engagement/Family Guide/Navigators	\$296,000	\$296,000	\$320,644
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	\$1,228,569	\$1,228,569	\$1,154,077
Gender Responsivity	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Innovation Grants	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$2,074,593*
JAG K	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$1,978,769
JCAB Requests	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$7,381,600
Juvenile Defense Improvements	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$375,000
Juvenile Crisis Intervention Centers	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0
MAYSI-2 Screening Tool	\$22,630	\$22,630	\$29,029
Mental Health Services	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$0
Mental Health First Aid	\$46,536	\$46,536	\$5,600
Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
OJA Data Collection and Training	\$244,800	\$244,800	\$0
Parent Project	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Reinvestment County Grants	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$8,101,328
Salaries/Wages	\$353,549	\$254,066	\$568,410
Substance Abuse Counseling for Families	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$0
Youth Advocate Program	\$732,076	\$732,076	\$303,000
Obligated Funds**			FY 2026
Community Programs for Juvenile Justice (Rolling Grants)			\$5,443,063
Totals	\$37,062,026	\$36,493,908	\$37,764,414

*Does not include funds that have been promised/obligated towards community programs but not expended.

**Obligated funds are those that have been awarded to community programs, that will be dispersed in FY 2026 but originate from allocations in FY 2025.

More information about allocations and expenditure can be found on Page 15.

Appendix B – Grants

FY 2025 Juvenile Corrections Advisory Boards Grants

JCAB Grant Program by Judicial District/County FY 2025					
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name	# of Youth Served	Original Amount Allocated Per agency	Amount Awarded Per Program*
1st- LV - Leavenworth		Youth Justice Resource Center (YJRC)	47	\$291,173.80	\$291,173.80
2nd - Jackson, Jefferson, Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee		Family Engagement Program	44	\$193,575.68	\$193,575.68
3rd - Shawnee	Children and Family Services	Kansas Children's Service League - Oasis Case Management	73	\$602,027.08	\$599,288.56
3rd - Shawnee	One Heart Project	One Heart Project-Kansas	57		
3rd - Shawnee	Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka	Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka's Teen Center	156		
4th- Anderson, Coffey, Franklin, Osage		Care Coordination services (3/1/24-6/30/25)	0	\$183,660.14	\$183,660.14
4th- Anderson, Coffey, Franklin, Osage		Family Engagement Program	14		
5th- Chase, Lyon		Spartan Explorers	29	\$204,848.00	\$25,000.00

JCAB Grant Program by Judicial District/County FY 2025 Page 2					
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name	# of Youth Served	Original Amount Allocated	Amount Awarded *
9th- Harvey, McPherson		Home Based Service Program	40	\$200,525.08	\$200,525.08
9th- Harvey, McPherson		Adolescent Co-Occurring Treatment Program (ACTP)	23		
10th- Johnson		Immediate Intervention Program Mental Health	268	\$801,546.34	\$801,546.34
10th- Johnson		Johnson County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court	18		
10th- Johnson	KVC Behavioral HealthCare, INC.	KVC Parent Management Training-Oregon (PMTO) and Parenting Through Change	20		
10th- Johnson		Johnson County DMC Coordinator	0		
11th- CH/LB- Cherokee, Labette		Behavioral HealthCare Program	25	\$135,226.36	\$135,226.36
11th- CR- Crawford		Life Skills	64	\$165,654.46	\$165,654.46
11th- CR- Crawford		Education Services	64		
11th- CR- Crawford		Employment Service	64		
11th- CR- Crawford		Giving Back Community Service Work (CSW) Program	64		
11th- CR- Crawford		Mentoring Services	64		
12th- Cloud, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell,	Jobs for America's	JAG-K Career Specialist	14	\$118,002.90	\$118,002.90

KANSAS JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Republic, Washington	Graduates-Kansas				
13th- Butler, Elk, Greenwood	South Central Mental Health	Community Liaison Intervention Program	116	\$284,017.44	\$284,017.44
15th,17th, 23rd- Cheyenne, Decatur, Ellis, Gove, Graham, Logan, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego, Wallace	Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center	Trauma-Informed Resilient Communities	189	\$355,197.54	\$355,197.54
18th - Sedgwick	Cherry Creek Treatment Center	Adolescent Inpatient Treatment Facility (2/1/25 – 6/30/25)**	0	\$1,535,072.62	\$1,535,072.62
18th - Sedgwick	Mirror	Reflections Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment	8		
18th - Sedgwick	Community Solutions	Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	19		
18th - Sedgwick	Kansas (DCF)	Cross-Systems Youth Facilitator	662		
18th - Sedgwick	VitalCore	Corrections Mental/Behavioral Health Services	102		
18th - Sedgwick	Center for Behavioral and Academic Research DBA McAdams Academy	Sedgwick County Evening Reporting Center Education Services (9/20/24-6/30/25) **	85		

JCAB Grant Program by Judicial District/County FY 2025 Page 4					
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name	# of Youth Served	Original Amount Allocated	Amount Awarded*
20th- Barton, Ellsworth, Rice, Russell, Stafford		Program Advocate	154	\$320,782.38	\$320,782.38
24th- Edwards, Hodgeman, Lane, Ness, Pawnee, Rush		Immediate Intervention Program	26	\$99,296.76	\$99,296.76
27th- Reno	Project Y.E.S. - Youth Empowerment Services	Project YES	34	\$326,281.06	\$326,281.06
28th- Ottawa, Saline		Anger Management Cognitive-Based group	10	\$393,133.40	\$393,133.40
28th- Ottawa, Saline		Grief Recovery Method	2		
28th- Ottawa, Saline		Moral Reconation Therapy	22		
28th- Ottawa, Saline		Breaking the Chains of Trauma	1		
28th- Ottawa, Saline	Child Advocacy and Parenting Services	Family Mentoring Program	16		
28th- Ottawa, Saline	Salina Initiative for Restorative Justice	Victim-Offender Mediation	118		

JCAB Grant Program by Judicial District/County FY 2025 Page 5					
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name	# of Youth Served	Original Amount Allocated	Amount Awarded*
29th- Wyandotte	Project START	Connections to Success	63	\$938,756.40	\$938,756.40
29th- Wyandotte	Jegna Klub	Connecting the Dottes	58		
29th- Wyandotte	Wyandotte County Juvenile Court	One Circle - Girls Circle & The Council for Boys and Young Men	27		
29th- Wyandotte	Lowriding 2 Success Bike Club	Lowriding 2 Success Bike Club	47		
30th-SU-Sumner	Sumner Mental Health Center	School Based Program	7	\$110,887.00	\$100,525.08
Total			2,759	\$7,713,969.44	\$7,371,238.20

* Funds awarded for a two-year grant period. The grantees received 1 payment on 7/7/2023.

** Dates provided with the Program Name indicate the program was offered for a duration less than the grant period.

FY 2025 Reinvestment and Collaboration Grants

Reinvestment Grant Programs by Judicial District FY 2024					
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name	# of youth served	Original Amount Allocated Per agency	Amount Awarded Per Program
2nd - Jackson, Jefferson, Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee		Family Engagement Program (FEP)	44	\$154,860.00	\$81,301.50
3rd - Shawnee	Topeka Center for Peace and Justice	Victim/Offender & Parent/Adolescent Mediation	181	\$481,622.00	\$480,348.56
3rd - Shawnee	One Heart Project - Kansas		122		
4th- Anderson, Coffey, Franklin, Osage		Family Engagement Program	14	\$146,928.00	\$146,928.00
5th- Chase, Lyon	Emporia High School	Spartan Explorers	64	\$163,878.00	\$19,647.00
6th- Miami, Linn, Bourbon		Family Support / Wraparound Services	56	\$180,304.00	\$180,304.00
7th- Douglas		Therapeutic Support	34	\$196,696.00	\$196,696.00
7th- Douglas		Parent Project	49		
7th- Douglas	Boys and Girls Club	Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence	1		
7th- Douglas		Youth Crossroads and Decision Points	11		
7th- Douglas	Douglas County Restorative Justice	Building Peace Mediation	39		
8th - Dickinson, Geary, Marion, Morris		Immediate Intervention Program	136	\$251,902.00	\$251,902.00
9th- Harvey, McPherson	Offender Victim Ministries	Immediate Intervention Program	69	\$138,810.00	\$138,810.00

Reinvestment Grant Programs by Judicial District FY 2024 Page 2					
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name	# of youth served	Original Amount Allocated	Amount Awarded
10th- Johnson	Families Together, Inc.	CHASE, Education Advocacy Program	73	\$641,238.00	\$641,238.00
10th- Johnson	Johnson County District Attorney's Office	Substance Abuse Evaluation and Treatment	636		
10th- Johnson		ProSocial Activities	13		
10th- Johnson		Performance Based Standards	0		
10th- Johnson	Johnson County Mental Health	Mental Health Assistance	181		
11th- CH/LB- Cherokee, Labette		Family Services and Support	28	\$108,182.00	\$108,182.00
11th- CR- Crawford		Family Services and Support	81	\$132,524.00	\$150,077.56
11th- CR- Crawford		Crossroads	2		
11th- CR- Crawford		Forward Thinking	17		
11th- CR- Crawford		Decision Points	3		
11th- CR- Crawford		Catch My Breath	20		
12th- Cloud, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Republic, Washington		The Change Companies Interactive Journaling	6	\$94,402.00	\$94,402.00
14th- Montgomery, Chautauqua		Day Report Program	5	\$224,634.00	\$224,634.00
14th- Montgomery, Chautauqua	Four County Mental Health	Adolescent Co-Occurring Treatment Program (ACTP)	11		
15th,17th, 23rd- Cheyenne, Decatur, Ellis, Gove, Graham, Logan, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego, Wallace	Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center	Trauma Informed Resilient Communities (TIRC)	189	\$284,158.00	\$284,158.00

Reinvestment Grant Programs by Judicial District				FY 2024	Page 3
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name**	# of youth served	Original Amount Allocated	Amount Awarded
16th- Clark, Comanche, Ford, Gray, Kiowa, Meade		Voucher Funds (mental health, drug/alcohol evaluations and other treatment)	4	\$215,384.00	\$194,628.64
16th- Clark, Comanche, Ford, Gray, Kiowa, Meade	New Chance, Inc.	Substance Abuse Treatment	50		
16th- Clark, Comanche, Ford, Gray, Kiowa, Meade		Overcoming Obstacles	23		
16th- Clark, Comanche, Ford, Gray, Kiowa, Meade		ARISE Life Skills Curriculum	61		
18th - Sedgwick		Evening Reporting Center (ERC)	198	\$1,228,056.00	1,228,056.00
19th- Cowley		Parent Project Program	146	\$160,420.00	\$160,420.00
20th- Barton, Ellsworth, Rice, Russell, Stafford		Family Engagement and Advocacy	104	\$256,626.00	\$256,626.00
21st- Riley, Clay		Youth Court Immediate Intervention Program	150	\$134,460.00	\$134,460.00
24th- Edwards, Hodgeman, Lane, Ness, Pawnee, Rush		Immediate Intervention Program	26	\$79,438.00	\$79,438.00
27th- Reno	Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK)	Licensed Addictions Counselor and Mentor	46	\$261,024.00	\$160,000.00
28th- Ottawa, Saline	Child Advocacy and Parenting Services	Family Mentoring Program (English)	56	\$314,506.00	\$314,506.00

Reinvestment Grant Programs by Judicial District FY 2024 Page 4					
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name	# of youth served	Original Amount Allocated	Amount Awarded
29th- Wyandotte		Day Reporting Program	10	\$751,006.00	\$751,006.00
29th- Wyandotte		Family Engagement Specialist (FES)	40		
29th- Wyandotte		Cognitive Specialist	13		
29th- Wyandotte	Wyandot Behavioral Health Network (PACES)	Mental Health Liaison	66		
Totals			2,940	\$6,601,058.00	\$6,277,769.26

Community Programs Juvenile Justice Involved Youth Programs (CPJJ) (Rolling Grants)

CPJJ Grants FY 2025				
Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name**	# of youth served	Amount Awarded*
18th - Sedgwick	Heartland 180, INC.	180 Degrees and One Circle For Sedgwick County (7/1/24-7/1/26)	25	\$499,104.40
18th - Sedgwick	Mirror, Inc.	Evidence Based SUD Treatment for Juvenile Justice Involved Youth (7/1/24-7/1/26)	34	\$500,000.00
9th- Harvey, McPherson-Wyandotte	Heartland 180, INC.	Wyandotte One Circle (7/1/24-7/1/26)	15	\$468,626.80
1st-AT-Atchison	Atchison County Community Corrections	Evidence Based Programming (10/1/24-10/1/26)	49	\$429,221.07
1st-LV-Leavenworth	Leavenworth County Community Corrections	Youth Justice Resource Center (10/1/24-10/1/26)	39	\$499,995.79
18th - Sedgwick	Heart of A Champion	One Heart Project (10/1/24-10/1/26)	19	\$497,920.00
1st-LV-Leavenworth	Just Pivott, LLC.	Just Pivott (10/1/24-10/1/26)	26	\$500,000.00
3rd - Shawnee	Crossroads Restoration Inc.	Crossroads Restoration (10/1/24-10/1/26)	6	\$500,000.00
28th- Ottawa, Saline	St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church	Hope in 3D in Salina (1/1/25-1/1/27)	29	\$500,000.00
18th - Sedgwick	St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church	Hope in 3D in Wichita (1/1/25-1/1/27)	27	\$500,000.00
27th- Reno	Wisdom in Motion	Wisdom In Motion Youth Mentoring Program for At-Risk Youth (1/1/25-1/1/27)	16	\$271,647.00
3rd - Shawnee	Community Connections	Justus (4/1/25-4/1/27)	Not Available	\$500,000.00
3rd - Shawnee	Family Peace Initiative	FPI Youth Initiative Shawnee County Court Services (4/1/25-4/1/27)	Not Available	\$481,356.00
11th- CR- Crawford	The Restorative Justice Authority	Community Engagement Services (4/1/25-4/1/27)	Not Applicable	\$419,219.00
Total			211	\$7,017,656.06

Supporting Community Organizations in Improving Outcomes for Juvenile Offenders & Families

Judicial District and County Served	Sub-contractor	Program Name	# of youth served	Amount Awarded*
3rd - Shawnee	Topeka Center for Peace and Justice, Inc.	Victim Offender Mediation	130	\$311,622.32
18th - Sedgwick	Prime Fit Youth Foundation	Partnership Assuring Student Success (PASS)	75	\$291,920.00
19th- Cowley	Schools Halls Not Prison Walls	Supporting Community Organizations in Improving Outcomes for Juvenile Offenders & Families	146	\$238,500.00
29th- Wyandotte	Heartland 180	West Wyandotte Prevention Expansion	21	\$258,030.00
Total			372	\$1,100,072.32

* Funds awarded for a two-year grant period. The grantees received 1 payment on 7/7/2023.

** Dates provided with the Program Name indicate the program was offered for a duration less than the grant period.

Appendix C: Case Filings

FY Year	Felony	Misdemeanor
FY 2017	2,861	9,184
FY 2018	3,243	7,829
FY 2019	3,508	7,694
FY 2020	2,432	6,021
FY 2021	2,381	4,733
FY 2022	2,425	5,149
FY 2023	1,273	2,273
FY 2024	1,419	2,093
FY 2025	1,734	2,879

Appendix D – Notice to Appear Rates

Notice To Appear (NTA)			FY 2025
Judicial District	# Served	# Completed	Compliance
1st AT	15	15	100.0%
1st LV	60	54	90.0%
2nd	31	30	96.8%
3rd	145	126	86.9%
4th	45	44	97.8%
5th	136	131	96.3%
6th	40	38	95.0%
7th	30	28	93.3%
8th	114	109	95.6%
9th	13	13	100.0%
10th	901	764	84.8%
11th - Cherokee & Labette	23	22	95.7%
11th - Crawford	7	6	85.7%
12th	21	20	95.2%
13th	146	142	97.3%
14th	49	49	100.0%
15th-17th-23rd	169	157	92.9%
16th	84	69	82.1%
18th	545	497	91.2%
19th	112	107	95.5%
20th	167	144	86.2%
21st	17	15	88.2%
22nd	36	36	100.0%
24th	15	15	100.0%
25th	85	81	95.3%
26th	102	102	100.0%
27th	202	191	94.6%
28th	240	238	99.2%
29th	286	160	55.9%
30th SCKCCA	22	22	100.0%
30th-Sumner County	59	51	86.4%
31st	0	0	N/A
Total	3917	3476	88.7%

Appendix F: Timeline of Youth Justice

System Legislative Activities

Since the passage of SB 367, further legislative changes have been made to juvenile justice policies. The following is a timeline of legislation enacted after 2016 and the passage of SB 367 that was related to the juvenile justice reforms made in SB 367.

2017

- The Legislature passed House Sub. for SB 42, which adjusted changes made by SB 367 and made further modifications to the youth justice system, including changes in the areas of absconding from supervision, immediate intervention programs, sentencing and placement, and the members and duties of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee.
- In Senate Sub. for HB 2052 and Senate Sub. for HB 2002, the Legislature:
 - Deleted \$6.0 million from the purchase-of-service account for youth residential centers and added \$6.0 million to the Evidence Based Programs Account (Note: This account is also sometimes referred to as the “Evidence-Based Juvenile Programs Account”) in FY 2017 and FY 2018;
 - Transferred \$1.2 million in the State General Fund (SGF) from the Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility (LJCF) to the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) in FY 2017 due to the LJCF closure in FY 2017; and
 - Added \$6.0 million SGF to KJCC for FY 2018 and deleted \$7.0 million SGF from LJCF in FY 2018 due to the LJCF closure.

2018

- The Legislature passed HB 2454, which made further adjustments to the youth justice system as reformed by SB 367, including changes in the areas of detention hearings, tolling of probation term and case length limits, and duties of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee.
- The Legislature also passed House Sub. for SB 179, establishing a framework for juvenile crisis intervention centers providing short-term observation, assessment, treatment, case planning, and referral for youth experiencing a mental health crisis who are likely to cause harm to self or others. The bill allows the Secretary of Corrections to enter into a memorandum of agreement with other cabinet agencies to provide funding for juvenile crisis intervention services of up to \$2.0 million annually from the Evidence Based Programs Account created by SB 367.
- In House Sub. for SB 109, the Legislature added \$6.0 million to the Evidence Based Programs Account and transferred this amount to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to fund Youth Crisis Intervention Centers for FY 2019. The Legislature also added \$8.4 million SGF for salary adjustments for staff, including all adult and juvenile correctional officers, for FY 2019.

2019

In House Sub. for SB 25 (the appropriations bill), the Legislature:

- Added language in FY 2019 to require the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to establish a working group that will:
 - 1) gather data and issue a report on the impact of SB 367 on justice involved youth entering foster care placement or in a foster care placement;
 - 2) evaluate services being offered and identify services needed;
 - 3) and include representatives from DCF, child welfare organizations, mental health organizations, OJA, law enforcement, and any other organizations with information on services as determined by the Secretary for Children and Families.
- Added additional language for FY 2020 to require DCF to study the impact of SB 367 on crossover youth, who are defined as youth in foster care or at risk of being in foster care due to conduct that resulted in, or could result in, justice involved youth allegations.
- Reversed the transfer of \$6.0 million from the Evidence Based Programs Account to KDHE for Youth Crisis Intervention Centers in FY 2019 and added this amount to the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) budget in FY 2019 and FY 2020 for the same purpose; and
- Added \$11.6 million SGF to provide a 15.9 percent salary adjustment for correctional officers (including juvenile correctional officers), and a 5.0 percent salary adjustment for other correctional employees who work with justice involved youths for FY 2020.

2020

- The Governor, in Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) 44, proposed the creation of a Kansas Department of Human Services, which would merge the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, the Kansas Department for Children and Families, and the Juvenile Services Division of KDOC, including oversight of the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex.
- The legislature, through HR 6032, disapproved of the ERO and the reorganization did not take place.
- Despite concerns caused by the covid pandemic during 2020 and 2021, there was no reduction in the EBPA account.

2021

- Regarding the EBPA, in 2021, SB 159 passed adding \$200,000, all from the State Institutions Building Fund, for FY 2022 to study the repurpose of the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex and establishment of three or more smaller regional juvenile facilities.
- The study will also address plans for the former Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility and other underutilized facilities within the correctional system.
- The report on the study's findings was required to be submitted to the Legislature by July 2022.

2023

- HB 2021 was passed which had significant impact on the youth justice system.
- The Legislative Subcommittee assessed the bill and continues to evaluate what specific changes must occur to be compliant with the bill.
- In coordination with other committees, the intent is to contribute information and resources to stakeholders.
- This bill made some key changes for youth in Kansas in different populations.

2024

- SB 420 (First Introduced as HB 2698) Allows justice involved youth in the custody of the secretary of corrections to leave the juvenile correctional facility for certain programming and educational opportunities when approved by the secretary.
- Regarding the EBPA, \$18 million was originally requested to be transferred to SGF from the EBPA. That was later reduced to \$7.5 million. Of that, later amount, \$2.5 million was approved to create a facility in South Central Kansas for an inpatient residential juvenile substance use facility.

2025

- Regarding the EBPA, \$10 million was approved to be transferred to SGF from EBPA. Additionally, it was approved to direct \$5.5 million dollars to Jobs for America's Graduates-Kansas and \$1 million dollars to O'Connell Children's Shelter in Lawrence, Kansas from the EBPA.
- Multiple legislative proposals were brought forward during the legislative session. However, no legislation was passed that impacted on the policies and practices in the Kansas juvenile justice system.

Appendix G: Cross-System Collaboration Efforts, Detailed Descriptions.

Crossover Youth Practice Model

Kansas is actively implementing the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) across the state, a collaborative approach designed to address the complex needs of crossover youth. The State Policy Team (SPT) continues to meet quarterly via virtual platform. The SPT has examined and evaluated state policies that impact the cross-system population to identify opportunities to change policies and practices to better serve youth and families and encourage cross-system collaboration. Currently, the team is serving as an oversight committee to the local CYPM initiatives. Team members from each site have been invited to the quarterly meetings to provide updates and ask the SPT for any assistance they may need. At each meeting, as schedules allow, the team invites a group or agency to present current initiatives that are meant to address education instability, placement instability, etc. The purpose of this is to inform the team of what is happening throughout the state as well as provide opportunities for networking, collaboration and communication throughout all systems.

A workgroup was created to discuss CINC youth who are also sentenced to KJCC. Membership of the workgroup consisted of DCF, KDOC, OJA, KVC, Cornerstones of Care, Saint Francis, EmberHope, and TFI.

Based on conversations a statewide protocol was created and implemented. These protocols helped bridge communication and collaboration gaps between the foster care providers and KJCC.

Georgetown University's Center for Youth Justice (CYJ) created a Statewide toolkit that is meant to assist counties in Kansas with creating their own version of the CYPM. Information contained in the toolkit is based on facilitated work completed by the Crossover Youth State Policy Team and the CYPM pilot counties (i.e., Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Montgomery Counties) but is intended to be general enough that any community in Kansas can interpret and enact the stated principles in a manner that best suits the county.

Collaboration between OJA, KDOC, and DCF is ongoing to facilitate data sharing and evaluate the effectiveness of CYPM in Kansas. However, aligning data provided from each agency has posed challenges due to differing systems and mechanisms.

The CYPM has been fully implemented in Montgomery, Shawnee and Sedgwick counties. Implementations include completing orientation, systems assessments, setting goals, conducting 101 training courses, and creating specific CYPM protocols/protocol maps to address the needs of their Crossover Youth cases.

In July 2025 three new counties were chosen to implement the CYPM. Those counties are Atchison, Franklin and Saline counties. The initial meeting was conducted via virtual platform, in September 2025. In November 2025 the coordinators will visit each agency, in person, to orient the teams on the CYPM and begin their systems assessments. Representatives on each team include but are not limited to: Court Services, judges, attorneys, DCF, KDOC, education, Mental Health, Foster Care, Family Preservation, and Family First.

Gault Center (Juvenile Defense)

Objective 1: Develop youth defense standards for consistent and effective representation of young people

Toward the first objective, The Gault Center partnered with a local youth defender and KU professor Meredith Schnug to draft Kansas-specific Youth Defense Standards. These standards create scaffolding for Kansas youth defenders as they navigate the complexities of representing children. The Standards include recommendations on best practices, ethical responsibilities of Kansas youth defenders, commentary, caselaw, resources, and practice tips.

A full draft of the Standards was completed and was reviewed over the summer by two Kansas youth defense experts. Prof. Schnug is making final edits, adding additional content, and readying the standards for presentation to decision makers. Additionally, a KU law student was hired as an extern over the summer to conduct legal citation and substance checks for the Standards. When the extern was asked why she was interested in working on Kansas Youth Defense Standards, she indicated that she had attended the Gault Center and KU's "Youth Defense Pipeline" webinar in February of this year (funded by the Gault Center's work with KAG), and that solidified her desire to be a youth defender!

The Gault Center, along with other individuals in Kansas, has held preliminary meetings with decision

makers to discuss the need and benefit of youth defense standards. Gault Center staff will continue to work with the Kansas Supreme Court, Kansas Bar Association, judges, youth defenders, and other decision makers on adoption and implementation of the standards.

Objective 2: Launch Statewide Youth Defense System Workgroup

Toward the second objective, The Gault Center launched the Statewide Youth Defense System Workgroup and hosted two meetings this year, one virtually and one in-person. The Statewide Youth Defense System Workgroup was built in collaboration with decision makers and youth defense experts across the state. Gault Center staff hosted dozens of in-person and virtual conversations with the goal of convening a dynamic and diverse workgroup focused on building a youth defense system in Kansas.

On May 2, 2025, twenty-six individuals attended the inaugural meeting held virtually, and engaged in a very robust and productive discussion! Participants included representatives from BIDS executive leadership, the judiciary, Kansas Association of Counties, the JJOC and KAG committees, policy groups, system-impacted young people, individual youth defenders, probation staff, county prosecutors, and a clinical professor from KU. The inaugural discussion centered around building relationships among members, developing a shared understanding of the current state of youth defense in Kansas, and hearing from Heather Cessna, the then and now former Executive Director of BIDS, about BIDS' goals to create a Youth Defense pilot program. The information was well received, and support for a statewide youth defense system was apparent throughout.

The second Statewide Youth Defense meeting was held in-person on September 12, in Topeka, Kansas. The Gault Center convened over 30 decision makers and leaders from Kansas to take part in a day-long meeting focused on youth defense in Kansas. In the morning, committee members took part in a Learning Lab where they navigated the juvenile legal system through the eyes of a young person. The lab walked decision makers through the varied barriers that system-impacted young people face in trying to overcome system-created barriers to their successful restoration. The experience deepened their understanding of how system involvement affects youth, highlighting barriers, points of trauma, and opportunities for change that are rooted in a robust youth defense system. Participants found the session to be incredibly informative, and several officials requested us to bring the learning lab back to educate additional decision makers about the juvenile legal system and its impact on young people.

Following the learning lab, the committee heard from Youth Leaders at Progeny about the Youth Voice Qualitative Data Study done in partnership with the Gault Center to learn about the current state of youth defense in Kansas. The findings from the study were incorporated into a report that includes findings from the *2020 Kansas State Assessment*. By analyzing these findings side by side, the report illuminates both system improvements and ongoing gaps requiring attention. The report also includes recommendations to guide the State of Kansas in moving forward. The Gault Center included artwork by two young people from Kansas to illustrate the data and lived experiences of the young people interviewed. The link for this publication can be found here: [Five Years Later: An Update on the Kansas Youth Defense Assessment 2025 – The Gault Center](https://www.defendyouthrights.org/document/five-years-later-an-update-on-the-kansas-youth-defense-assessment-2025/). (<https://www.defendyouthrights.org/document/five-years-later-an-update-on-the-kansas-youth-defense-assessment-2025/>)

The learning lab experience and discussion of the five year look back report set the foundation for the final discussion of the day regarding next steps in the Committee's work. The Statewide Youth Defense Committee talked through next steps for a pilot youth defense project to be housed within BIDS and/or Kansas Holistic Defense offices. Workgroup members made varied suggestions about outreach to funders, local grant opportunities, and action steps to support this project. Gault staff

compiled these suggestions into a work plan for moving forward on the pilot project.

We will hold the final meeting of the year in December, where we will identify grant opportunities and begin supporting BIDS as they begin their grant writing process. The Gault Center will continue to support BIDS, host meetings, make connections, and educate decision makers about the importance of a statewide youth defense system.

Stepping Up (Council of State Governments)

Throughout FY 2025, The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center has engaged in a variety of activities to strengthen behavioral health outcomes for youth involved in or at risk of involvement with the justice system. The CSG Justice Center conducted a statewide assessment, established actionable recommendations, and developed implementation steps through strategic planning, legislative engagement, and technical assistance. A key focus was launching the Stepping Up for Youth (SU-Y) initiative, including a pilot program in seven counties to apply a new framework for local system improvement. These efforts reflect a coordinated, multi-agency approach to advancing youth-focused reforms across Kansas:

July – Sept 2024

- CSG completed the statewide assessment that included system mapping, policy reviews, and fiscal mapping across four agencies, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), Department for Children and Families (DCF), and the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA). In addition, CSG conducted a series of listening sessions with 120 people across the state, including stakeholders from corrections, courts, child welfare, behavioral health, law enforcement, advocates, education, judges, attorneys, and others to inform the statewide assessment. CSG presented the key findings to the task force and individually met with legislators to discuss the initiative. To build consensus around potential recommendations, CSG drafted initial proposals based on the statewide assessment and facilitated a peer learning session with Florida and Utah to showcase effective prevention strategies to Kansas leaders.
- The Kansas SU-Y Technical Assistance (TA) Center hosted an introductory webinar to generate interest and engagement from county officials and leaders. The Juvenile Justice Stepping Up (JJSU) Workgroup reviewed the initial draft of the SU-Y Framework, which was subsequently shared with KS Stepping Up Innovators and the broader network for feedback. A targeted small group session was also held to gather in-depth input on the framework's development.

Oct- Dec 2024

- CSG drafted and vetted a set of recommendations with agency leadership and the Governor's Office and presented a final set of recommendations to the state task force. CSG met with task force members prior to the meeting to discuss the recommendations and the task force voted to approve all recommendations. CSG drafted two executive orders for the Governor's Office consideration for the large-scale recommendations – developing a youth early intervention system and establishing statewide detention standards. At the request of the Chair of the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight, CSG presented in-person to the Joint Committee about the initiative and recommendations.

- The JJSU Workgroup continued meeting to finalize the SU-Y Framework and review a draft guidance document for pilot site counties. Meanwhile, the SU-Y TA Center began preparing for pilot site implementation, focusing on supporting Kansas counties in adapting and applying the framework in local contexts.

Jan – March 2025

- CSG facilitated a two-day in-person site visit to translate the recommendations into actionable goals and objectives, including a full day of strategic planning with KDADS on developing a youth early intervention system and meeting with KDOC, DCF, and OJA on other recommendations. In addition, at the request of the legislature, CSG presented in-person to the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice about the initiative and recommendations. CSG also organized a rapid response to the introduction of HB2329, including providing testimony and organizing agency leadership to present a united voice and co-sign a letter to the legislature about the impact of the legislation and alternative approaches to consider. CSG also developed a set of project plans for both large-scale recommendations, including developing a youth early intervention system, establishing detention standards, and mobilizing the alternative to detention fund.
- As one of the first steps for the Kansas SU-Y TA Center, we began the pilot site work with seven counties. Recruitment efforts included educating and engaging the SU-Y Core Team—representatives from KDADS, KDOC, and DCF—and consulting with current Stepping Up Kansas Innovator counties to identify strong candidates. Follow-up meetings were held with interested counties prior to submitting letters of intent. The seven selected sites (Shawnee, Barton, Johnson, Bourbon, Franklin, Seward, and Sedgwick) committed to participating in a year-long pilot in which the SU-Y framework will be leveraged, utilized and adapted according to their feedback and experience of using the guidance document within their respective county workgroups.

April – June 2025

- CSG continued to translate the state recommendations into actionable items, including launching two working groups with KDADS on the youth early intervention system and developed materials for KDOC on mobilizing the alternative to detention fund, including drafting a three-year grant program framework, and drafting materials to support the launch of a detention standards working group, including a memo for the Governor’s Office on the rationale for the Executive Order focused on detention oversight and materials to support recruitment and planning for a working group with Juvenile Detention Centers.
- The SU-Y TA Center continued its pilot site work with seven pilot sites, meeting monthly to implement the SU-Y Framework and attending bi-monthly peer connection hours offered as additional opportunities for collaboration. The framework was divided up into modules to allow for focused review and discussion. In April, counties began Module 1, supported by resources and worksheets, and started forming their SU-Y cohorts, gaining buy-in from county partners and reviewing existing county system reports. In May, counties shared progress during an in-person breakout session at the 2025 Kansas Stepping Up and KDADS Mobile Crisis Symposium.

Module 2, introduced in June, focused on system mapping for youth with behavioral health needs at risk of justice involvement. Pilot counties engaged diverse stakeholders in completing county-level mapping exercises, guided by the framework and supported by the SU-Y TA Center.