Juvenile Justice Update

In 2012, then-Governor Nathan Deal reappointed the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform. He asked members to study Georgia’s juvenile justice system and craft recommendations to improve public safety and reduce costs. These recommendations and resulting legislation reorganized, revised, and modernized Title 15, Chapter 11 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, a section of our law known as the Juvenile Code.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS FROM 2013 TO 2018

- **45%** reduction in short-term secure confinement
- **40%** reduction in secure detention
- **22%** reduction in overall commitments to DJJ

SECURE RESIDENTIAL POPULATIONS

According to DJJ, Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDCs) provide temporary, secure care and supervision to youth who have been charged with offenses or who have been adjudicated delinquent and are awaiting placement. Youth Development Campuses (YDCs) provide secure care, supervision, and treatment services to youth committed to DJJ custody for the short and long-term.

![Graph showing Secure Residential Populations](image)

In 2019:
- **324 youth** were in non-residential community settings, like psychiatric residential treatment facilities
- More than **9,000 youth** were under DJJ supervision in community, at-home settings (e.g., probation, electronic ankle monitoring devices)
**OVERVIEW OF GEORGIA’S JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Administered by</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JJIG</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice Incentive Grants</td>
<td>To maximize the impact on public investment on public safety by reducing the number of out-of-home placements of youth through the use of evidence-based programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSG</td>
<td>Community Service Grant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPLEMENTATION OF JJIG AND CSG**

Between JJIG and CSG, all of Georgia’s counties are eligible to receive evidence-based services.

- These grants provide funding and technical support for juvenile courts to deliver evidence-based treatment programming for juvenile offenders in their home communities.
- 70% of youth served through JJIG and CSG were in FY19 were Black. Black youth made up 54% of juvenile arrests in 2018.¹

**More than 10,000** youth have received evidence-based services through JJIG or CSG from FY14 to FY19.²

![Implementation Map]

**FUNDING OF JJIG AND CSG**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initial*</th>
<th>FY17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JJIG</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$5 million</td>
<td>$7.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$7.6 million</td>
<td>$12 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSG</td>
<td>$1.6 million</td>
<td>$3.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cost Savings of JJIG and CSG**

- Cost per year for out-of-home placement: $90,000
- Number of youth diverted in FY19 with a successful outcome: 1,374
- Avoided cost of detaining youth in FY19 due to diversion: $123.6 million

*JJIG was initially funded in 2013 and CSG in 2014

**JJIG and CSG OUTCOMES IN GEORGIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Out-of-Home Placements</th>
<th>Program Completion</th>
<th>School Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56% JJIG</td>
<td>70% JJIG</td>
<td>94% JJIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43% CSG</td>
<td>74% CSG</td>
<td>92% CSG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reduction in out-of-home placements in 2019*¹ compared with FY12 baseline

Successful completion rate in 2019 for youth in JJIG and CSG programs

Youth who were actively enrolled in or had completed school in 2019

**In FY19, JJIG served 1,350 and CSG served 614 at-risk youth across Georgia.**

*2019 data is used to present a full picture of both CSG and JJIG effectiveness.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS:**

**FY2020 JJIG Outcomes Data**

- 1,051 youth were served in FY20
- 71% overall successful program completion rate
- 67% reduction in out-of-home placements compared to 2012 baseline
- 95% enrolled in or completed an education program

¹2019 data is used to present a full picture of both CSG and JJIG effectiveness.
GOALS OF GEORGIA’S 2013 JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

The goals of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2013 were for juvenile courts and DJJ to improve public safety and decrease costs by preserving and strengthening family relationships in order to allow each child to live in safety and security.

Policies and practices include:

- Increased use of evidence-based programs
- Treating youth in the community rather than in secure facilities
- Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program, which aims to reduce recidivism

**DJJ Mission Statement:** Adopted in 2020, the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice transforms young lives by providing evidence-based rehabilitative treatment services and supervision, strengthening the well-being of youth and families, and fostering safe communities.

Sources available here: [https://tinyurl.com/JuvenileJusticeUpdate](https://tinyurl.com/JuvenileJusticeUpdate)
Sources for Juvenile Justice Update