



Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Purpose:

The Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant (JJIG) Program seeks to fund local evidence-based programs serving youth in the community at moderate to high risk for reoffending or who would otherwise be committed to Georgia's Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

Eligibility:

At a minimum:

- All youth entering the program must have ***a delinquent adjudication*** at the time of referral and while the youth is receiving programming.
- All youth entering the program must ***score moderate to high on the Pre-Disposition Risk Assessment (PDRA)*** at the time of referral.
- All youth entering the program must be appropriate for programming. Programming is to target criminogenic needs.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is the purpose of the programming?

In keeping with former Governor Deal's goal of increasing public safety through a more effective juvenile system, the JJIG Program aims to reduce the number of youth served out-of-home and to better serve youth in the community. The JJIG Program provides alternatives to detention for delinquent youth.

2. What youth are eligible for Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program?

At a minimum, all youth served through JJIG Program must have a delinquent adjudication at the time of referral and the adjudication must remain open throughout programming. Youth must also score moderate to high on the PDRA and be appropriate for programming.

3. When and who can refer youth into the Program?

Referrals should be made by the Judge at the time of adjudication/disposition. The PDRA is completed post-adjudication and pre-disposition. It is mandatory that a delinquent adjudication and PDRA score be entered into the Juvenile Tracking System (JTS). The PDRA should be completed immediately after the delinquent adjudication for which the child is being referred to the program. The only eligible PDRA score for referral is the one completed at the time of the delinquent adjudication and entered JTS. The PDRA was designed to only be used as a tool post-adjudication and pre-disposition. Any use of the tool outside of the scope would make the score invalid.

4. Are youth required to be on probation?

Youth are not required to be on probation to be eligible for the JJIG Program.

5. Can a youth currently on probation be referred into programming?

Youth should be referred into programming at the time of adjudication/disposition. For instance, if a youth is adjudicated and placed on probation but not referred into programming at that time, the youth can only be served through the JJIG Program if the youth receives a new adjudication.

6. Can youth with an abeyance/informal adjustment be served through the JJIG Program?

An abeyance is an order that suspends applicable legal time frames or actions on a pending charge. All youth served through the JJIG Program must have a current delinquent adjudication at the time of referral and the adjudication must remain open throughout programming.

7. Are youth who receive a Short-Term Placement (STP) admission eligible?

The purpose of the JJIG Program is to reduce the number of out-of-home placements, such as STP admissions and felony commitments. The programming should be in lieu of out-of-home placement. Youth should not receive an STP related to the delinquent adjudication for which the youth is referred into the JJIG Program. At this time, the program is not designed to operate on a reentry basis. If the child has served an STP admission in the past, but has a new adjudication, then the Incentive Grant Program can be an option. All exceptions must be submitted to the JJIG Program Funding Committee for approval.

8. Can a youth be served in two different evidence-based programs at different times?

In order to be eligible for JJIG programming, youth must be appropriate for the selected evidence-based program. It is important not to over service (for example, placing a youth in Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), plus wraparound services) or duplicate programming (for example, placing a youth in ART followed by Thinking for a Change (T4C)). Courts should assess youth's needs to determine prioritized programming and re-assess youth if additional services are recommended.

9. Is data reporting required for JJIG Programming?

All JJIG grantees are required to collect consistent (monthly) data about targeted stated- and county- level outcomes and report it to the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. The Institute of Government is using systematic data collection and monitoring to assess the attainment of grant objectives and to create a sustainable framework for data-informed decision-making at the state and local levels during and after the grant period.

CJCC encourages JJIG Program grantees to submit, in writing, special consideration requests for JJIG Program Funding Committee approval.