

Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI) Grant

In 2018, Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) was awarded the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI) grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This initiative focuses on improving Georgia's opioid response for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system by funding new evidence programming guided by a data-driven strategic plan addressing the needs of this vulnerable population. The goals of the grant are to:

- Establish a statewide panel of experts (OAYI Steering Committee) to identify the greatest areas of concern to address the opioid epidemic and its impact on youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.
- Integrate and analyze data from stakeholder groups to understand the risk factors for opioid abuse and related crime for juvenile offenders. Develop a strategic plan to coordinate interventions and evaluate effectiveness.
- Implement and increase the use of evidence-based programming and assessment tools for youth and families receiving evidence-based services.

At this time, the OAYI Steering Committee has been meeting regularly since September 2019. Georgia's OAYI Strategic Plan was approved by our federal partners in June 2020, and an RFP was released in early June for programming designed to respond to the growing number of youth who are opioid involved or opioid affected.

The RFP closed on July 20th, and the Council funded seven new projects from that round. These projects range from focusing on the distribution of Naloxone to middle and high schools to training educators in how to respond to an opioid related event, treatment, counseling, and peer mentorship for opioid involved and/or affected youth.

At this time, the OAYI Steering Committee has reopened the RFP for a second round of funding. The current RFP will close on September 14th, and awards will begin October 1st.