



Brief Synopsis of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Regional Criminal Justice Forums

In accordance with Georgia Code (O.C.G.A § 35-6A-7 (2010)), the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has a responsibility as the state administering agency of Georgia,

“To convene periodically state-wide criminal justice conferences involving key executives in the criminal justice system of this state and elected officials for the purpose of developing, prioritizing, and publicizing a policy agenda for the criminal justice system of this state.”

To this end and to the benefit of the State of Georgia, the Office of the Governor, the Office of Planning and Budget, and the state’s local agencies, CJCC staff will conduct a series of regional forums throughout the state in an effort to:

- Identify and report the unique needs of the criminal justice system both on a regional basis and statewide;
- Encourage consideration and implementation of alternative and/or innovative practices to address criminal justice service needs;
- Encourage open and productive communication, cooperation and coordination amongst local partners in the best interest of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system;
- Encourage the active pursuit of diverse funding opportunities to ensure sustainability; and
- Ensure that as a policy advisor partner, CJCC is well-informed of the conditions, challenges and strengths of the state's local partners and regional communities.

The regional forums will be held in each judicial district throughout the state and invitations of participation will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- *law enforcement*
- *court administrators*
- *prosecutors*
- *district attorneys*
- *judicial council members*
- *corrections administrators*
- *probation and parole administrators*
- *treatment services administrators*
- *drug and family court coordinators*
- *preventive services providers*
- *victims' services providers*

At the end of each forum, CJCC will:

- Identify gaps in criminal justice services in all urban and rural areas;
- Become more knowledgeable about the challenges, strengths and activities of agencies and programs statewide; and
- Identify partners and programs that would benefit from competitive grant opportunities, as available.

Local agency participants at each forum will:

- Become more informed of CJCC’s role, not only as an administrator of federal and state grants, but as a policy advisor partner and an information-sharing center;
- Assess and evaluate their agency’s practices and performances and compare them with those of other agencies; and
- Express concerns relative to their particular agency and community.