

FY2018 Juvenile Justice Title II Formula Grant Program Comprehensive Three-Year Plan



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STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCY IN ALABAMA

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division (LETS) serves as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for Alabama's Juvenile Justice Title II Part B Formula Grant Program (Formula Grant Program). The LETS Division administers Alabama's Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (SAG) to advise the state on matters pertaining to the juvenile justice system, allocating funds awarded to the state through the Title II Program, and ensuring compliance with the Core Requirements for juveniles.

Alabama has consistently maintained compliance with the four Core Requirements and as stated in Acting Administrator Garry's letter of May 16, 2017 is currently in compliance with all four of the Core Requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, Section 223(a)(11, 12, 13 and 22).

Alabama currently contracts with two Compliance monitors who work with the 600-plus facilities in the state to ensure compliance with Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Sight and Sound Separation and Jail Removal. The monitors update Alabama's Monitoring Plan annually, collect and verify juvenile detention and court data, inspect all juvenile detention facilities and a minimum of one-third of adult facilities annually, and provide training and

technical assistance as necessary. The monitors also prepare the state's annual compliance report.

The state has also contracted with a Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator to work with the three target counties of Jefferson, Montgomery and Mobile to begin addressing the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system in these areas as well as statewide.

1. SF-424

SF-424 has been submitted online.

2. ABSTRACT

The ADECA LETS Division will allocate Formula Grant funds to local government agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement projects that focus on *Community-Based Programs* that work with juveniles and their families to address issues within the family that may be a causative factor in a juvenile's delinquent behavior. Projects will address issues such as effective communication/discipline, substance abuse, physical and emotional abuse, mental health issues, education, job skills training, and the cyclical histories of illiteracy, unemployment and involvement in the criminal justice system.

To ensure compliance with the four Core Requirements, the State contracts with a Coordinator to address *Purpose Area 21: Disproportionate Minority Contact* in the state by establishing local DMC committees in the three target counties of Jefferson, Montgomery and Mobile and developing relationships with law enforcement, court personnel, school system personnel and others in these areas and throughout the state. The Coordinator will be tasked with determining where and why disproportionality exists and discovering ways to mitigate/reduce it.

Our two Compliance Monitors will continue to ensure compliance with the first three Core Requirements Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Sight and Sound Separation and Jail Removal by providing services described in *Purpose Area 19: Compliance Monitoring*,

Progress will be measured according to the Formula Program's performance measure "outputs" and "outcomes" and reported annually as directed by the USDOJ OJP OJJDP.

3. PROGRAM NARRATIVE

a. Description of the Issue

1. System Description: Structure and Function of the Juvenile Justice System

Alabama's system of juvenile courts, overseen by the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts (AOC), was created by statutory act of the Alabama Legislature in 1975. The legislation has been updated since 1975, most recently with the passage of "Alabama Juvenile Justice Act" which became effective on January 1, 2009. When a complaint is filed with the juvenile court, a juvenile intake officer makes the determination whether the juvenile should be released to the custody of the parents or legal guardian(s), placed in the custody of a juvenile detention facility licensed by the Alabama Department of Youth Services (DYS), or placed in the shelter care of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) in the case of a dependency or Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS) juvenile.

If a youth is detained, a hearing is conducted within seventy-two (72) hours to determine whether the juvenile should remain in DYS detention, in DHR shelter care, or be released to the custody of the parents or legal guardian(s). Juveniles who commit certain minor offenses or who are first time offenders may have their cases managed through an informal adjustment, without judicial action. When a formal petition is filed by the intake officer, the juvenile's case is scheduled for an "adjudication hearing" conducted by the juvenile court maintaining jurisdiction over the matter. Following the filing of a formal petition in a delinquency case or CHINS case, but prior to an adjudication hearing, a juvenile case may be processed via a consent decree. Juvenile adjudication hearings are conducted by a juvenile court judge without a jury, attended by the juvenile and other parties who are pertinent to the case. If the juvenile admits to the allegations, the admission is similar to a plea of "guilty" in an adult court. A plea of "not guilty," is similar

to a plea of “not guilty” in an adult court. If the juvenile fails to admit or refuses to admit to the allegations, the judge enters a plea of denial on behalf of the juvenile. If the juvenile denies the allegations contained in the formal petition, a full adjudication hearing ensues. If the judge determines that the facts alleged in the petition are not true and the juvenile is not dependent, not in need of supervision, or not delinquent and not in need of care or rehabilitation, the petition is dismissed. If the judge rules that the facts alleged in the petition are true and the juvenile is dependent, in need of supervision, or is delinquent and in need of care or rehabilitation, the judge schedules a disposition hearing.

In delinquency and CHINS cases, the court can transfer legal custody of the adjudicated juvenile, require the juvenile to perform community service, place the juvenile on probation, and/or require the juvenile to pay restitution to the victim or to the State. If the juvenile is dependent, the judge addresses the issue of the juvenile’s custody and whether or not such custody should be placed with the parents, with other guardians, or with the State. If a juvenile who is 14 years of age or older commits an act which would constitute a crime if it were committed by an adult, the prosecuting district attorney may file a formal petition with the juvenile court to transfer that juvenile’s case to the adult court for criminal prosecution. If the court rules that the allegations against the juvenile are true and that the juvenile is not amenable to the services provided through the juvenile court, the court may grant the petition to transfer the juvenile’s case to the adult court.

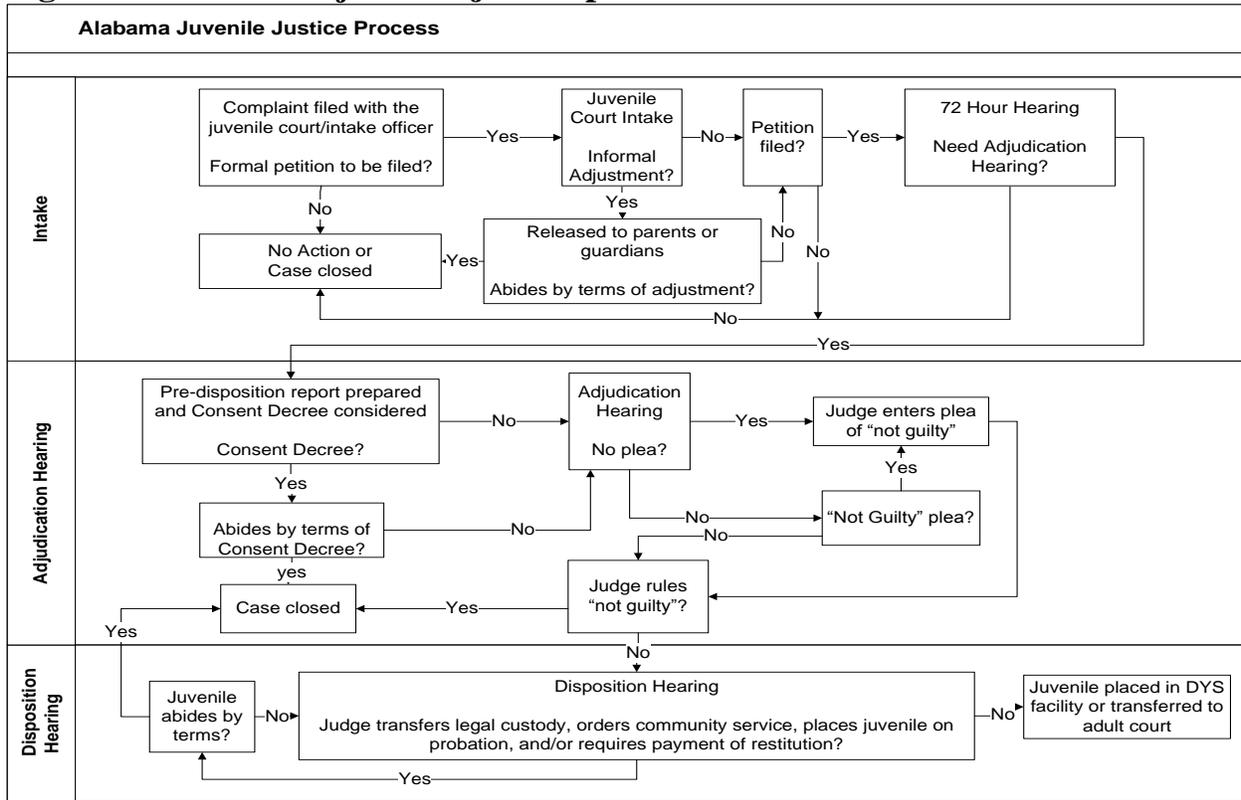
Juveniles who are 16 years of age or older who are charged with committing capital offenses, Class A felonies, felonies with the use of a deadly weapon or causing the death or serious physical injury of others, felonies using dangerous instruments against certain officials, or

trafficking in drugs, are expressly excluded from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. The juvenile court primarily exercises jurisdiction over cases involving individuals who are under 18 years of age. In some instances, minors and adults may come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

Any aggrieved party may appeal the decision of the juvenile court to one of Alabama's two intermediate appellate courts if the juvenile waives his or her right to a trial by jury. If the juvenile does not waive right to a trial by jury the appeal is heard in the circuit court. Cases involving juveniles requiring special treatment, such as "multiple needs children" or "serious juvenile offenders" are brought before a juvenile court. With the assistance of special teams of personnel, the juvenile courts assess and study the cases of "multiple needs children" so as to provide optional services for the juveniles. "Serious juvenile offenders" who are not quite ready for their cases to be transferred to adult courts are committed to the custody of the DYS for a minimum period of time of one year.

The formal process of a juvenile court case in Alabama is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Alabama’s juvenile justice process



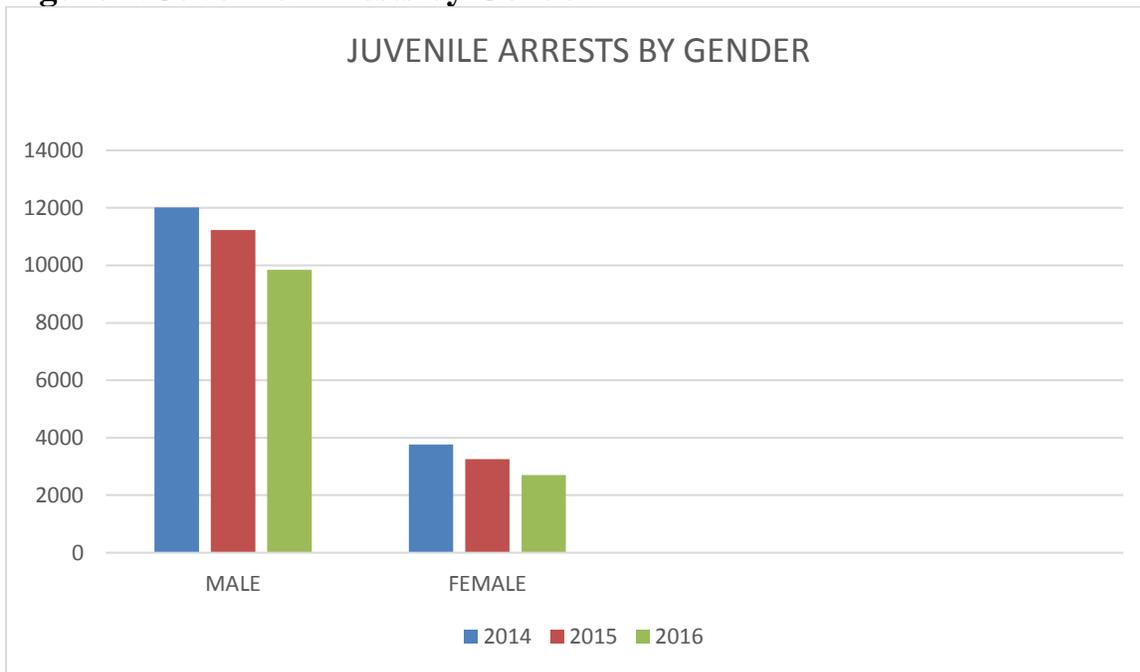
2. Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency Problems and Needs

Data and information from the Administrative Office of Courts, Alabama’s Kids Count 2017 Data Book, ADECA Focus Groups, and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency’s Crime in Alabama publication was reviewed to ascertain an overview of the status of juveniles in the justice system from 2014 to 2016. Kids Count boasts that the passage of the revised juvenile code has resulted in the reduction by 64% of the number of low-risk, non-violent youth being incarcerated by the Department of Youth Services.

A review of the data provided by the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) reveals that the number of juvenile arrests was on a steady decline from 2014 to 2016. There was a 1,299 decrease from 2014 to 2015 and another 1,925 from 2015 to 2016. This results in 3,224 fewer

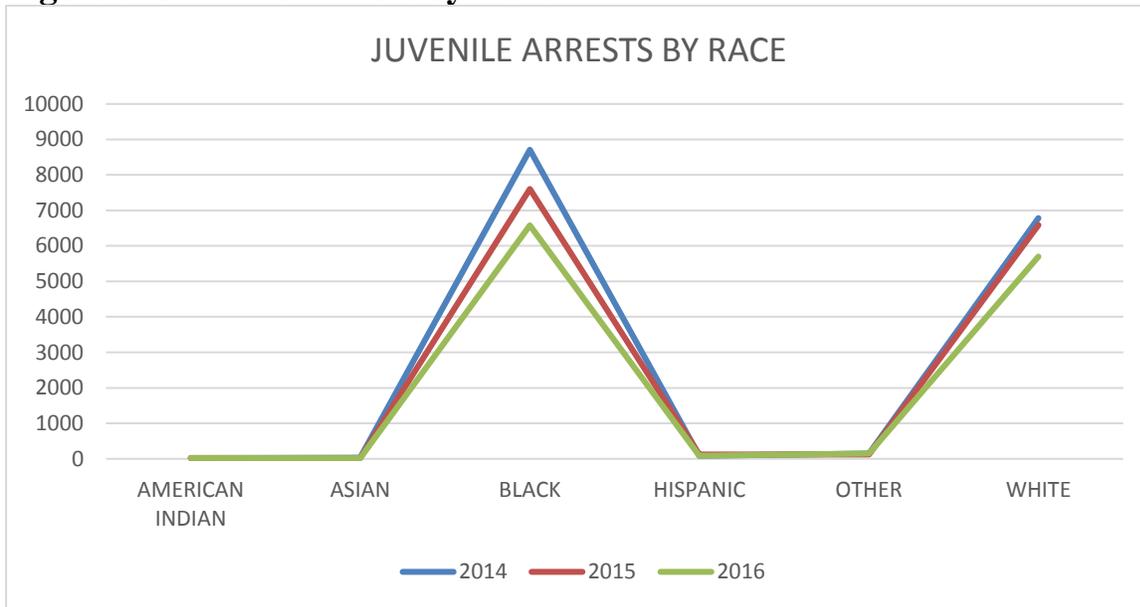
arrests over the three-year period for 20.4%. The largest decrease was for female juvenile arrests (28.3%), while male juvenile arrests fell 18.1%. ALEA reported that in 2015 juveniles made up **8 percent** of the Part I arrests and **3 percent** of Part II arrests were juveniles.

Figure 2. Juvenile Arrests by Gender



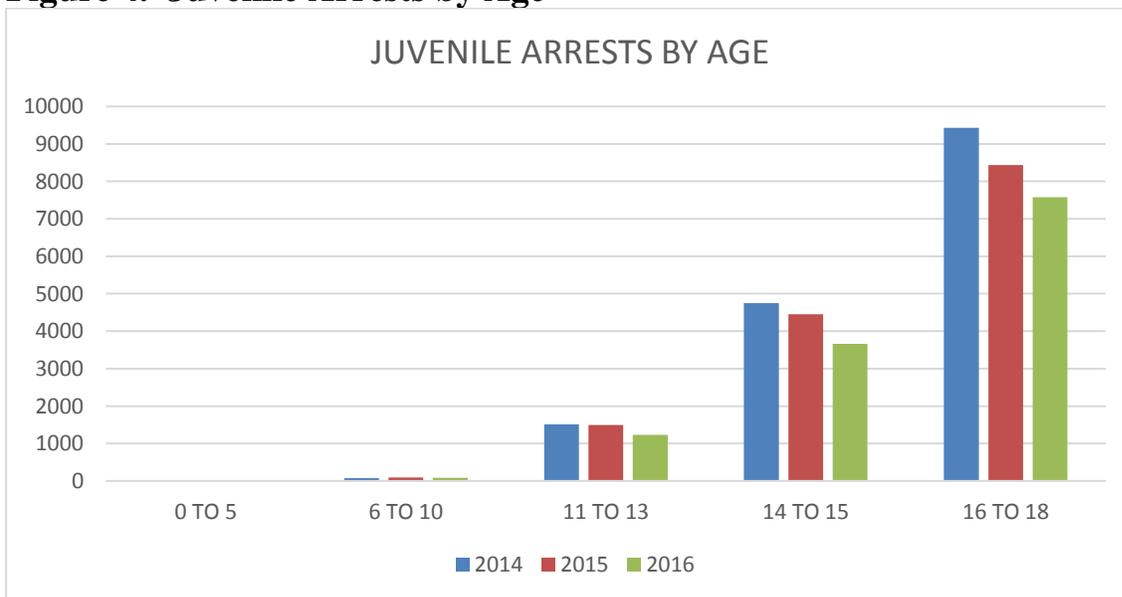
The number of Black and White juveniles arrested all three years declined, with the number of Black juveniles falling from 8,708 in 2014 to 6,578 in 2016 showing a 24.5%, and the number of White juveniles falling from 6,785 in 2014 to 5,699 or 16%. These encouraging numbers may indicate a positive impact of the various activities to reduce disproportionate minority contact. Arrests of the juveniles in two minority groups rose from 2014 to 2015, but decreased from 2015 to 2016 (American Indian and Hispanic).

Figure 3. Juvenile Arrests by Race



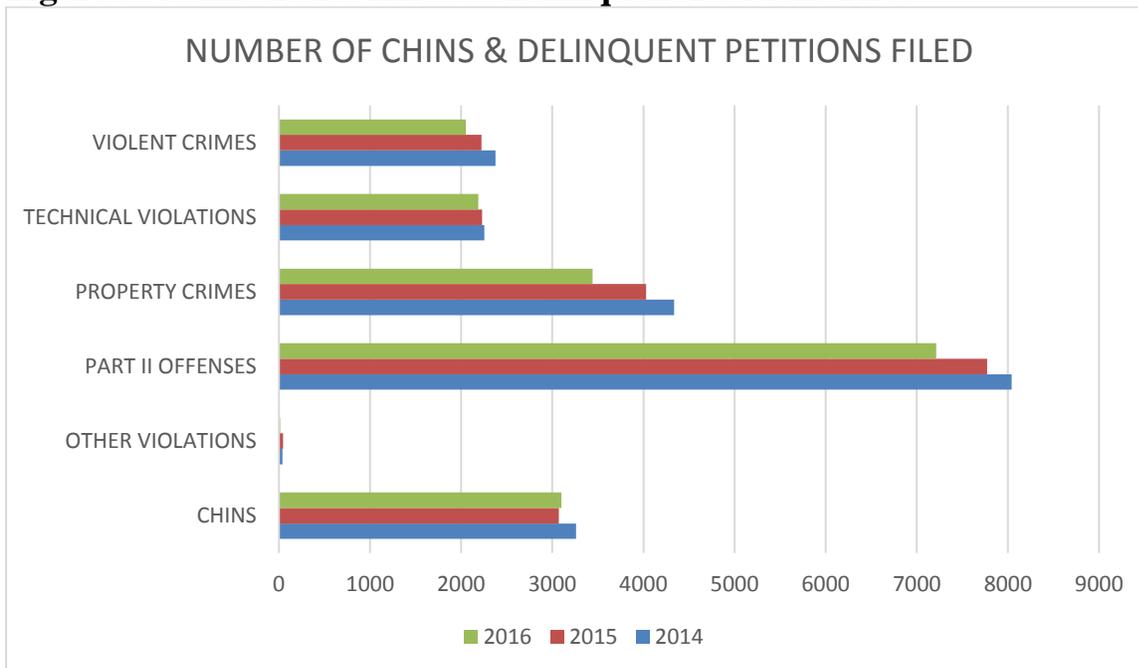
Of those juveniles who were arrested, the largest age group were 16 to 19 years of age for each of the three years from 2014 to 2016, but the number continued on a steady decline. The only age groups which increased from 2014 to 2015 were those 0 to 5 and 6 to 10, but those numbers fell from 2015 to 2016.

Figure 4. Juvenile Arrests by Age



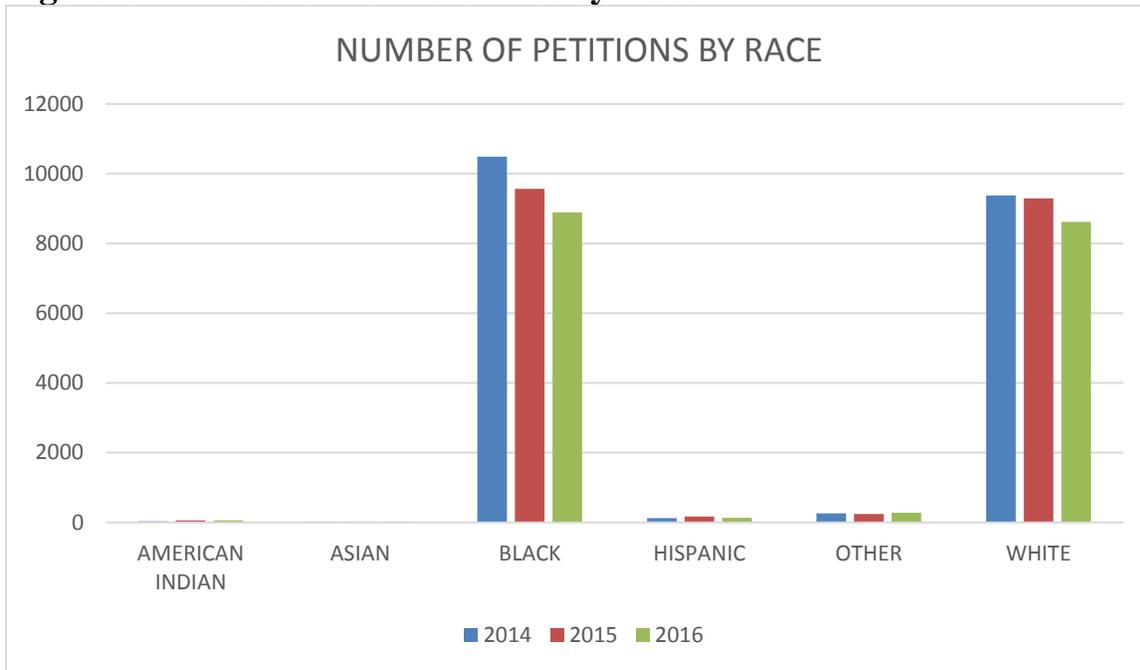
The number of CHINS and Delinquent Petitions filed from 2014 to 2015 fell slightly (5.8%), but remained virtually unchanged from 2015 to 2016. Part II offenses declined all three years (10.3%), as did Property crimes (20.6%), Technical violations (2.9%), and Violent crimes (13.7%). The majority of Petitions were filed against male juveniles all three years, but the number of male juveniles who had a petition filed against them fell 11.2%.

Figure 5. Number of CHINS & Delinquent Petitions Files



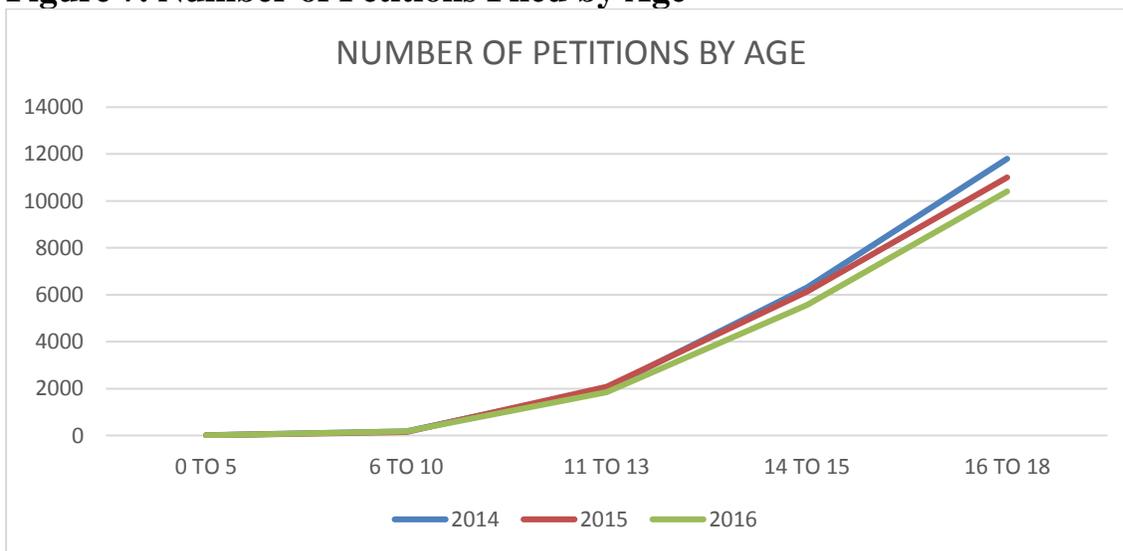
A review of Petitions filed by minority groups indicates that Black juveniles represented the largest group all three years with White juveniles following close behind. However, the numbers of juveniles from those groups fell steadily from 2014 to 2016 with only American Indian juveniles rising each year. Petitions against Hispanic juveniles rose from 2014 to 2015, but fell from 2015 to 2016 for an overall increase of approximately 12.9%.

Figure 6. Number of Petitions Files by Race



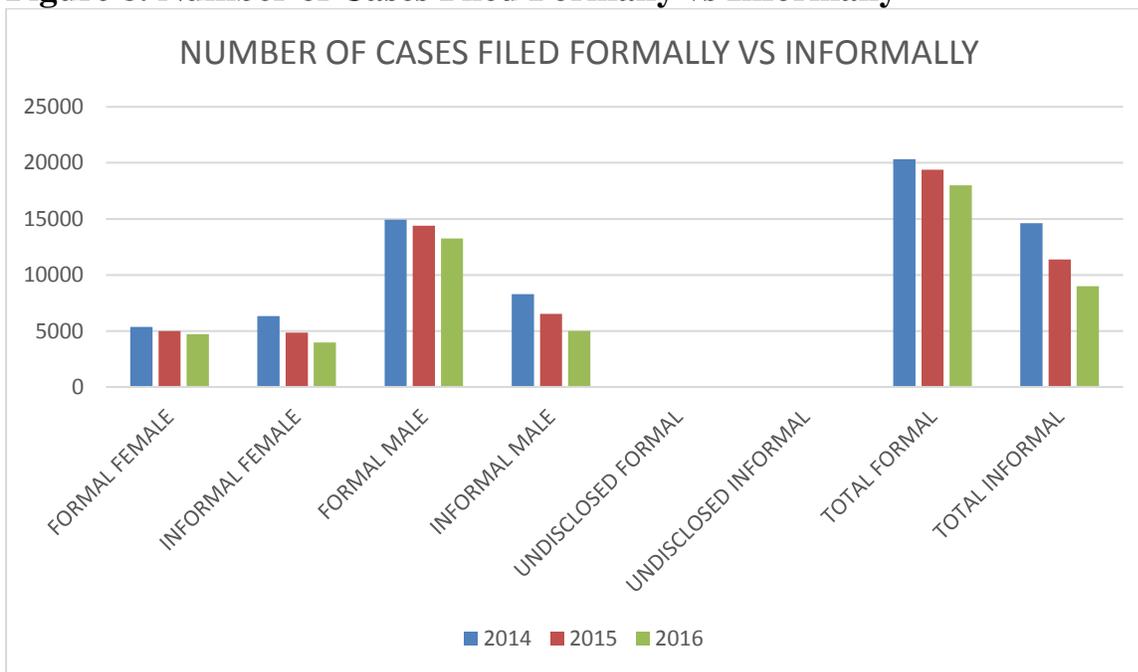
The largest age group of juveniles with Petitions filed remained those 16 to 18 years of age, but those numbers declined each year from 2014 to 2016, as did those for juveniles 14 to 15 years of age and 0 to 5 years of age. Those 6 to 10 years of age remained unchanged from 2014 to 2016, while those 11 to 13 years of age fell 7.9%.

Figure 7. Number of Petitions Filed by Age



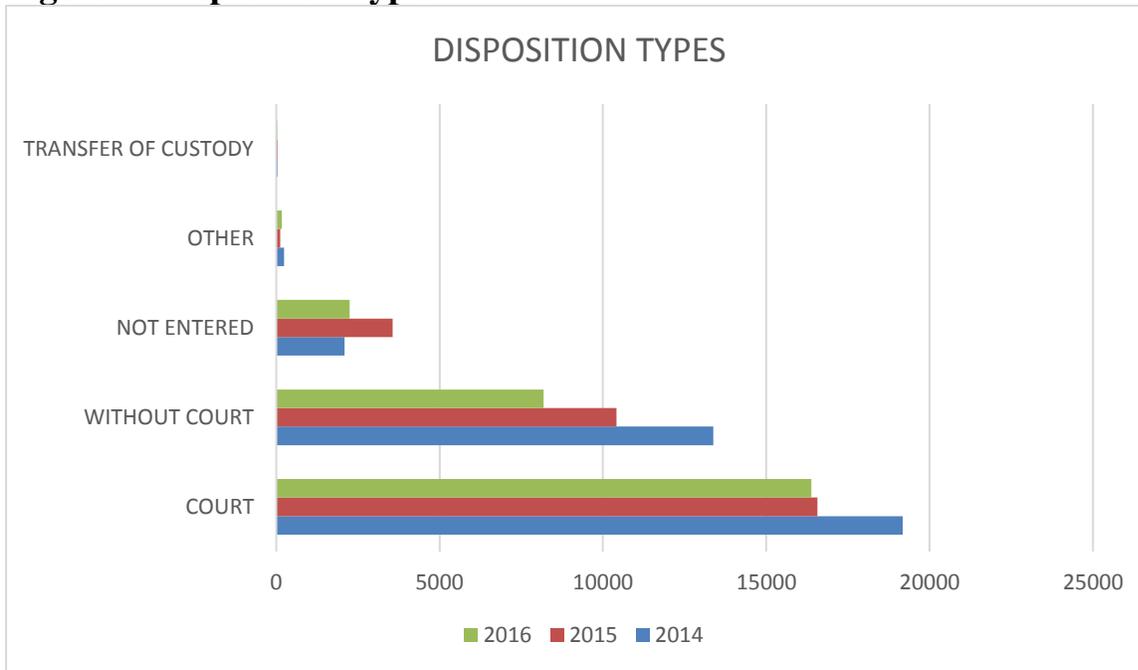
There were 30,938 cases filed against juveniles in 2014. This number dropped to 27,017 by 2016. From 2014 to 2016 the number of cases filed formally decreased some 11.4% from 20,315 to 18,008 while those filed informally fell an estimated 36.4%. The cases filed by gender did not vary significantly over the three years. Also, with Black juveniles comprising the largest group against whom cases were filed in all three years, White juveniles were a close second followed by minimal numbers against Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian juveniles. The cases filed against Black juveniles fell 24.6% over the three-year period while those against White juveniles dropped 21.2% with the largest decrease in both in informal cases.

Figure 8. Number of Cases Filed Formally vs Informally



Dispositions of 34,917 juvenile cases in 2014, 30,712 in 2015, and 27,017 in 2016 were primarily handled by the courts with decreases in all dispositions for both male (14.5%) and female (15.3%) juveniles and across all minority groups. An estimated 13,374 cases were disposed without a court appearance in 2014 compared to 8,186 in 2016, indicating a 38.8% decrease.

Figure 9. Disposition Types

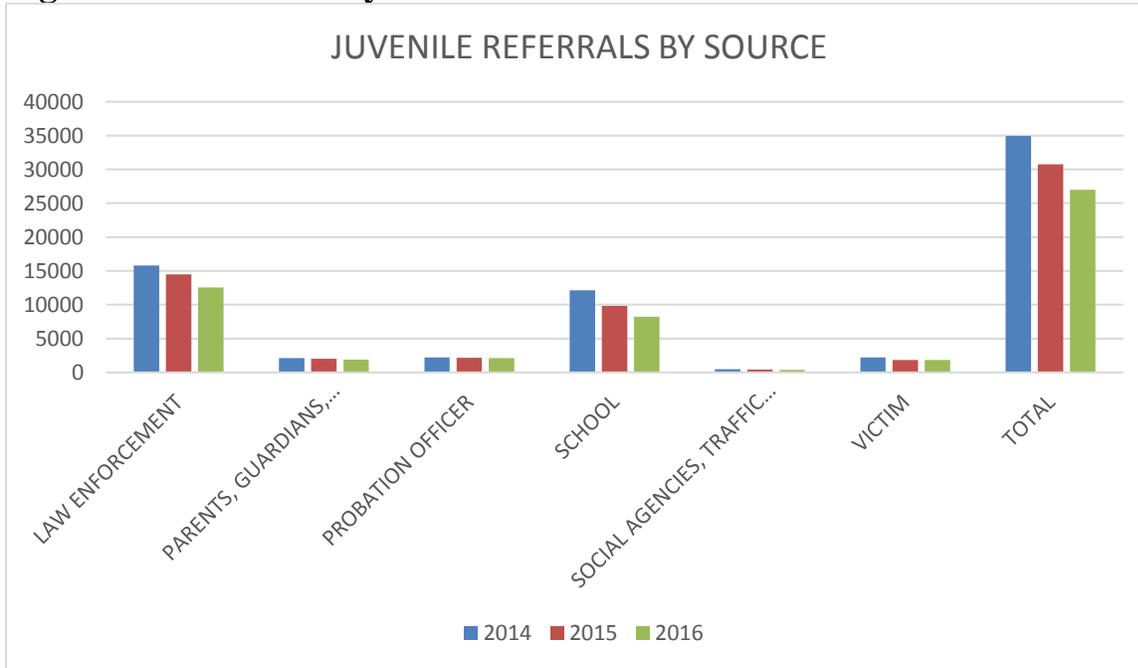


The number of cases detained fell from 5,291 to 4,607 over the three-year period reflecting a 12.9% drop. The number of Male juveniles detained fell 10.6% while the number of Females detained dropped 21.3%. However, the number of American Indian and Hispanic juveniles increased, albeit in small numbers.

Juveniles were referred by a variety of sources with law enforcement and schools comprising the majority of those referrals. All referrals steadily declined over the three years except referrals by probation officers which remained fairly constant. Overall referrals fell from 34,938 in 2014 to 27,017 by 2016. This was a drop of 7,921 or 22.7% which may indicate that more incidents are being diverted and/or handled by the referring source. Kids Count reports that 28% of four-year-old children are now participating in the Alabama First Class Pre-K Program. Early intervention was targeted as a need by the ADECA focus group participants. Kids Count also reports that the number of teen deaths and number not attending school and not working among 15 to 19 years

old youth has declined and that the number of births to teens aged 15 to 17 is at historically low levels.

Figure 10. Referrals by Source



A snapshot of the types of crimes being referred by law enforcement indicates that Male juveniles are comprising the majority in all three years. In 2014, some 12,010 males were referred, in 2015 there were 11,225, and in 2016 there were 9,841. For females, there were 3,771 in 2014, 3,257 in 2015, and 2,704 in 2016. The majority of juvenile referrals by law enforcement were for Part II offenses, Property crimes, and Violent crimes in that order. There were decreases or minimal changes in all three categories for both genders, all minority groups, and all ages over the three-year period.

In summary, the data from AOC is optimistic for juveniles' participation in the juvenile justice system in Alabama. While it appears that initiatives and interagency collaboration efforts are having an impact on preventing, intervening, and providing a continuum of services to reduce the

number of juveniles in the justice system, there remains a critical need to decrease the numbers of juveniles involved at all levels. Efforts to work more closely with law enforcement and schools in referrals, and courts in dispositions is a priority.

b. Goals and Objectives

ADECA conducted a series of six focus group meetings throughout the state to discuss the overarching needs relating to juvenile delinquency. Invitees and participants included Judges, Juvenile Probation Officers, District Attorneys, Law Enforcement, School Administrators, School Counselors, School Resource Officers, and non-profit organizations as well as all ALSAG members. The groups reviewed the data and were asked to discuss and rank the issues on which the juvenile justice plan should focus. After reviewing the analysis of youth crime data, the overarching issue identified by these groups was the absence of *collaborative approaches* to address issues related to juvenile crime in most areas of the state. The data they reviewed from the few areas of the state where *collaborative, evidence-based approaches* are in place, demonstrated the effectiveness of those programs in reducing the incidence of youth crime and increasing the placement of youth in non-institutional settings. These programs included the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives in Alabama and an initiative undertaken by the Dallas County Children's Policy Council.

Participants indicated there is a great need to strengthen the family units of juveniles to address issues such as effective communication/discipline, substance abuse, physical and emotional abuse, mental health issues, education, job skills training, and the cyclical histories of illiteracy, unemployment and involvement in the criminal justice system. Interviews commissioned by the ALSAG and conducted face-to-face with juveniles currently in the system support this conclusion and reinforce the critical need to promote diversion and aftercare programs.

Goal 1: Monitor for Compliance with Core Protections

Objective A: Continue collecting reports on a quarterly basis from 100% of adult jails and lockups.

Objective B: Continue collecting reports on a monthly basis from all secure juvenile detention facilities.

Objective C: Site visit all juvenile detention facilities annually and juvenile correctional facilities at least once every 3 years.

Objective D: Site visit all secure and non-secure adult jails, lock-ups and court-holding facilities at least once every three years.

Objective E: Site visit all other facilities in the Monitoring Universe on a periodic basis to verify classification.

Goal 2: Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact

Objective A: Establish DMC committees in the three target counties of Jefferson, Montgomery, and Mobile.

Objective B: Hold quarterly meetings with each of the DMC Committees to address DMC at the local level.

Objective C: Initiate Memoranda of Understanding with local agencies to examine specific policies and procedures and make recommendations for enhanced data-sharing.

Objective D: Provide continuing education approved training to stakeholders including law enforcement personnel, juvenile probation officers, and court staff.

Goal 3: Provide for a Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group:

Objective A: Maintain a State Advisory Group that is in compliance with all requirements outlined in the JJDPa and is active and engaged in achieving the goals and objectives of Alabama's Title II program.

Objective B: Submit recommendations to the Governor for appointment to the SAG for any positions that are vacated at the end of terms or by resignation.

Objective C: Hold quarterly SAG meetings.

Objective D: Participate in the development of the Three-Year Plan.

Objective E: Review and comment on grant applications submitted for the Title II grant funds.

Objective F: Advise the ADECA LETS Division on matters relating to the administration of Title II Formula Grant Funds, and on juvenile justice and delinquency prevention efforts within the State.

Objective G: Prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature.

Objective H: Seek regular input from juveniles currently in the juvenile justice system.

Objective I: Review progress and accomplishments of projects funded under the state plan.

Goal 4: Provide Community-Based Programs (f):

Objective A: Reduce the number of youth who enter or re-enter the juvenile justice system through Community-Based Programs (Title II Program Area 5)

Objective B: Support community diversion programs that include youth and family engagement in the programming and processes to keep youth in the home.

Goal 5: Provide Community-Based Programs (g):

Objective A: Support programs that work with youth and their families during and after confinement to ensure the youth's safe return to the home and to strengthen the family unit.

c. Implementation (activities and services)

Program Area 19: Compliance Monitoring

Alabama currently maintains two Compliance Monitors who divide the duties between juvenile facilities and adult facilities. The juvenile facility monitor collects monthly reports from all secure juvenile detention and collocated facilities, and annual reports from juvenile correctional facilities. Juvenile detention and collocated facilities are site-monitored on an annual basis, with correctional facilities monitored at a minimum, once every three years. The increased frequency of reporting and more intense monitoring and training over the past several years has afforded a decrease in violations for the past three years.

Reports from adult facilities are collected on a quarterly basis, which has allowed for earlier recognition of problem areas or trends, supporting an increase in trouble-shooting and clarifying communications with departments. Earlier recognition of departmental personnel changes has also improved with more frequent reporting. This promotes the practice of retraining of replacement personnel by compliance monitors. In addition to site-monitoring facilities at least once every three years, facilities with past violations receive additional on-site technical assistance to address reasons for violations and plans for reducing them.

Program Area 21: Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction

Alabama contracted with a DMC Coordinator in July 2017. In September the Coordinator attended OJJDP sponsored training in Washington, DC and immediately began reaching out to the three target counties of Jefferson, Montgomery and Mobile. All three counties had established Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) programs and are presently facing the challenges of sustaining the detention reforms they achieved with their JDAI efforts. Because racial and ethnic disparities remain persistent in their detention populations despite all of their past work, these sites appear to remain committed to solving this very difficult detention reform of reducing racial and ethnic disparities.

Alabama has issued letters of invitation for charter members of the local DMC committees in the three target areas. DMC-reduction goals will be accomplished through improved communication among stakeholders with a focus on law enforcement, the delivery of education and training with continuing education credits for law enforcement, attorneys, judges, juvenile probation officers, teachers, counselors, families, and youth, and intervention programs in schools and in the communities.

Program Area 32: State Advisory Group

Executive Order 2014-46 establishes the Alabama Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (ALSAG) as an Advisory Group. Section B(1) of the ALSAG Bylaws, establishes the Executive Committee as the Supervisory Board, which is comprised of the ALSAG Chair, Vice Chair and the Chair of each of the three standing committees. The group currently has nineteen members, including four youth members and three members formerly involved in the juvenile detention system.

The ALSAG serves to advise and make recommendations to the ALSAG Supervisory Board and the LETS Division on matters relating to the administration of Title II Formula Grant Funds, and on juvenile justice and delinquency prevention efforts within the State. They establish State juvenile justice program area priorities which are used as a guide in making recommendations to the Governor regarding the award of sub-grants. Quarterly meetings are held during which members update the LETS Division and the Supervisory Board on any new task forces which will address juvenile delinquency and subsequent recommendations of the task force; advise ADECA on upcoming or pending legislation addressing juveniles, and discuss and vote on funding recommendations. Members of the SAG also provide information necessary to respond to all requirements of the 3-Year Plan.

The ALSAG participates in the development of the state's juvenile justice plan through its Long-term Planning Committee's participation in focus group meetings along with other invited stakeholders such as retired Family Court Judges, Juvenile Probation Officers, State School personnel, School Resource Officer, and law enforcement. Input is also sought from juveniles who are currently in the juvenile justice system. The information gathered influences the areas of focus for the 3-Year Plan. Once a full draft is developed, the plan is submitted to the Supervisory Board for approval, and then to the SAG for discussion and approval prior to submission to OJJDP.

The ALSAG issues annual Requests for Applications for local projects addressing the needs identified within the Plan. Within 30 days of receipt of applications for subgrant funding, they are shared with all ALSAG members who are encouraged to review and score the applications. The Grants Application (GA) Subcommittee members do review and score all applications, after

which they and the JJ Specialist determine those to be recommended to the full ALSAG for funding. The ALSAG then meets to discuss and vote on all applications received.

A report to the Governor and Legislature is developed annually outlining programs and specific projects funded through Title II, Core Requirements and the state's status for compliance with the Requirements, information about funding levels over the past decade, and recommendations regarding needed legislation, and funding needs.

To evaluate the success of implemented projects, all subgrantees submit quarterly narrative and fiscal reports detailing activities during the period as well as the number of juveniles assisted, and parental participation in treatment if applicable. Reports are reviewed by ADECA staff and ALSAG members. The ALSAG established a quarterly meeting schedule and determined to use two meetings per year to visit subgrantees to learn first-hand of the work they are doing and the successes of their programs.

Program Area 5: Community-Based Programs

Analysis of the discussion and surveys obtained during the six focus group meetings as well as interviews of juveniles currently in the system, show that participants felt the greatest needs in addressing juvenile delinquency is to focus efforts on the juvenile-family dynamics. Participants indicated there is a great need to strengthen the family units of juveniles to address issues such as effective communication/discipline, substance abuse, physical and emotional abuse, mental health issues, education, job skills training, and the cyclical histories of illiteracy, unemployment and involvement in the criminal justice system.

By focusing our resources in Program Area 5: **Community-Based Programs and Services** to work with Parents and other family members to strengthen families and help keep youth in the home, we can help local agencies meet some of these needs.

Programs that work with families in the home are preferred to avoid issues such as transportation to attend off-site meetings. In-home meetings also allow the counselor to better observe the family dynamics.

Established programs currently providing these services that have a proven track record; existing evidence-based programs that could expand to include these services; or new programs implemented by organizations that have the proper training and resources to effectively operate a program such as this would be sought through a state-wide Request for Applications.

Applicant programs would be required to show interagency MOUs with local organizations that can provide services to the families, and have recommendations from both the local Children's Policy Council and the Family Court Judge.

Specific focus areas for the selected projects would include, but not be limited to:

- Parental training in effective communication and disciplining of children
- Substance abuse issues of parents and juveniles
- Domestic Violence
- Completing education/GED for juveniles
- Job/skills training

Program Area 28: Planning and Administration

Planning and Administration funding will provide primarily for a full-time Juvenile Justice Specialist who prepares Requests for Applications for sub-grant projects, reviews applications and prepares funding recommendations for the SAG. The JJ Specialist will monitor all sub-grant applications to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, provide one-on-one or group training for sub-grantees as necessary, work closely with the SAG to develop the 3-Year Plan, prepare and submit required federal reports and work with the SAG to develop and submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature.

Population Specific Plans

1. Gender-Specific Services

Data for the state shows that juvenile arrests by gender have not changed significantly from 2014 through 2016 with females responsible for roughly 25 percent of arrests and males responsible for 75%. Males accounted for approximately 68 percent of referrals, while females accounted for 32 percent. Many of these youths have been victims of violence, have suffered the loss of a family members, and most have been sexually and/or physically abused. Services for these youths must address the physical and cognitive differences between males and females.

The plan for providing gender specific services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency addresses male, female, and other gender identities focused on the distinct needs of each sector. Specifically, there is not a one size fits all program, but each is tailored to the unique needs of that gender. This includes attention to their physical, emotional, and cultural differences and is reflected in the format, delivery, and evaluation of each based on identified goals and expected outcomes. The programs for females also focuses on the increased numbers which can reflect an increase in the violent nature of offenses.

2. Services to Rural Areas

Thirty-six of Alabama's sixty-seven counties are classified as "Rural" counties. The total population is split almost evenly between the urban and rural counties with urban counties slightly higher than the rural counties.

From the mid-1990s to 2006, the annual number of commitments to DYS more than doubled from 1,385 to 3,340. Even though violent crimes perpetrated by youth had declined, DYS was inundated with commitments for less serious crimes such as property and drug offenses, and technical offenses such as violation of probation. This was a trend that had to stop. To combat this alarming trend, the leadership of all three branches of government came together and worked with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Strategic Consulting Group to develop a program to offer treatment and services to troubled youth in their home communities.

Over the last five years DYS has managed a diversion grant program designed specifically to address the growing number of commitments to DYS. Currently, DYS is funding **45** diversion grant projects that encompass 52 of Alabama's 67 counties, **including many of the state's most rural counties**, and which include **many gender-specific programs**.

3. Mental Health Services

The plan for providing needed mental health services to juveniles in the juvenile justice system in Alabama addresses both the implementation of services and how those services are targeted to those who are greatest in need. The Department of Mental Health, the Department of Youth Services, local mental health centers, school counselors, contractors with the Department of Human Resources, and community-based public and private service programs work with the courts to develop and deliver these services to those most in need.

Mental Health Services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system vary across the state. A number of courts in the larger counties have dedicated full-time mental health staff to include psychologists and therapists to provide assessments, evaluations and give recommendations to the courts. Some crisis intervention services for youth who are in detention may also be provided by these professional. In other counties, through local agreements with the community mental health centers and local juvenile courts, full or part-time mental health therapist called Juvenile Court Liaisons, provide assessment, crisis intervention and diversion of youth with serious emotional disturbances from greater involvement in the justice system. The youth may be referred to outpatient services or in more serious cases a psychiatric hospital or residential treatment. The Department of Mental Health partially funds the Juvenile Court Liaisons (25).

Mental health services are obtained for youth involved with the juvenile court through a court finding of dependency or delinquency and a Multiple Needs Child. This finding asserts that the child has the need for services from 2 or more agencies either state or local. This finding brings about a time sensitive local staffing from a multidisciplinary team known as County Children's Facilitation Teams. If further assistance and /or funding are needed, the county can refer the child to the State Multiple Needs Team for action. Many of the youth identified as Multiple Needs have significant mental health needs along with delinquency and/or dependency issues. This statutory multi-agency collaborative is an excellent example of interagency collaboration for children. This process is coordinated across the state through the Multiple Needs Child Office.

Additional services are provided to youth committed to the Department of Youth Services. Varying levels of mental health services are available to youth sent to one of three state-operated

institutions or to one of the contracted community residential programs to these programs. Based on information provided through the DYS Screening and Placement process, the needs of the youth are matched to the program best suited to meet their rehabilitative and treatment needs (including drug and alcohol). Youth have access to programs that provide individual and group counseling, access to psychological and psychiatric services as needed. The DYS also contracts with specialized provider that provides mental health services to youth who also have developmentally disabilities. The staffing that occurs through the Screening and Placement process provides the necessary targeting of resources to the youth who have greater needs. Juveniles with disabilities are represented in the justice system and collaboration both with their Individual Education Plan (IEP) and the transition plan with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) and its parent network is implemented.

Consultation and participation of units of local government

A series of six focus group meetings were held throughout the state. Notifications were sent to all local jurisdictions in the state. Invitees and participants included Judges, Juvenile Probation Officers, District Attorneys, Law Enforcement, School Administrators, School Counselors, School Resource Officers, parent organizations, youth oriented community-based organizations, and non-profit organizations as well as all ALSAG members.

Collecting and Sharing Juvenile Justice Information

1. Process of Gathering Juvenile Justice Information and Data

Juvenile probation officers are, by the very nature of their job, called upon on a daily basis to perform multi-faceted functions. They are required to not only gather as much information as possible from various public safety agencies, but also to compile that information to use in

numerous decision-making functions and distribute that information in various statistical reports.

Juvenile Probation Intake Treatment Integrated Resource (JUPITIR) is a system specifically designed to meet the multi-faceted job functions required of a juvenile probation officer. JUPITIR integrates available data from such resources as the Model Integrated Defense Application System (MIDAS), the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), the Department of Public Safety (DPS), ALACOURT (AOC's system), SJIS, and Namemaster into a more readily available user-friendly format. Currently, JUPITIR is live in all 67 counties.

JUPITIR is a consolidated application that provides a juvenile probation officer with the tools needed to make good decisions, to be able to operate in a fair, consistent and rational manner, to be able to make good decisions whether at intake, in connection with detention or diversion decisions, or in assessments for purposes of recommending dispositions, supervision or case planning. JUPITIR also may be used by Administrative Support Assistants to the juvenile probation officers.

Pursuant to the *Code of Alabama, 1975*, §12-15-217, for any child enrolled in a school, kindergarten through grade 12 who has been found delinquent of a crime by the juvenile court, information of such must be provided to the superintendent of the school district, or school principal for private schools, within seven days. Any such information received by the Superintendent or Principal and disseminated to, Counselors, Teachers, etc. must be kept in strict confidence by all parties. Intentional violations of confidentiality are a Class A misdemeanor. Also, pursuant to the *Code of Alabama, 1975*, §41-9-622, all state, county, and municipal criminal justice agencies are required to report pertinent identifying and historical criminal data

on juveniles charged with acts of delinquency or adjudicated as youthful offenders. This information is reported to the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC) and is available to the law enforcement community in the state.

Over the last several years, AOC's Court Improvement Program (CIP) staff and DHR staff have collaborated on sharing information by defining specific data elements relative to each case which can be transferred between the two agencies. The interface has been developed and data are currently being exchanged between the systems nightly from Tuesday through Saturday each week. ADECA and SAG are able to work with AOC to obtain and incorporate the data and relevant analysis into the comprehensive Three-Year Plan and annual plan updates.

2. Barriers to Sharing of At-risk Youth Information

Alabama law imposes restrictions on sharing of juvenile information. Pursuant to the *Code of Alabama, 1975*, § 12-15-133(c), only the following listed persons or entities have "automatic" access (that is, without getting a court order for their release) to juvenile legal and social records.

- Juvenile Court Judge;
- Juvenile probation officers and professional staff assigned to serve or contracted for service to the juvenile court (NOTE: Unpaid volunteers/interns appointed to work for the juvenile court are subject to the same confidentiality provisions as are other court officials and employees and shall take an Oath of Confidentiality);
- Representatives of a public or private agency providing supervision or having legal custody of the child;
- Parent (except when parental rights have been terminated), the legal guardian of the child, and the legal custodian of the child;

- The subject of the proceedings and his or her counsel (child’s attorney and criminal defense attorney) and guardian ad litem;
- Judge, adult probation officers, prosecutor (effective July 1, 2014: “In any criminal proceeding, including a criminal proceeding in which a person is adjudicated a youthful offender, as well as any juvenile proceeding pursuant to Section 12-15-105, the prosecutor representing the State of Alabama shall have access to all juvenile legal files specified in subdivision (a)(1) on that person regardless of the jurisdiction from which the files originate”) and other professional staff serving a court processing criminal cases for investigating or considering youthful offender applications;
- Judge, adult probation officers, and other professional staff (including the prosecutor and the criminal defense attorney) serving a court processing criminal cases for completing sentencing standards worksheets and considering the sentence upon a person charged with a criminal offense;
- The Alabama Sentencing Commission;
- Victims (petitions, motions, juvenile court notices, or dispositions);
- State and county children’s services facilitation teams (multi-needs teams) – §§ 12-15-505(e)(3) and 12-15-506(e)(3);
- The principal or representative of the school in which the child is enrolled

Shall file written petition to the juvenile court setting forth the reasons why the safety or welfare, or both, of the school, its students, or personnel, necessitate production of

the information and without which the safety and welfare of the school, its students, and personnel, would be threatened.

Exceptions to Petition Requirement Above:

- (1) § 12-15-217 – reporting ADJUDICATIONS (not CHARGES) and dispositions of Class A & B felonies (required) and other offenses to schools (at the discretion of the juvenile court) to the superintendent of public school district or principal of private school (NOTE: Form JU-31 under Juvenile Forms in the EForms part of the website, www.alacourt.gov , may be used to report these offenses).
- (2) §§ 15-20A-27(b)(1) and (2) – if schools get juvenile sex offender information.

d. Formula Grants Program Staff

An ADECA Organizational Chart is attached. The ADECA staff members listed in Table 2 are responsible for implementing the JJDP Act’s Formula Grant Program. All administrative costs shown below include state match of 100% of federal funds.

Description of duties

The State Juvenile Justice Specialist (Table 2) is responsible for administering the State Advisory Group; liaising with federal OJJDP Program Manager and other entities regarding Juvenile Justice programming; coordinating compliance monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance with DSO, Sight and Sound Separation, and Jail Removal; and coordinating required activities related to disproportionate minority contact. The Juvenile Justice Specialist also provides technical assistance and oversight of sub-grantees.

Table 1. ADECA Staff dedicated to Title II Formula Grant Program

| Name | Title/position of staff member | % of time in Title II Formula Grant Program | Funding source/ percentage of salary paid from Title II Formula Grant Program funds |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| Mr. William M. Babington | ADECA LETS Division Chief | 5% | 0% (Salary paid from Indirect Cost Category) |
| Ms. Aisha Hassan | ADECA LETS Division Human Services Unit Manager | 5% | 0% (Salary paid from Indirect Cost Category) |
| Ms. Karen Clifton | State Juvenile Justice Specialist | 100% | 100% |
| Ms. Carmen Ponder | Clerical/Secretarial | 5% | 0% (Salary paid from Indirect Cost Category) |
| Mr. William T. Waldroff | Fiscal Manager | 5% | 0% (Salary paid from Indirect Cost Category) |
| Mr. Richard Lawler | Accountant | 5% | 0% (Salary paid from Indirect Cost Category) |

4. Plans for Compliance Monitoring

The state’s Compliance Monitoring Plan were through the online Compliance Tool on April 2, 2018 required.

5. Additional Requirements

Appendix I: Compliance with the JJDP Act [42 U.S.C. 5633, section 223(a)] is included as an attachment to this application.

6. Plan for Collecting Data Required for This Solicitation’s Performance Measures

The Division, as the SAA for the FY2018 Formula Grant Program will submit data on performance measures as required by OJJDP through their online Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT). Data will be collected from each sub-grantee utilizing the DCTAT

performance measure grids for each Purpose Area funded. This data will then be reviewed and reported to OJJDP through the DCTAT system. Performance measures will also be reported for Planning and Administration, Compliance Monitoring and Disproportionate Minority Contact.

Additional Attachments

1. SAG Membership Table
2. Budget and Budget Narrative
3. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
4. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
5. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
6. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications
7. Appendix I: Demonstration of compliance with additional requirements of the JJDP Act
8. Agency Contact Information