

## Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Best Practices Nomination Form

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is continually seeking nominations of strategies and programs believed to be effective in keeping status offenders out of jail, regardless of whether the program or strategy directly helps States adhere to the DSO Core Requirement. State agencies and others are invited to submit nominations of such initiatives, regardless of funding source. DSO strategies can include programs that remove status offenders from juvenile and adult facilities.

Programs and strategies are eligible for nomination if they have been in operation for at least 2 years and data documenting their effectiveness is available. Data must show improvement between two (or more) points in time (e.g., before the program and 1 year later).

All nominations received will be reviewed by OJJDP for inclusion in the *DSO Best Practices Database*.

**DSO Strategy/Program Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Person to contact for more information** (provide phone number and email address):

\_\_\_\_\_

***Fill out the following as completely as possible for the nominated program or strategy.***

**1. The strategy/program addresses the following category of status offenses (check all that apply):**

- Runaway
- Truancy
- Ungovernability (e.g., incorrigibility or being beyond the control of one's parents)
- Underage liquor law violation
- Curfew violation
- Minor in possession of tobacco
- Traffic violation (civil in nature)
- Nonoffender (e.g., child abuse and neglect, immigration violation)
- Other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_)

**2. The strategy/program includes the following interventions (check all that apply):**

- Diversion
- Alternatives to secure detention
- Advocacy
- Comprehensive treatment (i.e., family counseling, group therapy, behavior modification)
- Juvenile holdover
- Truancy intervention
- Curfew center
- Legislative reforms
- Jurisdictional reforms
- Parental accountability laws
- Curfew laws with a diversion component
- Alcohol/liquor laws (i.e., zoning to reduce the density of alcohol outlets)
- Administrative, policy, and procedural changes
- Structured decision-making tools
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Provide details of the program intervention or strategy, or attach a description**

(nominated intervention can be single program or multistrategy approach). Be sure to include the following:

- Names of all participating agencies
- Names of counties involved
- Target population
- Specific components/program activities

**4. How long has the program been in operation? \_\_\_\_\_ years**

(Nominated programs/strategies must have been in operation at least 2 years and have evaluation data from at least two points in time.)

**5. Attach an evaluation report or provide evaluation data** (see below for examples of evaluation data and performance measures that should be submitted).

**Evaluation Data**

The five main categories of status offenses and examples of evaluation data that should be submitted follow. When showing a change in data, please indicate the **number and percent** of youth affected by your program or strategy. This should include data from at least **two points in time**.

**Program example** (requires data before the program and after the program): *In 2006, San Jose High School had 18 sophomores with 10 or more unexcused absences at the end of the year. (In San Jose, Calif., a student who has 10 or more unexcused absences is considered truant.) For their junior year, those same students were enrolled in a truancy reduction program and only two had 10 or more unexcused absences at the end of the school year. This shows an 89 percent improvement in the truancy rate.*

**Strategy example** (requires data before the law or other strategy went into effect and after): *In a suburban community, a purchase-attempt study revealed that 25 of 32 alcohol sales outlets (78 percent) sold alcohol to minors and that there was a low level of enforcement of laws prohibiting sales of alcohol to minors. In the year preceding the implementation of reduction*

*strategies, only three citations were issued to violating retailers. A 6-month communitywide alcohol education and enforcement effort was initiated. A 6-month follow-up assessment found that only 17 alcohol sales outlets (53 percent) continued to sell to minors. Enforcement actions increased more than threefold with 10 citations issued in the following 6 months.*

### **Curfew violations**

**Definition:** violation of an ordinance forbidding persons below a certain age from being in public places during set hours.

**Data examples** (change in number and percent, or rate from at least two points in time):

- Youth referred to juvenile court for curfew violations
- Juveniles victimized by crime
- Juveniles admitted to local hospital emergency rooms
- Juvenile crime during curfew hours

### **Incorrigible, ungovernable behavior**

**Definition:** being beyond the control of parents, guardians, or custodians.

**Data examples** (change in number and percent from at least two points in time):

- Youth referred to juvenile court for incorrigibility/ungovernability
- Parents/guardians who report improved parent–child relationships
- Parents/guardians who report improved parent–child communication
- Parents/guardians who report a reduction in behavioral problems

### **Running away**

**Definition:** leaving the custody and home of parents or guardians without permission and failing to return within a reasonable length of time.

**Data examples** (change in number and percent from at least two points in time from at least two points in time):

- Youth referred to juvenile court for running away
- Youth reunified with the parents/guardians
- Parents/guardians who report improved parent–child communication or relationship
- Average length of time between referral and reunification

### **Truancy**

**Definition:** violation of a compulsory school attendance law.

**Data examples** (change in number and percent from at least two points in time):

- Youth referred to court for truancy
- Youth with unexcused absences reported by schools
- Number of unexcused attendances
- Number of ‘days tardy’
- Youth who dropped out from high school
- Youth who were suspended or expelled from school
- Locally reported daytime crime

### **Underage drinking**

**Definition:** possession, use, or consumption of alcohol by a minor.

**Data examples** (change in number and percent from at least two points in time):

- Youths arrested for underage drinking
- Referrals to juvenile court for underage drinking
- Reoffense rates for underage drinking

***In addition*** to providing the above evaluation data, other data that tracks measures for short-term and long-term outcomes should be provided, as applicable. This data may include the following:

***Efficiency measures:*** the inputs or resources used per measure of output, such as

- Cost per youth served

***Output measures:*** the products and services delivered, such as

- Number of youth served in the program
- Average length of stay

***Outcome measures:*** the benefits that youth, the community, and society derive from the program, such as

- Number and percent of youth successfully diverted from formal processing in the juvenile justice system
- Change in the number and percentage of youth who have exhibited a desired change in areas such as reduced substance use, reduced antisocial behavior, improved family relationships, improved social competencies, and improved academic achievement

***Service quality measures:*** the degree to which clients are satisfied, and the accuracy and timeliness of services provided, such as

- Number and percent of youth who report increased knowledge of program area
- Number and percent of staff who report increased knowledge of program area

**Send completed nomination forms and supplemental materials to**

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