

National Girls Initiative (NGI) Innovation Awards
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: ADVANCING THE NEEDS OF GIRLS
Release Date: January 26, 2015
Application Due Date: February 27, 2015

Background

Girls and young women represent a growing share of juvenile arrests, court delinquency petitions, detentions, and post-adjudication placements since 1992, when the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) first instructed states to be “gender-specific” in their treatment and prevention services.¹ For instance, 20% of all juvenile arrests were for girls in 1992, compared with 29% in 2012.² Similarly, 20% of the delinquency court caseload in 1992 involved girls, compared with 28% in 2011.³ In 1992, girls accounted for 15% of delinquency cases detained at some point between referral and disposition compared with 21% in 2011.⁴ Finally, girls accounted for 12% of all adjudicated delinquency cases that received a placement disposition in 1992, as compared with 17% by 2011.⁵

Among girls and young women of color, disparities exist throughout the juvenile justice process. In 2011, Black females were more than twice as likely as their White peers to be referred to juvenile court for a delinquency offense. Similarly, Black females were 20% more likely to be detained at some point between referral and disposition than were their White peers, and 20% more likely to be formally petitioned to court. Among adjudicated cases, Black females were more likely to receive a disposition of probation. Compared to their White peers, American Indian and Native Alaskan girls were 20% more likely to be referred to juvenile court for delinquency, 50% more likely to be detained, 20% more likely to be adjudicated and to receive a disposition of probation, and 50% more likely to be waived to adult court.⁶

Although a critical purpose of the juvenile justice system is to ensure public safety, the vast majority of girls who come in contact with, and are confined within, the juvenile justice system poses no public safety threat. They are typically non-violent, low-risk offenders with significant, complex, and pressing needs. Their presence in the juvenile justice system is often due to criminalization of

¹ Act of Nov. 4, 1992, Pub. L. No. 102-586, 106 Stat. 4982; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5601–5784 (2006); See also, Sherman, F. (2012). Justice for Girls: Are We Making Progress? *U.C.L.A. Law Review*, 59(6), 1584-1628.

² Adapted from Snyder, H. N. & Mulako-Wangota, J. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Arrests of Juveniles for All Offenses. Generated using the Arrest Data Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov. November 18, 2014.

³ Adapted from Sickmund, M., Sladky, A., & Kang, W. (2014). Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: 1985-2011. Retrieved from <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs/>. November 18, 2014.

⁴ Id. December 2, 2014.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Puzzanchera, C. (2014). 2011 RRI Summary for Delinquency Offenses by Race and Gender. Special analysis of *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics* [<http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs/>]. National Center for Juvenile Justice. Pittsburgh, PA. Prepared December 1, 2014.

behaviors that are related to particular types of trauma and violence concentrated among girls and young women in our society. Detention data illustrate this point. In 2011, 35.8% percent of detained girls were detained for status offenses and technical violations of probation as compared to only 21.9% of boys. In addition, 21.6% of girls were detained for simple assault and public order offenses (excluding weapons) as compared with only 13.4% of boys.⁷ For these girls, the juvenile justice system is often a harmful intervention, re-traumatizing them and reducing their opportunities for positive development.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) envisions a nation where all of our children are healthy, educated, and free from violence. Reducing the number of girls in the juvenile justice system is a major priority for OJJDP. If they come into contact with the system, that contact should be rare, fair, and beneficial to them. Unfortunately, for many girls, experiences of violence, racism, poverty, and gender bias unfairly disadvantage them and lead to their involvement in the juvenile justice system. Once in the system, they are too often treated as offenders in need of punishment rather than girls and young women in need of support. Addressing the needs of girls in a developmentally-appropriate manner means recognizing girls' and young women's diverse pathways into and across systems, and limiting their juvenile justice system involvement so only those who pose a threat to public safety enter the juvenile justice system. Then, for these very few girls and young women, it means reducing reliance on secure treatment and increasing gender and culturally responsive, trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate approaches to create healthy environments across the full ecology of their lives.⁸

Goal of OJJDP's National Girls Initiative Innovations Awards

The goal of the **National Girls Initiative (NGI) Innovations Awards** is to address the needs of girls and young women in, or at risk of entering, the juvenile justice system. Funds will be used to support girls' alliances, coalitions, and other collaborative efforts to advance changes in policies and programs designed to meet the unique needs of girls in **one or more of the priority areas identified by OJJDP, as shown on page 3 of this RFA.**

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include any nonprofit tribal, local, regional, or state girls' coalitions, alliances, or collaborative efforts. The term "state" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Coalitions, alliances, or collaborative efforts that are not 501c3 organizations must identify a lead organization as the primary applicant for the Innovation Award. Letters of support from all coalition, alliance member agencies and organizations must be submitted with the application.

⁷ Adapted from Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzzaanchera, C. (2013). Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement. Retrieved from <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>. December 1, 2014.

⁸ See, National Academy of Sciences, Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach; SAMSHA

Application Process and Deadlines

- Interested applicants should send an e-mail notification of intent to apply to OJJDPNGI@air.org by **January 30, 2015**.
- On **February 5, 2015**, NGI will host an optional conference to answer questions about the application process and about the purpose of the NGI Innovation Awards. Call details: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 1-800-503-2899, participant code 3859770#
- **All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 27, 2015.** Applications must be submitted via the Innovation Award website at: <http://ngi-innovationawards.airprojects.org/>
- NGI expects to announce the NGI Innovations Awards the week of **March 16, 2015**.

For questions or assistance with any other requirements of this application, please call Karen Francis, (202) 403-5164 or e-mail OJJDPNGI@air.org.

Funding Priorities

Applicants are invited to advance **one or more** of the priority areas summarized below:

1. **Collaboration with State Juvenile Justice Specialists, State Advisory Groups, local governments, and Tribal Councils.** Proposals to initiate or enhance partnerships with state, local, or tribal agencies to intentionally **address the needs of girls in or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system** are strongly encouraged. These may include efforts to improve State Juvenile Justice Plans or regional, local, or tribal efforts to serve girls. (NOTE: The 1992 Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, Sections 223 (a) (7) (A) and (B) requires states to assess how their juvenile justice programs are serving girls and take steps to implement gender-responsive plans to better serve them.)
2. **Reduction in the arrest and detention of girls.** Reform of the juvenile justice system will not be achieved until there is a reduction or elimination of: the arrest and detention of girls and young women for status offenses, violation of valid court orders, warrants, technical violations of probation, simple assault, family-based offenses, running away, and other offenses such as domestic minor sex trafficking. Community-based efforts that divert girls from the juvenile justice system and/or provide alternatives to detention that effectively address the unique needs of girls are strongly encouraged.
3. **Implementation of gender-specific, culturally-responsive, trauma-informed, strength-based, and developmentally appropriate approaches for the delivery of services to girls in a variety of settings.** Coordinated community responses that address health, well-being, safety, housing, education, family engagement, and healthy relationships are strongly encouraged.

Awards and Requirements

Awards

The NGI Innovation Award term will be 12–18 months. The number of awards made will be based on proposals submitted. Minimum award amounts will be \$25,000 to a maximum award of \$100,000. Awards will be made as NGI sub-grants. Funding is contingent on future funding of the grant from OJJDP to AIR.

Requirements

Award recipients will be required to:

1. Participate in: a Peer-to-Peer Learning Network that will include at least one in-person meeting with other Innovation Award recipients; an NGI staff site visit; monthly conference calls; scheduled webinars; and other opportunities to share resources with other NGI Innovation Award recipients.
2. Submit quarterly reports and a final report summarizing project activities and progress.

Application Requirements

Applications should include the following:

1. **Application Cover.** The application cover should specify the name of the lead agency for the project and contact information, including an address, telephone number, and primary email address. In addition, include the names of the lead staff for the proposed project and their email addresses.
2. **Abstract (500 Word Limit).** Provide a brief description of the proposed project goals and activities.
3. **Statement of the Problem (2 Pages maximum).** Provide a narrative explaining how the needs of girls and young women are not being met in the state or community that would be served by the project. Include whatever current data are available to illustrate the problem or explain why data are not currently available.
4. **Project Description (4 Pages maximum).** Identify which of the above Funding Priorities will be addressed and describe what will be done. Include the goals and objectives of the project and a summary of project activities that will allow you to achieve those goals and objectives. Identify the geographic area to be served; describe the population of girls that will be impacted (age, race/ethnicity, percentage of girls detained for status offenses.). Describe any products to be developed. In addition, address the following questions:
 - How will you ensure that project activities reflect or address the lived experiences of girls and young women who are at risk of entering, or who are in, the juvenile justice system?
 - What is your proven track record for developing policy and practice to improve the lives of girls at risk of or involved with the juvenile justice system?

- How do you - or how will you - engage stakeholders such as state juvenile justice coalitions, public agencies, community-based advocacy organizations, direct service providers, and others critical to the success of your proposed project?
5. **Capabilities and Competencies (2 Pages maximum).** Identify the organizations and individuals responsible for implementing the project. Describe the mission and priorities of the lead agency, its governing structure, membership, and capacity to implement the proposed project. In addition, describe the role of organizations that would serve as project partners and explain why their participation is necessary to achieve the goals of the project. In addition, describe the qualifications and experience of proposed staff and include their resumes as an attachment to your application.
 6. **Accountability (2 Pages maximum).** Provide a brief description of how you will measure work progress and outcomes including, but not limited to, the implementation of planned activities, the completion of short-term objectives, and the overall impact of the proposed project on the intended long-term goals of the project. Include a description of the following:
 - Process Outcomes: Describe how you will track the timely and successful implementation of project activities, participant and key stakeholder satisfaction, changes to the planned activities, relevance and appropriateness of materials, information and presentations for the target audience, etc.
 - Impact Outcomes: Describe how you will measure how well the project's short-term goals and objectives have been achieved (e.g., number of key stakeholder meetings planned and held, implementation of new policies and programs planned and completed, expansion of coalition/alliance membership planned and accomplished, number of staff trainings developed and conducted, etc.).
 - Impact Outcomes: Describe how you will measure your projects impact on the projects' short and long-term goals (e.g., passage or adoption of innovative policies and programs, new partnerships, changes in perceptions and approaches of key decision makers regarding girls and young women in or at risk of becoming involved with juvenile justice, factors contributing or hindering project goals, unintended consequences of the project, etc.).
 7. **Budget for Innovation Award.** Applicants should provide a detail budget that is complete, allowable, and cost-effective in relation to the proposed activities and shows the cost calculations demonstrating how they arrived at the total amount requested, e.g. hourly rate, level of effort, indirect cost, etc. The budget should cover the entire award period.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the OJP Financial Guide at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/index.htm.

The Budget Narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the detail budget. AIR expects proposed budgets to be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

Applicants should demonstrate in their budget narratives how they will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures provided in the detail budget. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated all costs, and how they are

relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the detail budget, the Budget Narrative should be broken down by year.

Budget for Innovation Award: Upon confirmation of intent to apply, a budget detail and budget narrative template will be sent to you for completion and inclusion with your application.

8. **Letters of Support.** Attach letters of support from all coalition, alliance member agencies and organizations and collaborating partners stating their support for the intended project and their expected role(s) and responsibility(s).

Application Formatting

All applications should be within the stated page limitations, single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman), with 1-inch margins. Applications not meeting these formatting requirements will not be considered.

Selection Criteria

NGI, OJJDP staff, and experts from the field will review all submitted applications in the context of the requirements of this RFA and OJJDP priorities. Applications receiving the highest scores will be considered for Innovation Awards. Scores will be determined by how effectively the Application Requirements are addressed and will be scored as follows:

- **Statement of the Problem (20 Points)**
- **Project Description (40 Points)**
- **Capabilities and Competencies (15 Points)**
- **Accountability (10 Points)**
- **Budget (15 Points)**

Sharing of Information

NGI is interested in compiling a publicly-available listing of coalitions and initiatives that are addressing the needs of girls and young women involved with the system. If the applicant is willing for NGI, in its discretion, to make the information in the project abstract publicly available, please indicate such consent in the cover letter you provide with your application. Please note, the applicant's decision whether to grant NGI permission to publicly release this information will not affect NGI's funding decisions. Also, if the application is not funded, granting permission will not guarantee that information will be shared, nor will it guarantee funding from any other source.