

OJJDP Cooperative Agreements with Tow Youth Justice Institute/ University of New Haven



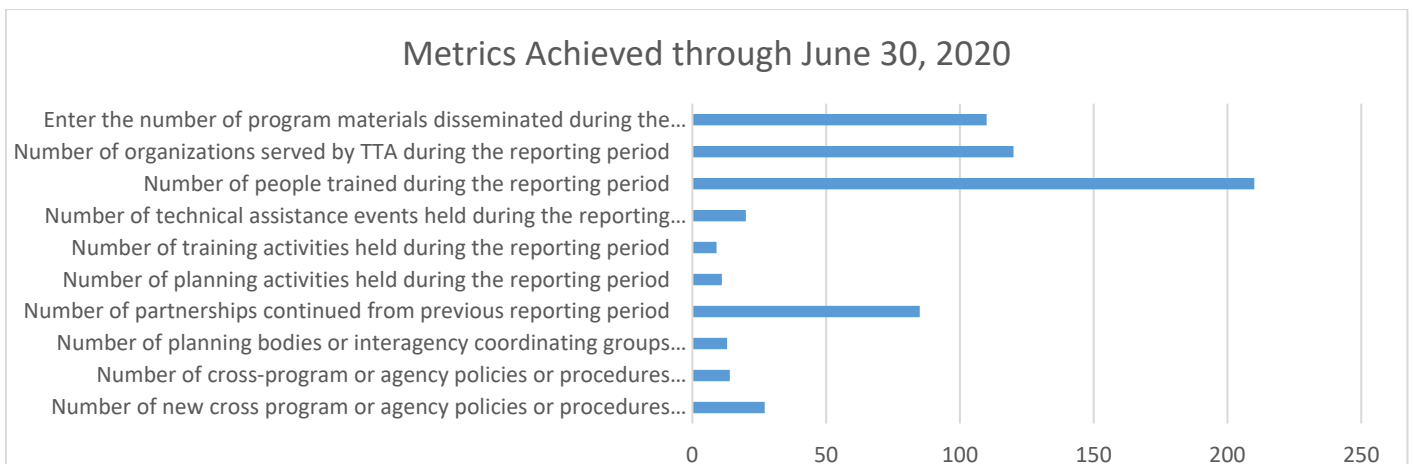
This is a summary of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention OJJDP funds received by the University of New Haven in 2018, and the 2019 OJJDP funds that have been approved. In 2018, the State of Connecticut became a Non-participating State (NPS) in the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDP), although the work of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) mirrors what would be done by a State Advisory Group. The University applied for the funding and focused the work around two of the Title II, Part B Formula Grants core requirements: (1) deinstitutionalization of status offenders and (4) addressing disproportionate minority contact. Grant activities are in the second year. Third year grant activities begin in May, 2021.

2018 - Achieving Positive Youth Outcomes for Safer and Healthier Communities

- Received funds May 2019
- Sub-grantees: Connecticut Youth Services Association and Center for Children’s Advocacy.

Goal #1	Divert Youth from the Juvenile Justice System by Appropriately Serving them in the Community
Objective #1	Build the capacity of Youth Service Bureaus to successfully implement the Community-Based Diversion System
Objective #2	Assess the progress of the implementation of the Community Based Diversion System
Goal #2	Reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Hamden, Norwalk and Waterbury.
Objective #1	Co-chair Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Reduction Committees in Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven
Objective #2	Co-chair the Waterbury RED Reduction Committee
Objective #3	Engage Hamden stakeholders and Norwalk stakeholders
Goal #3	Assess prevention and intervention approaches focused on justice-involved youth in Connecticut
Objective #1	Create a detailed profile of 8-10 cities that offer either a greater array of services to diverted and justice-involved youth in the state of Connecticut and/or that have a high rate of racial and ethnic disparities among the youth served.
Objective #2	Inventory the continuum of services and the approaches to addressing youths’ needs available through the juvenile review boards in the profiled cities.
Objective #3	Examine individual and program characteristics related to outcomes such as recidivism while exploring racial and ethnic disparities
Objective #4	Explore the feasibility of a study to track youth throughout their diversion experiences and into their late teenage years

Some of the metrics achieved include:



The University of New Haven applied in December 2018 for the second round of Non-participating State Title II, Part B Formula Grants (2019). A precursor to the proposed work is the JJPOC RED Workgroup Consensus Statement that the Center for Children’s Law and Policy (CCLP) helped produce in September, 2019. The Consensus Statement outlined the RED workgroup’s priorities moving forward. CCLP was able to provide the needed technical assistance on racial and ethnic disparity reduction efforts with support from OJJDP as the technical assistance provider. CCLP’s goal for this OJJDP project is to “Develop a roadmap for the JJPOC’s RED Workgroup to address and implement strategies that reduce racial and ethnic disparities that still exist in many decision points in the juvenile justice system.”

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has undertaken a significant overhaul of both its “NPS” program and its reporting requirements. Due to the changes, we did not receive notification of the 2019 award until September of 2020. Knowing that the funds would not be received immediately, the Tow Youth Justice Institute initiated a contract with CCLP to begin laying the groundwork with the RED Workgroup until the OJJDP funds are received.

2019 - Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities through Local and Statewide Strategies

- Received notification September 2020
- Sub-grantees – Center for Children’s Law and Policy and Regional Youth Adult Social Action partnership

Goal #1	Comply with 2019 OJJDP Required Deliverables for Non-participating States
Objective #1	Conduct a Nonparticipating States Profile assessment
Objective #2	Develop Nonparticipating State Plan
Objective #3	Monitoring Workplan to aid in evaluating the effectiveness of the program activities as the grantee works to implement its Nonparticipating States Plan
Goal #2	Utilize Restorative Practices (RP) to improve the school climate and resolve conflict in BPS
Objective #1	Conduct Restorative conferences for Tier 3 level issues that arise.
Objective #2	Build the capacity of BPS to implement the full continuum of RP
Objective #3	Support and strengthen existing Restorative practices being implemented at a tier 1/tier 2 level
Goal #3	Develop a roadmap for the JJPOC’s RED Workgroup to address and implement strategies that reduce racial and ethnic disparities that still exist in many decision points in the juvenile justice system.
Objective #1	Ensure the collection, review, and public reporting of race and ethnicity data at each important point of contact in the juvenile justice system.
Objective #2	Ensure that race and ethnicity data and the strategies to address disparities are interpreted and developed in true partnership with communities of color.
Objective #3	Enhance and support opportunities for localized review (community oversight) of school and police practices.
Objective #4	Promote the use of racial justice assessments of policy proposals that impact school discipline and juvenile justice.
Objective #5	Identify opportunities where inequities within the juvenile justice system can be effectively addressed and support local efforts to reduce those disparities.