

SAMHSA Project Application – Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice

A-1

DJJS provides diversion/prevention, supervision, and case management services for youth, 10-21 years of age who are under the jurisdiction of the Eighth Judicial District Court. Clark County has an estimated population of 2,265,461 people based on 2020 U.S. Census data. Clark County is the most populous county in Nevada, accounting for nearly three-quarters of Nevada residents, it encompasses an area of 8,061 square miles. Within Clark County is the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, City of North Las Vegas, City of Henderson, and Boulder City. The Clark County School District is the fifth-largest school district in the United States, with an enrollment of approximately 326,953 students. In 2021, United States Census data shows Clark County was composed of 41% White (not Hispanic or Latino), 31% Hispanic or Latino, 13% Black, 10% Asian, and about 5% other races.

In 2022, the Census Reporter shows there were 854,289 households, of these 54% were not married, 43% of families rented a housing unit, 22% children aged 5-17 spoke Spanish in the home, and 21.3% were foreign born (53% were born in Latin America, 34% were born in Asia, and 7% were born in Europe). In 2021, Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services received 3,378 referrals, 2,283 males (68%) and 1,095 females (32%). Of the 3,378 referred youth, 43% were Black, 29% were Hispanic, 19% were white, 2% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 6% were other. An Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) (2019) snapshot of arrests shows that nationally, juvenile arrests are at 69% male and 31% female.

In the State of Nevada there are a limited number of resources for youth involved in the juvenile justice system and there are even less resources allocated for girls. Clark County Juvenile Detention has 196 rooms of those 168 are for designated for boys and 24 for girls. Spring Mountain Youth Camp is a 100 bed all male juvenile facility operated by DJJS.

Majority of facilities in the State of Nevada have limited space, no space, or do not offer services for girls. This is compounded when considering mental health needs, trauma, sexual exploitation and violence faced by girls in Clark County. DJJS opened a twelve-bed girl's residential center to help alleviate the demand, however more resources are needed. The number of available beds for girls at the State level has decreased in Southern Nevada (most populated sector in the State) and this has created an increase of girls sent to the Nevada Youth Training Center, approximately 418 miles from Las Vegas. This does not help with family engagement initiatives.

Anderson et al. (2019) explains female involvement and arrests in the United States have increased significantly since the 1990s. They indicate that some of these increases are due to system level policies and practices and through upcoming girls' offenses. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (1992) mandated states to include gender-responsive services. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) re-stated these requirements in 1998 and focused on the need for physical and mental health services, education, and treatment for trauma/abuse. Anderson et al. (2019) explain how much of the literature regarding girl delinquency has focused on "girls unique risk factors to entry in the juvenile justice system, girls' disparate treatment within the juvenile justice system, policies and practices that differentially affect girls in a negative way, and inadequate evaluation of programming for girls" (p. 1). Anderson et al. (2019) explains how most girl interventions target one specific issue and do not address interconnected factors. Chesney-Lind et al. (2008) call for comprehensive and adaptable programming targeting girls by concentrating on safety needs, types of abuse, adolescent development, relationships with older men, exploitation and prostitution, economic needs and substance abuse treatment. Anderson et al. (2019) also calls for the need of use criminogenic risk assessments for program evaluation and the need of gender responsive intervention for juvenile justice involved girls.

This proposal requests funds for the establishment of a staffed home for traumatized girls at risk of sexual exploitation in Clark County, Nevada. This home will provide a safe and consistent living

environment for girls who have experienced trauma as well as difficulty finding appropriate placement and treatment resources.

Alternative living services are provided to eligible youth exhibiting maladaptive patterns of behavior, leading to clinically significant impairment or distress that cannot be treated in other less restrictive treatment settings. Girls requiring alternative living services include girls between the ages of 12 and 18, may be already in the community under supervision of an assigned Probation Officer, they may be in the process of completing a court ordered placement, treatment program or correctional component of a Court Order, or may be awaiting adjudication by the Juvenile Court.

The prevalence of conduct disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and intellectual or cognitive disabilities is disproportionately high for the population served by DJJS. Girls are at greater risk of being involved in governmental systems for long periods of time and therefore at greater risk for unstable placements and poor overall educational, social, and health outcomes. Girls possess a variety of risk levels for community placement, and some may require intensive support and supervision to safely engage and to benefit from the DJJS Home for Traumatized Girls.

The DJJS Home for Traumatized Girls seeks to successfully transition girls to permanent placement by providing cognitive, behavioral, social, and vocational skills. Girls in the program will be provided with an array of services that focus on mental health including trauma, educational achievement, and family engagement. Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJS) plans to contract a specialized provider that can meet a requirement list outlined below, to include staff background checks and requirement such as staff being trained on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003.

The DJJS Home for Traumatized Girls will provide:

1. Professional supervision of all youth always, twenty-four (24) hours per day.
2. Well-defined treatment program and milieu that includes, but is not limited to, treatment philosophy, assessment, daily routine, individual and group therapeutic activities, skills teaching, structure, guidance, motivational system and behavioral programming.
3. Individual, group, and family therapy.
4. Evidence-based therapeutic modalities that include, but not limited to trauma informed therapy, Cognitive Behavior Therapy and Dialectical Behavior Therapy.
5. Substance Abuse Treatment if diagnosed with a substance related disorder
6. Boundaries and Healthy Relationship Programs.
7. Therapy Dog Training Program.
8. Behavior modification system that is point based and includes incentives and rewards.
9. Sex education that provides classes including, but not limited to birth control, STD's, safe sex and sexuality.
10. Psychiatric care to include assessment, medication evaluation and medication management.
11. Independent living classes and programs for youth. The program should include basic life skill's training, mentoring, job development, budget classes, community resources and a transition plan.
12. Ensure youth participation in social, recreational, educational and community activities with regular staff monitoring of all off-site activities.
13. Services to address educational needs, job training and placement as well as college readiness classes.
14. For each youth's physical space, clothing and nutritional needs on a continuous and consistent basis.
15. Evaluate the youth's needs and develop a therapeutic treatment plan with measurable goals and discharge plan, subject to the approval of DJJS.
16. Ensure youth receives appropriate medical and mental health services as provided by a qualified professional.

17. Participate in the reunification plan including parent training, developing parental support network, and home visit consultation pursuant to the case plan.
18. Plan, organize and conduct regular therapeutic community problem solving sessions.
19. Maintain necessary contact with schools at a frequency to prevent, monitor and correct school-related problems.
20. Provide intensive clinical support, twenty-four (24)-hour on call crisis intervention, safety planning, therapeutic and trauma focused case management services, technical assistance to and supervision of all direct care staff.

A-2

Clark County has high amounts of sexual exploitation, the State of Nevada is ranked 48th (pre-k to 12th grade) when compared to other states in the United States public education system, and there is an increasing need of mental health services for girls. The Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) has continuously served youth with behavioral and mental health needs. Mental health disorders are prevalent among youth in the juvenile justice system (OJJDP, 2017). DJJS has seen an increase in the number of youths with higher-level mental health needs being referred to DJJS because of a lack of placement resources and services in Southern Nevada.

The majority of difficult to place youth are African American or Latina, female, between the ages of 14 and 18, have experienced trauma, and are typically known to other systems (i.e., child welfare, psychiatric hospitals, etc.). In most cases, youth are referred to DJJS after being negatively discharged from various care facilities such as shelters, group homes and residential treatment centers. These discharges are typically the result of aggressive behaviors resulting from unmet mental health needs. Due to this, some girls are inappropriately landing in Juvenile Detention.

DJJS works diligently to limit access to Juvenile Detention, refine criteria for detainment, and establish processes for youth admitted to Detention. Without these processes, youth with mental and behavioral health needs are placed in restrictive detention settings that often exacerbate issues for youth with heightened mental health needs who often require one-to-one supervision.

Unfortunately, Detention becomes the default placement for youth with mental health challenges when no other out-of-home placement options can be identified. While Juvenile Detention is equipped to secure youth, Detention is not the appropriate facility to serve traumatized youth with higher-level mental health needs. Therefore, having an option to Juvenile Detention is vital for traumatized girls to obtain needed mental health services and assistance without needing to be in a secure facility.

The Home for Traumatized Girls program will help our community by serving as an alternative to detainment in congregate settings and ensuring girls in Clark County are appropriately served in the least-restrictive setting. Furthermore, the program will provide stability, structure, safety, empowerment, and personal growth for youth using an evidence-based treatment curriculum.

B-1

The following are goals for the Home for Traumatized Girls.

Goal 1

Improved overall Youth Level of Service Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) or Intake Pre-Screen Tool (IPT) scores at six months post-release from the girls home by 55%.

Goal 2

Decrease recidivism rates of involved girls by 55% at six months post release from the Home for Traumatized Girls.

Goal 3

Decrease the number of girls in Juvenile Detention by providing community-based housing resources designed to meet their mental health needs.

Goal 4

Connect girls with documented mental health to mental health providers by 100%.

B-2

If approved, this proposal will have the capacity to serve 12 girls every day, 365 days a year.

B-3

See attachment three (3) for a one-year project timeline.

C-1

Clark County DJJS opened a similar home for girls called Pivot Point in December of 2022, thus DJJS has the infrastructure, staff, and procedures in place to oversee both the existing girls home and the proposed girls home. Clark County DJJS contracts with a vendor for the daily oversight and coordination of services for girls in the existing home.

C-2

DJJS, is a public service agency whose mission is to promote the safety and restoration of the community; hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior; and assist offenders and families in recognizing their potential by providing meaningful treatment, services, and programs. There are seven (7) divisions within DJJS:

1. Probation Services - Provides intake and diversionary services to youth referred to DJJS for acts of delinquency. For adjudicated youth, the division provides supervision and treatment services. Services are provided on the DJJS campus and within neighborhood community centers.
2. Detention Services - The Juvenile Detention Center is a 192-bed facility located at the DJJS campus. The facility temporarily houses male and female youth with pending court hearings or correctional placements.
3. Spring Mountain Youth Camp - Spring Mountain Youth Camp is a staff-secure 100-bed juvenile institution located in Mt. Charleston. It houses male youth between the ages of 12 and 18 who have been adjudicated for delinquent acts.
4. Healthcare Services - Provides a full spectrum of assessment and treatment services to youth involved with DJJS and their families. Evaluations, counseling, and other treatment services are offered in institutions, at home, and through office visits.
5. Truancy Prevention Outreach Program (TPOP) – Provides resources to engage/reengage youth and families, develop a resource map of existing services, and collaborate with Clark County School District personnel. TPOP provides interventions within a case management model, where families, program staff, and school personnel work with students to address the root causes of their absences.
6. The Harbor - The Harbor is a Juvenile Assessment Center that houses several community providers under one roof. They provide assessments and services to youth and families to address their immediate and ongoing needs.
7. Central Support – Is composed of Juvenile Records Unit, Finance Unit, Supply, Culinary, and an eligibility specialist. The Central Support Division supports the Department and its mission.

DJJS has a successful history of identifying service gaps, developing new innovative programs, and effectively implementing them. The current successes of DJJS include: 1). The Harbor Juvenile Assessment Center was launched in October 2016 and has since served over 16,000 youth and families at four locations, with less than 6% of youth being escalated deeper into the juvenile justice system, 2). The Evening Reporting Center (ERC) was awarded the 2016 National Association of Counties (NACO) Achievement Award, 3). The Truancy Prevention Outreach Program (TPOP) is a partnership with the Clark County School District (CCSD) designed to address chronic absenteeism for school-aged youth. The program launched in September 2020 and has received over 4,568 referrals to work with youth and families at 27 pilot schools with various needs such as computers and internet access, food/housing, tutoring, transportation, and referrals for counseling services.

Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services is funded by Clark County, Nevada. Clark County employs more than 10,000 employees in 38 departments. Clark County is known for its strong ending-fund balance, overall financial strength, and investment-quality credit rating. Clark County and DJJS follow federal requirements regarding the separation of duties, and existing procedures are in place to ensure appropriate tracking of expenses for all divisions at DJJS. Specifically, each DJJS division is responsible for tracking its expenses and managing its accounts payable and receivable activities (A/P). In addition, DJJS has a central fiscal office that is separated from the other divisions and is responsible for central oversight of all fiscal activities for the whole department.

Furthermore, Clark County has a central Finance department that oversees fiscal operations for each county department. The DJJS Senior Management Analyst assigned to the Central Support unit will be responsible for tracking the expenses for this project. She will use the county's standard A/P system as the tracking tool to manage this task.

Annual revenue for DJJS secured from the Clark County general fund through 6/30/23 totaled \$56,631,182. DJJS leverages funding from numerous resources to sustain its programs. Federal, state, and local government dollars provide the foundation for the agency, augmented by grant funds from both public and private sources. DJJS is the local public agency whose role is to provide juvenile justice services.

The Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services will assign a dedicated Juvenile Probation Officer and a Juvenile Probation Supervisor to manage the DJJS Home for Traumatized Girls caseload. The Juvenile Probation Supervisor and Juvenile Probation Officer will make sure girls receive identified mental health, educational, and identified resources, follow up with families and caregivers, facilitate communication and information to various entities such as the Juvenile Court. The main personnel involved in the Home for Traumatized girls are:

1. Home for Traumatized Girls Vendor

Level of Effort – 24/7 oversight of girls home. Ensure proper housing, nutrition, education, safety, family access, mental health follow up, and recreation is in place.

Qualifications – Proven record of working with girls involved in the juvenile justice system. All required licenses need to be in place, background checked, and focus on confidentiality.

2. Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services Juvenile Probation Officer

Level of Effort - The Juvenile Probation Officer will oversee all aspects of case management for girls involved with the program. They will handle all court hearings, ensure all documentation is complete, and make connections with community agencies and families.

Qualifications – Experience working with girls involved with the juvenile justice system, experience with case management in DJJS, and a passion for working with girls.

3. Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services Juvenile Probation Supervisor

Level of Effort - The Juvenile Probation Supervisor will oversee the work of the Juvenile Probation Officer and will communicate issues to DJJS management, and the program director as needed. The Supervisor will also ensure data is being analyzed and collected and information is provided to grantor and stakeholders.

Qualifications – Extensive experience working with and handling various cases in the juvenile justice system, especially cases involving girls. Experience leading a team, overseeing data and being accountable for information. Experience working with diverse teams and communicating interests. Passion to working with girls involved in the juvenile justice system.