

The Federal Partnership Project

Background: Over the last decade, funders, including federal agencies, have put an increased focus on fiscal and technical assistance to support comprehensive community initiatives¹ (CCIs) designed to improve the well being of children, youth, family and community.

In response, there has been a corresponding increase in the number of state and local partnerships and collaborations addressing children, youth, family and community issues. This is partly pragmatic and partly the result of funder encouragement. Mirroring, state and local partnerships, federal agencies have entered into cross-agency agreements. Underlying such joint efforts is the hypothesis that coordinated federal action results in better service and stretches scarce resources.

Nonetheless, federal agencies do not *for the most part* routinely collaborate or jointly plan program assistance or policy work. Federal agencies have not yet developed the habit of partnering nor the requisite skills and knowledge to regularly and successfully establish cross-agency partnerships nor have they embedded collaboration practices within their bureaucratic structures. The knowledge, processes, structures and relationships needed to ensure regular, effective coordination and joint planning must still be strengthened.

Purpose: This project will undertake three sets of activities to (1) increase knowledge about CCIs and federal collaboration and (2) enhance the federal practice of coordinated assistance with the aim of enhancing the ability of states and local jurisdictions to best access and use resources to improve children, youth and family well being:

A. Comprehensive Communities Initiative and Technical Assistance Inventory

Develop an inventory of selected CCIs and associated technical assistance (TA) that documents effects on local systems and on youth and families and that is of value to state and federal policymakers and practitioners, as well as funders of CCIs.

The main purposes for undertaking this inventory are:

- To identify effective CCIs and determine what TA is most useful at what stages;
- To guide future federal implementation and support of CCIs and TA; and
- To guide development of performance measures and evaluation designs for CCIs.

Products:

1. Inventory of CCIs and TA. This is to be developed in the form of a searchable database like OJJDP's Model Programs Guide.
2. Guidebook/tool kit of best practices for federal assistance to CCIs. This resource will be a set of web-based resources for federal program and policy staff as well as leadership.

¹ CCIs are multi-strategy, multi-system initiatives that work to achieve outcomes through systems change and services coordination efforts.

B. Federal Collaboration Project

Establish² practice guidelines for the purpose of professionalizing the practice of federal collaboration. This comprises principles, practices, measures and protocols for coordinated federal assistance in support of state and local youth development and delinquency prevention efforts. Guidelines will be developed through an examination of relevant successful and less successful cross agency and joint federal initiatives, past and current, and by identifying core elements of effective federal collaboration practice.

Product:

1. Collaboration practice guidebook/tool kit. This set of web-based resources is to encompass core, guiding principles and best practices for federal coordination and collaboration practice – what works and what does not work. It will also delineate models of coordination practice, replicable models for effective federal collaboration in support of state and local youth development efforts.

C. Delinquency Development Statements (DDS)

Update “delinquency development statements” for key federal agencies. Prior to its most recent reauthorization, the JJDP Act required every federal agency that administers a juvenile justice program to submit a DDS annually to the Coordinating Council and to the Administrator of OJJDP. Delinquency development statements described the extent to which reporting federal agencies conform with and further federal juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment goals and policies, and related activities and programs. Refer to: *Federal Efforts to Prevent and Reduce Juvenile Delinquency: FY 1995 Delinquency Development Statements* (<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/pubs/statement/jdds.htm>) and Fact Sheet (www.ncjrs.gov/txtfiles/fs-9524.txt). This information is invaluable to joint planning.

Product

1. Web-based report on current federal activities related to delinquency prevention. This updatable report will compile information from key federal agencies to include:
 1. *Agency Mission and Goals* related to delinquency prevention/treatment issues.
 2. *Activities and Priorities Relating to Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention* describes how each agency meets its goals or mandates and carries out its.
 3. *Collaborative Efforts* provides a closer look at how federal agencies are working together to address juvenile delinquency.
 4. *Future Directions* presents what is know about each agency's planned policies or priorities.
 5. *FY 2005 – 2007 Funds* offers a brief summary of federal funds spent on juvenile-related matters.
 6. *Budget and Solicitation Development Time Line and Process* describes agency-specific planning requirements, constraints and flexibilities.
 7. Where applicable, *Legislative Citations* that identify specific federal statutes and laws that further describe or clarify the role, mission, or goals of each agency.

² Once practice guidelines have been developed and disseminated, a key and challenging task remains -- embedding the practice within agencies across the federal government.