

COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES

PLAN UPDATE

JANUARY 2026 – DECEMBER 2026

GUIDELINES



*NEW JERSEY
YOUTH JUSTICE COMMISSION*

Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General Chair, YJC
Executive Board

Jennifer LeBaron, Ph.D., Executive Director

*Comprehensive County Youth Services Plan Update
January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026*

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I. INTRODUCTION

This plan update provides each of the 21 New Jersey counties with a coordinated process to plan for State/Community Partnership Grant Program Funds and Family Court Services Program Funds.

The Plan Update must be received at the Youth Justice Commission on or before **October 10, 2025, at 3:00 pm**. Electronic submission of the Plan Update must include a cover letter from the Co-Chairs, on behalf of the County Youth Services Commission, indicating that all sections of this Plan Update have been reviewed, discussed, and approved. The letter must include the date the Plan Update was approved via a vote by the County Youth Services Commission.

Applications should be submitted electronically to:

jjcyscgrants@jjc.nj.gov

II. Planning Process

Gloucester County

Instructions:

For this Plan Update, each County Youth Services Commission (YSC) should describe its process for identifying the needs of youth in its respective county. The answers to each of the following questions should describe the YSC's planning process and activities since the completion of their Comprehensive Plan. Please complete the questions below. Comment sections have been added to allow for additional narrative.

- Briefly describe your county's planning process for determining funding decisions for the upcoming year.
In a plan update year, our Executive/Steering /Planning Committee will review current program data to ensure that the current agenda is addressing the needs of the youth and families they are in place to serve. Sometimes, minor adjustments may be identified so programming is able to more effectively accomplish the outlined goals while addressing newly formed gaps. This could be adding or subtracting funding, opening up services to different parts of the continuum, etc. Any news article or data that would possibly effect services is sent out to Executive members for their review. We also look for new opportunities, if funding is available, to address new challenges that may have developed over the past year of service and/or current programming that may need additional support. The Executive Committee has the initial discussion, which then will leads to a future discussion for the YSC voting members. The Executive Committee recommendations are usually sent out prior to a vote, giving the voting members a chance to review what is being requested and to provide feedback or to gain clarification. Once the matter is decided by the plenary YSC, it is brought before the Board of Chosen Commissions, then documentation is then sent to the NJ YJC for final approval before contracting.
- Provide an update on how the county's planning process continues to include participation by and input from youth, families, and the community.
As it is a challenge to bring together YSC members and youth/families in the plenary meetings, we get creative with our engagement planning. We rely on site visits/monitoring sessions as we are able to interview youth and families that participate in our programs as well as community events to engage. We also look to table events with resources, which gives us the opportunity to speak with the public about the local area and some of the challenges faced from their perspective. These opportunities, while not in excess, do allow us to communicate with the youth and families within Gloucester County to gauge what needs to be addressed from a community perspective and also what is currently working.
- Using your responses from the Analysis Questions in your 2024-2026 Comprehensive Plan, provide an update for each recommendation section.

Select continuum point	Restate the problem or county trend identified to be addressed in your 2024-2026 Plan and how it was to be addressed	Provide an update on how the county has addressed the problem or county trend	Application Program Profile #	If applicable, describe any change to the problem or county trend and the data used to support the change.
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Prevention	According to 2022 NJ DOE data, Woodbury Junior / Senior High School overall chronic absenteeism is about 8% higher than the state average with Black students chronic absenteeism almost doubling the state average at 31% of 222 students who fit the category. This data also suggests that there has been 79 suspensions. For a district serving 817 students, this causes over 380 out of school days for youth who attend. Lastly, the graduation rate was 83.5% and 75% for those of Hispanic descent. Absenteeism / Truancy and suspension can cause youth to disengage and could be a precursor for dropping out. Woodbury remains in our top three as court sending districts. According to elementary school data from 2022, Glassboro School District grades 1-4 showed 84 students were registered as chronically absent. 51 were economically disadvantaged and 39 were Black / African American. The schools' total enrollment is 384, therefore just over 20% of students are in this category. During the pandemic, several students from this district were not able to keep pace and returned to	The County is working with each school district to provide additional support for youth that will look to act as an intervention. The YSC supports afterschool programming in Glassboro, Paulsboro, Woodbury for elementary and middle school and high school students. These programs provide students an opportunity to reengage in school and take advantage of social emotional supports in a smaller group setting. Programming also provides academic supports, additional supervision in the afternoon hours, and a chance to network and build friendships with peers. The YSC, this year, is looking to expand service to new school districts who have concerns regarding students that they feel are at risk of potentially entering the justice system because of school avoidance/disengagement.	2,3,4,13,14	Opportunities have come into play to work with Clayton HS and the Monroe TWP school district. These 2 areas rank in the top 5 of areas that send referrals to our FC, with Monroe ranking first.
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	school classrooms in 2022-2023 in need of additional academic and social emotional support. This was especially true in the middle school and high school grade levels. Glassboro High School also reported a decline in their graduation rate for 2022-2023. 344 out of school suspension days were reports. Econically challenged minority youth made up the strongest majority. 2022 NJ DOE data shows Paulsboro Junior / Senior Highs have a graduation rate of 79.5 %. jThis is almost 10% lower then the state average. Data also shows 445 students are chronically absent. 336 of these students were either Hispanic or of African American heritage. 2022 data suggests that 234 suspension days occurred bsd on the 87 suspension within the Junior / Senior High School. Paulsboro remains in our top three as a court referring municipality. Clayton High School did not meet the state expectations for chronic absenteeism for African American, and Hispanic economically disadvantaged youth as well as students with disabilities.		
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	Deptford TWP is a school district that the YSC has had conversations about general concerns with roughly 25-30 of their students, not attending school consistently or on homebound instruction. The goal for the district is to bring these students back into traditional day school; however, there are some concerns about returning these students without additional support being in place.			
Prevention As three of our court referral target areas, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Gloucester County and PTAH of Woodbury offer all day Monday-Friday summer programming and a school time safe space for youth aged 5-17 within both Glassboro and Paulsboro. All three of these locations are within walking distance for several low to moderate income families in these areas. Annually, there is an enrolment of roughly 80 youth who participate during the summer months and 60 children that engage during school time in the safe space programming as they provide recreation, education, and social emotional support. This also assists parents that may have a need for youth supervision during their work hours. This eliminates risk factors	The YSC continues to look to saturate the areas that have larger numbers of court referrals with prevention services. This should help steer youth to pro-social positive activities both after school and during the summer. These programs address this need as they provide supervision and positive pro-social programming for youth in Glassboro, Woodbury, Paulsboro and surround areas. This reduces the risk of justice involvement for those who chose to participate.	1 5 6	There is an increase in the amount of youth that attend programming, which suggests an increase in funding would be appropriate.	

	that come without supervision. During discussions with the agencies, it was discovered that a financial roadblock for kept many parents from taking advantage of programming.			
Prevention	When an adolescent is struggling with mental health issues, their ability to function daily is impacted. This includes their life skills. Life skills are necessary for an adolescent or adult to function on a daily basis. Many mental health conditions impact an adolescent's ability to communicate and form healthy relationships. When an adolescent is struggling with their mental health, they are more likely to struggle with self-care skills. Being able to manage new situations, environments, and problems is important. The life skills of coping and adjusting are vital to this ability. When an adolescent learns the skills necessary to cope with stress and challenges, they are more likely to push themselves and get past the challenges to find solutions.	The local Family Support Organization supports programming / groups for both youth and families that addresses challenges in raising school-age children with both mental health and delinquency challenges. Support groups run weekly and provide professional staff to work with parents in a group format. YSC funding continues to support the youth group with activities such as leadership skills, elf advocacy and life skills. They bring in great presenters as well as outings and other activities during these weekly sessions.	7	No change, the need still exists.
Diversion	The law enforcement community and Family Court continue to need diversion options for first time offenders as well as youth placed on deferred disposition. Both of these options allow youth to complete a	The county will offer diversion options for both police and Family Court to refer the youth to advocacy and assistance for the clients and their families to accomplish set expectations to dismiss justice charges. Both program options play a	8, 9, 16	No change as the need still exists.

	number of specialized task taragets to move the youth towards a more positive social activity. This is aimed to get the initial charge dismissed in due time upon successful completion of the treatment plan. This not only gives youth an opportunity for them to avoid formal court, but also provides the clients a change for dismissal and if appropriate, expungement. The YSC still continues to support our local FCIU as a mandated service that works with our vicnage to offer crisis intervention and mobile response to youth and families in need.	part to ensure youth do not have long-term consequences for their non-violent minimal court or law enforcement activity.	
Detention	A need for Electronic Monitoring and Home Detention programming and case management for youth ordered to these detention alternative.	The YSC has agreed to support programming that will track youths both on JHED and Home Detention and provide tracking information to the courts and the Juvenile Detention Unit.	No change as the need still exists.
Disposition	School issues can be over-whelming challenges to youth and families that are dealing with a juvenile justice matter. Whether it is tension between the family and a lack of motivation to return to school because of disengagement or the school not authorizing return to the classroom, we have seen many youths and families need extra support with schooling or alternative schooling measure.	The YSC continues to support an employment and education program that will encourage and advocate for youth and families in need of support for educational success. Programming will also work with additional resources in efforts to provide effective service.	No change as the need still exists.

	These clients also need assistance with employment for youths looking to earn money to help support their family or themselves. Juveniles not only have to be shown how to prepare for employment, but be supported for some time while working. Over 50% of youth coming through the system have this additional need and are struggling with either getting back in to school or finding employment.			
Disposition	Frequently, the need for specialized evaluations for youth charged with a sex offense exceed the contracted level of service. This caused the YSC to restructure the contract to make room for more service slots. The YSC is working to ensure youth in need of this support have available slots as soon as the need is identified and present.	The 2023 need for evaluations exceeded the contracted level of service, causing us to readjust the contract. The YSC views this as a vital service for the youth and the safety of the community. It is a priority even if all counseling services are not utilized.	12	No change as the need still exists.
Prevention	There is a continued need for additional prevention programming in some of our target areas. To ensure we are covering all of the bases and allow youth who are at risk of justice involvement the opportunity to find and participate in pro-social positive programming and not instead be justice system involved. Additional funding will support existing organizations by either supporting or expanding services within the county. Because there	The YSC will work to continue to saturate our target areas with effective evidence-based positive prevention program options to ensure youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement have pro-social activity options both afterschool and during the summer.	14,17	There is a continued need for additional prevention programming our target areas as court referrals still continue to come in to Family Court from these areas.

	are agencies that already exist doing excellent work in the county, we will identify them and collaborate with them so that more youth can benefit from the services rather than re-inventing the wheel or competing.			
Prevention	The issues is access to service and/or awareness. Our primary goal to sponsor three community day/resource fairs where local organizations, agencies, and businesses offer valuable services, information, and support to community members in a festive, family-friendly atmosphere. It will features booths from various groups providing resources such as healthcare, social and justice services, and takeaways for youth with in the community. These events should also provide fun activities for both youth and families and opportunities for residents to connect with each other and build social well-being.	New Opportunity/Access, Awareness to Resources	15	There is a need for certain target areas within the County. These areas are in small pockets of the County and we are looking to bring community/resource fairs.

4. What additional information was helpful to the YSC in completing this Plan Update?

The Gloucester County Youth Services Commission relies heavily on our discussions as stakeholders that will often identify and regard new issues / concerns that need to be addressed within the county. Additional information could come from these discussions, new/events that happen within the county during the service year that need attention, as well as the need to support an already existing program that may need support to be fully effective. We consistently review arrest, detention and school data points as a start to new ideas in services appropriate to our area. Department of Education and Juvenile Detention Unit data also guide use our planning. The number of referrals that are received by the court from special areas is also a driving force for both court and prevention programming.

5. Describe efforts made by the YSC to seek additional funding to supplement the funding received through the YJC. Complete the below chart to show what funding the YSC has reviewed as a potential funding opportunity. (An example is provided in the first row).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Grantor and Name</i>	<i>Eligible</i>	<i>Applied</i>	<i>Approved or Denied</i>	<i>Comments</i>
6/1/2023	OVC FY 2023 <i>Enhancing Community Responses to the Opioid Crisis: Serving Our Youngest Crime Victims</i>	Yes	No	n/a	<i>The county did not apply but forwarded it to YSC membership</i>
1/1/25	County of Gloucester	☒	☒	Approved	The Gloucester County Board of Chosen Commissions provides additional juvenile justice programmin funding to support the community and our family court as well as shelter beds for family crisis intervention and emergency placement. This funding has been in place over the past eleven years to support the YSC, FC, and DCCPP in their youth-servicing endeavors when grant funding is limited.
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6. As a JDAI site, list topics and discussion points that were shared between the Youth Services Commission and the County Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement and any activities that helped to facilitate the completion of this Comprehensive Plan.

The CJSSI provides necessary juvenile justice data points and also a more in-depth look inside court functioning and challenges that may be causing a backlog and other delays with regard to getting to a case resolution. The CJSSI also pinpoints one or two specific challenges to address them through Innovation's funding to assist the courts and reduce measures such a length of stay, violation of probation, and disproportional contact.

7. How does the CYSC stay informed of best practices or evidence-based programming for serving young people and families?

Does the CYSC mandate that funded programs implement best practice and or evidence-based programming? Please describe CYSC efforts to ensure funded programs follow best practices or evidence-based programming, if applicable.

The YSC relies on agencies to apply best practices programming while servicing youth and families. We continue to review data points and other available methods both locally and nationally to see what interventions are working best for our juvenile justice youth and youth at risk of justice involvement as well. We attend local and regional trainings regarding new methods of treatment in person and online Zoom /Teams type guidance seminars.

We try to be innovative and create programming that match our specific needs in the county. Sometimes we may have a unique component due to factors such as our location, population, demographics and resources available to us that could at times cause us to “get creative” in addressing the needs of our youth. Even in these cases, treatment modules may mimic best practice models in place with a slight twist to address our specific targeted needs.