

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning  
Iowa Department of Human Rights  
Web Address: <http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/cjpp/index.html>

CCJP consists of three components. Each is described below:

**Justice System Research:** CJJP has responsibility for a wide variety of research functions, including the operation of the Justice Data Warehouse and the provision of correctional impact statements on proposed legislation. Sex staff are employed in the “Statistical Analysis Center,” or SAC, providing a wide variety of justice system data and completing basic justice system analysis, evaluation, and research. This staff also supports the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council, the Public Safety Advisory Board, and the Sex Offender Research Council. The SAC has also produced over 100 correctional impact statements on proposed legislation per year, although that number will fall considerably this year due to the loss of one staff.

A variety of corrections-related research is conducted by the SAC, including the annual Prison Population Forecast. A recidivism study of residential treatment facilities is also underway. Recently submitted reports include the annual monitoring reports of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council, the Public Safety Advisory Board, and the Sex Offender Research Council. Topics addressed in the PSAB report include:

- Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Drug Offenders
- Disparity in Sentences for Crack and Cocaine
- Domestic Abuse protective orders.

**Juvenile Justice:** CJJP is the conduit for federal juvenile justice funds to the State. Juvenile justice activities include five program staff. Primary activities include staffing the federally-required Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, allocating federal juvenile justice funds to the eight Judicial Districts, fulfilling compliance activities to ensure that Iowa abides by federal requirements pertaining to juvenile detention, and providing staff support to the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) and the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC). Nearly all juvenile justice funds received from the federal government are passed through to local jurisdictions. An upcoming significant reduction in federal juvenile justice funding is necessitating a reassessment of CJJP’s juvenile justice activities.

A major focus during the past four years has been the provision of assistance to local jurisdictions in reducing juvenile detention populations, particularly as regards minority over-representation. As part of that effort CJJP has have recently initiated a study examining how kids get from school into the court system, as a disproportionate percentage of those entering the juvenile justice system are referred from the schools. This has recently become a national issue, and Iowa has a head start.

CJJP has also been the conduit for federal funds from the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) program. Iowa recently received national recognition for its comprehensive approach in using these funds due to a new effort to develop statewide collaboration between the Iowa State

Patrol and local jurisdictions. EUDL funds are being discontinued in FFY12, however, so federally-funded efforts to control underage drinking will cease next September.

The Legislature in 2011 tasked CJJP with establishing a group to examine moving the responsibility for state detention reimbursement from DHS to CJJP. This is not an uncontroversial issue, as there are disagreements as to what factors are considered in reimbursing counties for a portion of their detention expenses. This group submitted its report through DHS in December. CJJP has made it known that this additional responsibility cannot be handled without added staff support.

CJJP has also made it possible for the Third and Sixth Judicial Districts to obtain federal funds to develop and/or expand mental health efforts in the juvenile justice system. While these two grants, which total about \$500,000, provide very little support for CJJP, the juvenile mental health capacities in these two districts have been significantly upgraded due to the receipt of these funds, which had to be funneled through a state-level agency.

**The third point of the CJJP triangle is CJIS**, the criminal justice information system effort. Justice agencies throughout the nation increasingly recognize the importance of integrating their information systems in order to share critical data, documents, images, and key transactions. In recognition of this need, the State is developing and implementing a comprehensive integrated justice information system, permitting virtually instantaneous transmission of justice system data among agencies. CJIS has begun improving the quality and timeliness of justice system information, thereby improving public safety, eliminating data entry errors and redundant data entry, providing complete, current and timely data, improving the ability to evaluate policy decisions and changes, improving data retrieval response time, providing for better, more informed decision making, and improving the operational effectiveness of existing systems. Iowa's CJIS project is in the forefront of such projects nationally. In the last year Iowa CJIS project has added two new national innovation awards to the one received several years ago.

Like other CJJP efforts, CJIS is governed by a broad-based advisory committee consisting of representatives from state and local government, law enforcement, courts, and corrections.

Originally slated to support four full-time employees, CJIS currently maintains only a lead programmer funded as part of CJJP's General Fund appropriation. After the departure of the CJIS coordinator in September, 2010, there was insufficient state support to fill the vacant position, putting continued development in jeopardy. Recently, however, the Courts, DPS, and DOT have stepped up to provide support for the remainder of this fiscal year. A new CJIS coordinator began work in November, with notable results over a very short period. The inability to fund this position in the next fiscal year will lead to significant reductions in future development and supervision of appropriated funds.

Like most other state agencies, CJJP's biggest challenge at the present is financial. We have lost several staff and have been unable to replace them. This has made it necessary to identify what we're NOT going to do in the future, a painful process. At this juncture it appears that any future reports from the Sex Offender Research Council and Public Safety Advisory Board will be very limited in scope due to the lack of staff support.