



Governor Terry E. Branstad

Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds

San Wong, Director

## **Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRRI) Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)**

The Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) is partnering with the State Court Administrator's Office (Judicial Branch) and the Department of Human Services in providing the Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRRI), a 3-year federal demonstration project, that gauges the likelihood of recidivism reduction among services provided to juvenile offenders. JJRRI uses the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP), which is a nationally recognized process that optimizes best practice in juvenile justice services. The SPEP was developed by Mark Lipsey, Ph.D., Director of the Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt University, and a leading juvenile justice researcher. Iowa is one of three sites in the nation selected to participate in this innovative practice.

The SPEP is based on meta-analytic research and is designed as a diagnostic tool for comparing existing juvenile justice services to the characteristics of the most effective services found in the research. It is providing the juvenile justice system with a uniform means to evaluate services provided to delinquent youth for likely recidivism reduction. CJJP has used the SPEP to assess 71 Iowa services to date, in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts. The service providers have taken those baseline findings and begun to practically apply them to facilitate program improvement.

After fully implementing the JJRRI and SPEP, the result will be *the right youth will receive the right service at the right time*, and the long-term outcomes will be:

- Decreased recidivism rates,
- Improved SPEP scores as a result of program improvement plans,
- Improved matching of youth to services based on assessed risk/need,
- Increased cost effectiveness and efficiency of juvenile justice services,
- Reduced public cost.

### **BUDGET:**

The 3-year federal demonstration project ends on September 30, 2015.

The cost to continue the JJRRI and SPEP efforts for the remainder of FY 2016 (October 2015 – June 2016) will be **\$283,000**, which is for staff salaries and improvements to the Iowa Court Information System (ICIS) for the continuation of the SPEP and expansion to additional judicial districts. The goal is to have SPEP implemented statewide within three years.

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**Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning**