

New Mexico Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) Fiscal Year 2014



Highlights

- Approximately \$2.9 million in state and federal funding awarded to support the prevention of delinquency, alternatives to secure detention, improvement of the juvenile justice system, and the development of a continuum of graduated sanctions for juveniles in local communities.
- Secure detention cost approximately \$285/day while community-based alternatives are typically one-third of the cost (approximately \$33/day).
- 20 Continuum Sites serving 21 NM Counties; over 70 funded programs.
- Following the guiding principals for HJM 21 (2012), 76% of counties currently served are either designated as "frontier" or "rural" (as designated by NCHS).
- Following national best-practices by reducing our reliance on detention and expanding our use of community-based resources, the number of referrals to juvenile justice continues to decline.
- Programs reported that 7,797 youth were served.
- There is an aggressive movement towards fiscal and programmatic accountability.
- Data from programs can now be collected electronically.



Introduction

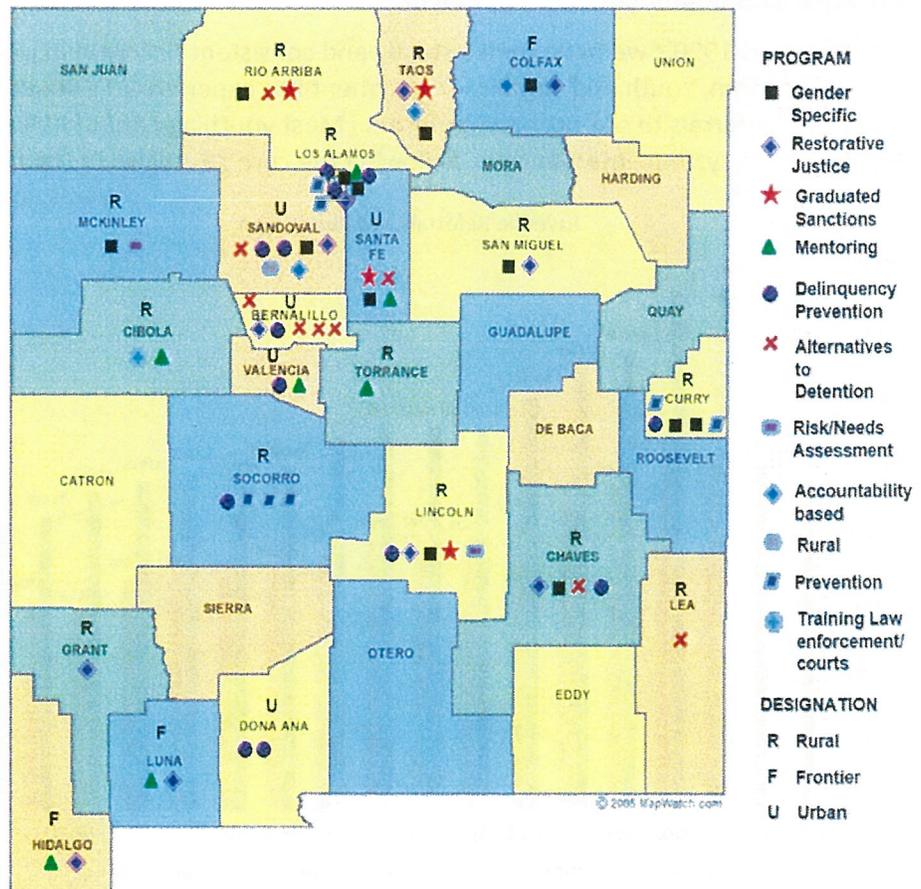
The JJAC supports the local development of evidence-based programming that includes diverse, culturally competent, and gender responsive services. JJAC advocates for the prevention of delinquency, alternatives to secure detention, improvement of the juvenile justice system, and the development of a continuum of graduated sanctions for juveniles in local communities.

Following the guiding principles set forth in House Joint Memorial 21 (2012 legislative session), JJAC

also believes that there should be equitable treatment and equitable services for our youth, especially in rural and frontier areas of the state.

Continuum Model

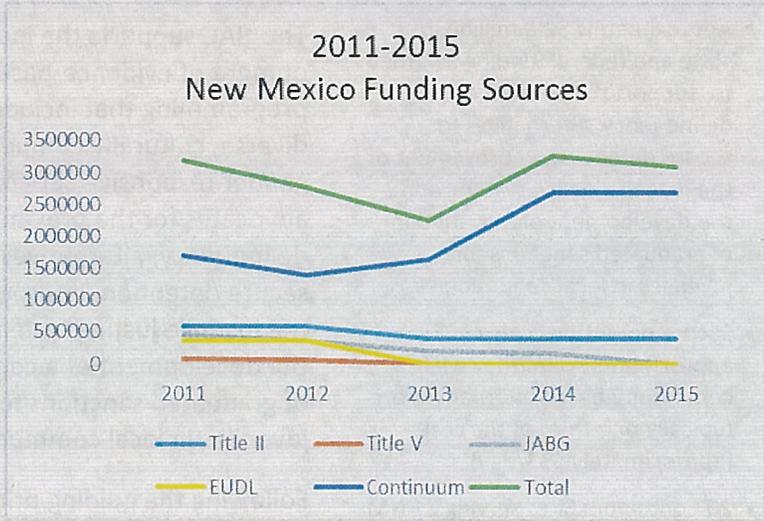
In an effort to reduce the likelihood that youth in rural areas will receive fewer services or have less access to such services compared to those in urban areas because of their location in the state, New Mexico utilizes the "juvenile justice continuum model" which is a unique approach to the structuring and allocation of federal and state grant funds. It is a system of services and



sanctions for juveniles arrested or referred to juvenile probation and parole, or at risk of such referral, and consists of a formal partnership among one or more units of local or tribal governments, the children's court, the district attorney, the public defender, local law enforcement agencies, the public schools and other entities such as private nonprofit organizations, the business community and religious organizations. Furthermore, it is established through a Memorandum of Understanding and a continuum board.

Funding

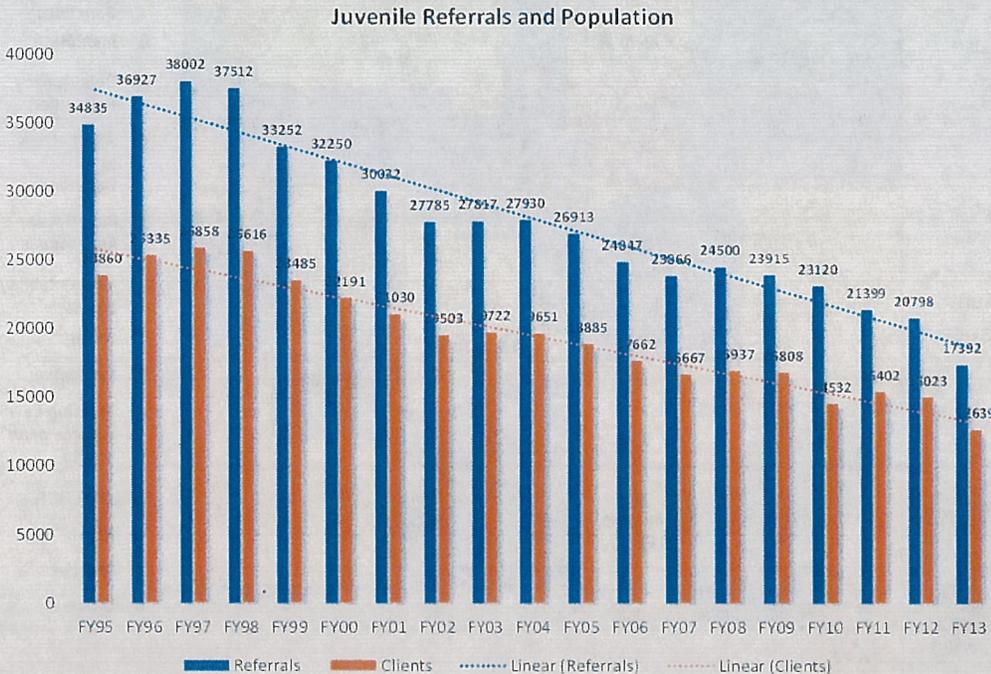
Since FY11, New Mexico’s juvenile justice federal grant dollars have decreased 65%. As federal funding levels continued to decline, the JJAC began advocating for state legislative funding in an effort to address not only the sustainability of the original seven (7) continuum sites, but the future expansion of these sites into all New Mexico counties. As a result of these efforts, the Juvenile Continuum Act was enacted in 2007 Section 9-2A-14.1 NMSA 1978 and was initially funded in the amount of \$1,000,000. Although the amounts have fluctuated throughout the years, in FY14 we received our largest appropriation to date which was \$2,690,000 and now supports services in twenty (20) continuum sites that serve twenty-one (21) counties.



Why Use a Community-Based Approach?

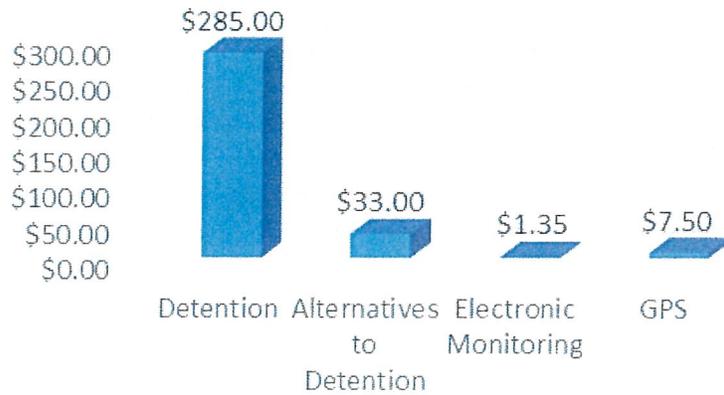
Since the mid-1990’s we have seen a steady and consistent decrease in juvenile crime. Likewise, the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department has experienced a steady and consistent decline in the number of referrals to our probation officers. Most youth age out of delinquent behavior without any formal justice-system intervention. Following the core strategies of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), JJAC recognized that

unnecessarily exposing young people to the juvenile justice system can actually encourage future criminal activity rather than deter it, and such involvement is often not necessary to achieve society’s goals. However, it is necessary that we have sufficient programs in our communities that divert youth from involvement in the juvenile justice system.



Community-based programs are cost-effective solutions for a large number of youth. These alternatives to secure detention and confinement are intended to reduce crowding, cut the costs of operating juvenile detention centers, shield offenders from the stigma of institutionalization, help offenders avoid associating with youth who have more serious delinquent histories, and maintain positive ties between the juvenile and his or her family and community. Secure detention is very expensive (approximately \$285/day) with little opportunity for rehabilitation while the youth is awaiting court. Community-based alternatives are typically one-third of the cost (approximately \$33/day).

Cost of Detention vs. Alternatives

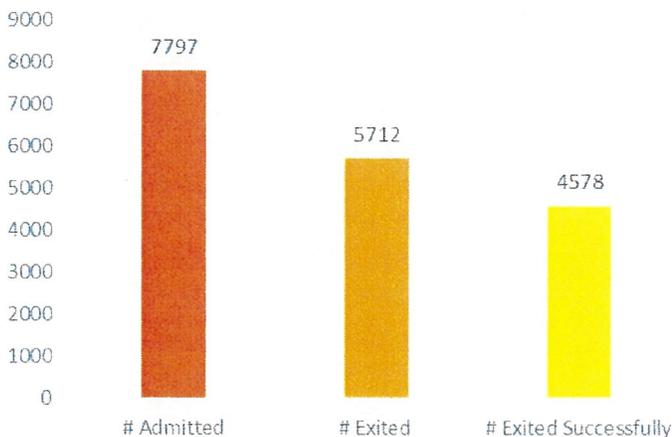


Programs

For FY14, approximately \$800,000 in federal grant funds and \$2.1 million dollars in state grant funds were allocated to twenty (20) continuum sites that served twenty-one (21) of thirty-three (33) New Mexico counties. This supported a service network of over seventy (70+) programs/agencies that were able to offer mentoring, academic enhancement and support, gender specific programming, case management, parent education, truancy intervention, gang resistance education, substance abuse prevention, citation

programming, day reporting centers, reception and assessment centers, community custody programming, and intensive community supervision. Through this programming, 7,797 youth were served. Of those, 5,712 youth exited the program (all youth who exited the program, successfully or left for other reasons during this reporting period) and 4,578, or 90.5%, successfully completed the programs (youth who successfully completed the program requirements during this reporting period).

FY14 Statewide Continuum Statistics



The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) is appointed by the Governor and is advisory to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), the Governor, and the Legislature. The JJAC is created by state statute, Section 9-2A-16 NMSA 1978, and carries out the responsibilities under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) of 1974 as well as the state statute, 8.14.13 Juvenile Continuum Act, effective June 29, 2007.

