

**Dual Status Youth Training Initiative:
Building the Foundation for Improved Outcomes**

Information Guide and Application Form

Submission deadlines:

Letter of Intent to Apply (optional) – July 1

Completed Application – August 1

Please direct questions and submissions to

John A. Tuell, Executive Director (jtuell@rfkchildren.org)

Jessica Heldman, Associate Executive Director (jheldman@rfkchildren.org)

For more information about the
Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, please visit:
<http://www.rfknrcjj.org>

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRAINING INITIATIVE

The Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice (RFK National Resource Center), led by Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, is pleased to invite jurisdictions to apply to become one of up to six competitively selected sites to receive **two consecutive days of training in Dual Status Youth Reform provided in each site's own jurisdiction**. The training is based on the four-phase framework developed as a result of more than a decade of field work, and detailed in the [*Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Coordination and Integration: Framework for Improved Outcomes, 3rd Ed.*](#), and the [*Dual Status Youth – Technical Assistance Workbook*](#).

The training will lay the foundation for selected jurisdictions to design, implement and sustain practice reforms on behalf of their uniquely defined dual status youth population. This opportunity will enable each participant jurisdiction to begin to identify areas for improvement and develop a plan to enhance case processing and system responses in order to improve dual status youth and family outcomes.

Background

The RFK National Resource Center works to advance the national platform for juvenile justice system reform developed through the long history of support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The RFK National Resource Center focuses primarily on youth who come into contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, known as *dual status youth* (DSY), the review and improvement of juvenile probation systems, and the use of a model framework to address data and information sharing issues. Site-based consultation and technical assistance is tailored to each community and facilitated by experienced staff to guide jurisdictions through a collaborative exploration of data, practice, resource, and legal matters in order to design, implement, and sustain meaningful reforms. The RFK National Resource Center has formed a Dual Status Youth Practice Network and a Probation System Reform Practice Network, each of which brings together experienced leaders and practitioners from across the country who have championed reform within their local jurisdictions in these critical areas of work.

Most recently, the RFK National Resource Center led two rounds of 12-month initiatives undertaken in eight jurisdictions, known as the *Dual Status Youth Technical Assistance Initiatives*. The effort was jointly supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and a recent publication, [*Dual Status Youth Initiative Report, First Edition: Early Gains and Lessons Learned*](#), highlights the challenges and successes experienced by the first four sites. The *Dual Status Youth Training Initiative* now being offered builds on this history of work, using a two-day training format to assist jurisdictions in initiating reform efforts of their own.

Initiative Description

Credible research studies published over the past twenty years clearly establish that child maltreatment increases the likelihood of future delinquency and criminality. Research also indicates that once child welfare-involved youth touch the juvenile justice system, they tend to experience particularly negative outcomes when compared to youth without dual system involvement. Dual status youth are more likely to be detained, and for longer periods of time; they experience more placement changes; they are more likely to be formally processed and

placed outside of their homes; and, they experience worse outcomes as young adults than youth involved in only one system, be it child welfare or juvenile justice.

It is difficult for the systems that have traditionally operated in isolation from one another to effectively serve the complex needs of this population and to address their risk factors for delinquency. However, the RFK National Resource Center framework for dual status youth reform provides a roadmap for developing and advancing cross-system processes and practices that enable the achievement of improved youth, family, and community outcomes. With an emphasis on organizational culture change, the examination of key decision-making points, an understanding of the impacts of trauma, the commitment to collecting and using data, and the institutionalization of effective cross-system practice, the RFK National Resource Center framework can help to establish a more informed, more effective, and more efficient way of doing business.

The current opportunity to engage in a two-day on-site training provides an introduction to the RFK National Resource Center framework and is designed to prepare training participants to undertake the four phases of the dual status youth reform process. Participants will ideally include leadership and key staff from child welfare, juvenile justice, and the judiciary, at a minimum. The training in each jurisdiction will be capped at 30 participants. As a result of the training, trainees will be able to:

- Establish the recommended infrastructure for a DSY Initiative
- Articulate an initial set of system performance and youth outcomes to drive the reforms
- Devise a work plan for study and analysis that will yield understanding of current strengths and gaps in dual status youth practice and resources
- Recognize common challenges in DSY reform (e.g. information sharing barriers, data collection impediments, organizational culture issues) and effective strategies for overcoming these challenges
- Identify key decision points within relevant case processes at which new or enhanced practices, policies, and procedures can be used
- Draft an action and implementation plan to guide reform efforts following the training

Topic areas explored during the training include:

- Effective leadership and collaboration among multi-system stakeholders
- Establishing unified goals, mission, outcomes
- Efficient matching of evidence based treatment interventions to youth and families
- Data collection and management capacity
- Process mapping
- Screening and assessment methods and practices
- Trauma-informed practice
- Routine coordination of case management and case planning
- Family engagement
- Organizational culture change
- Sustainability and implementation

Selected jurisdictions will be responsible for ensuring cross-system participation in both days of the training; drafting an action plan and implementation schedule; and, contributing to a Knowledge Brief written by the RFK National Resource Center that summarizes the training initiative.

Eligibility

Local jurisdictions (e.g. county, parish, region or judicial district) are encouraged to apply. State entities may also apply, provided that a pilot jurisdiction is identified and indicates willingness to participate. Applicants will benefit from an existing or contemplated partnership between the local juvenile justice, child welfare and court jurisdictions and indicated support from relevant state agencies.

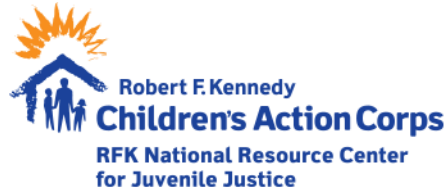
Selection Criteria

Site selection will be made through an analysis of responses to the questions provided on submitted applications. The subjective analysis of the responses will identify jurisdictions that demonstrate the greatest potential for continued collaborative multi-system partnership and engagement following the training, capacity to construct and execute an action plan, and ability to use the training to promote sustainable multi-system coordination and integration and achieve articulated outcomes.

Project Staff

The Project Training Team will be comprised of the RFK National Resource Center Executive Director John A. Tuell and Associate Executive Director Jessica Heldman, both of whom possess significant subject matter expertise, site-based consultation experience for dual status youth initiatives, a history of curriculum development, and an extensive array of credits for related publication materials.

Participant jurisdictions will also have the opportunity to engage via web-based meetings with experts from the National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners (NYSAP). NYSAP provides training in effective approaches to screening and assessment of dynamic criminogenic factors and the use and implementation of evidence-based risk and screening instruments with a focus on trauma. Following the training, participant jurisdictions will be paired with a member of the Dual Status Youth Practice Network who has undertaken similar DSY reforms in their jurisdiction. The Practice Network member will participate in a post-training conference call to answer questions arising as work plans are executed.



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Application Form

Please type responses to the following questions, save as a Word document or PDF that is not longer than 10 pages double spaced, and submit to John A. Tuell at jtuell@rfkchildren.org or Jessica Heldman at jheldman@rfkchildren.org. Applications should be received on or before **5 PM EST on August 1, 2016** (an optional letter of intent to apply may also be submitted by July 1). You will receive an email reply confirming receipt of your application.

1. Please briefly describe your jurisdiction (county seat, total population, annual child welfare and juvenile justice caseloads, any existing data on dual status youth, etc.)
2. Please briefly describe the structural placement of the juvenile justice and child welfare agencies within the state (governance structure). To whom is each agency accountable in relation to budget and performance measures?
3. Please describe any collaboration or coordination that currently exists between juvenile justice and child welfare agencies. Please feel free to identify any existing policies or protocols that reflect these efforts and any challenges encountered and/or successes realized.
4. Please identify key personnel from juvenile justice, child welfare, and the judiciary who will attend the training and will commit to leading execution of the developed action plan. Please indicate evidence of their strength of commitment to enhancing and implementing reforms.
5. Please indicate the primary reason for your decision to apply for this training initiative.
6. Is there anything else you would like the selection committee to know about your jurisdiction that makes it a strong candidate for ensuring that this training will serve as a foundation for developing or continuing reform efforts on behalf of dual status youth?
7. Please provide contact information for the most appropriate individual for the section committee to communicate any follow-up questions.