



Robert F. Kennedy  
**Children's Action Corps**  
 RFK National Resource Center  
 for Juvenile Justice

## RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

### Federal Policy Update

#### Senate Passes Bipartisan Bill to Reauthorize JJDP

On August 1, 2017 the U.S. Senate passed the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Reauthorization Act of 2017 (S.860), to update and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974. This new legislation was championed by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-Rhode Island) to secure new protections for minors and improve accountability measures in the federal juvenile justice grant program.

The JJDP of 1974 is the only federal statute that sets national standards for the custody and care of youth in the juvenile justice system, and long overdue for reauthorization. The newly passed bipartisan legislation, S.860, takes steps to reduce the unnecessary incarceration of youth, improves safeguards for minors who encounter the justice system, and strengthens services that encourage a smooth transition back into society. S.860 will also enhance existing law by:

- improving treatment for juvenile offenders with mental illness and substance abuse issues;
- encouraging states to make efforts to identify, report and reduce racial and ethnic disparities for youth who enter the juvenile justice system;
- supporting alternatives to incarceration, such as problem-solving courts; and,
- strengthening oversight of the federal grant program and holding states accountable for failing to meet core grant requirements to protect the safety of minors in the justice system.

The RFK National Resource Center is proud to support the reauthorization of JJDP and applauds Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) for their bipartisan leadership and sponsorship of S.860. Please join us on [Twitter](#) to show your support!

*Thanks @ChuckGrassley & @SenWhitehouse for your leadership in passing S860! Support #JJDP to improve community safety & outcomes for youth!*

#### **Additional information:**

### How Can We Serve Your Community?

To find out how we can support your community, please [Contact Us!](#)

### We're on Twitter!

RFK Children's Action Corps and RFK National Resource Center are on Twitter! [@RFKChildren](#)

[Follow us on twitter](#)

### From the Field

#### NCJFCJ's Resolution Regarding Adolescent Development

On July 15, 2017 the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Board of Directors adopted resolutions to support courts' and youth serving systems' integration of policy and practice informed by current research on child and adolescent development. [Click here](#) to read the full statement.

#### TRAUMA: What Child Welfare Attorneys Should Know

The ABA Center on Children and the Law, in collaboration with the National Child Traumatic

- Press release issued by the Office of Senator Grassley ([click here](#))
- Full list of the bill's key provisions ([click here](#))
- S.860 complete text ([click here](#))
- RFK National Resource Center Press Release ([Newsroom](#) | [PDF](#))

## On the Ground

### Probation System Review Launched in Three New Jurisdictions

The RFK National Resource Center recently launched its [Probation System Review](#) in three new jurisdictions: Davidson County, Tennessee; Lancaster County, Nebraska; and Fairfax County, Virginia. These sites were selected to receive technical assistance grants funded by the State Justice Institute to undertake a comprehensive review of their probation systems. The projects will be conducted over a 10-12 month period and will result in a report of findings and recommendations specific to the strengths and needs of each jurisdiction in order to support the achievement of a reduction in recidivism and the improvement of other youth and system outcomes.

### Announcing a New Partnership with NJDC

We are very pleased to announce a new partnership with the National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) which will result in a valuable addition to the Probation System Review process. In conjunction with the four elements of review already highlighted in our [Probation System Review Guidebook, 2nd Edition](#), the NJDC will be conducting an analysis of the standard probation orders unique to the jurisdiction being reviewed. NJDC will review these orders with a focus on three key issues: 1) the number of conditions on the orders, 2) the types of conditions on the orders, and 3) the language and accessibility of the orders.

This component enhances the quality and scope of the review to further support and improve positive outcomes for youth on probation.

*To learn more about our Probation System Review process and how it can help your jurisdiction, please contact Kari Harp, PSR Program Director, at [kharp@rfkchildren.org](mailto:kharp@rfkchildren.org) or 719-580-5065.*

## About Us

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, led by Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, uses proven models, frameworks, tools, resources and the best available research to serve local, state, and national leaders, practitioners and youth-serving agencies to improve system performance and outcomes for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. RFK National Resource Center focuses primarily on youth with prior or current involvement in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems (dual status youth), the review and improvement of juvenile probation systems, and the use of a model framework to address the state and national laws and policies governing the exchange and sharing of data, information, and records for youth and families. To learn more about us and how we can serve your jurisdiction, please visit [www.rfknrcjj.org](http://www.rfknrcjj.org).

Stress Network, released a new resource to provide practical information about trauma-informed legal advocacy by attorneys representing children, parents, and child welfare agencies. [Click here](#) to access this resource.

## Visit Our Online Resource Library!

All of our publications and tools are made available online to support jurisdictions undertaking reform, with or without technical assistance. In an effort to enhance that support, we recently updated our website to provide a more user friendly experience for accessing our practical and informative resources, as well as presentations and materials from our events.

*To access all of our Resources, please visit: [rfknrcjj.org/resources](http://rfknrcjj.org/resources)*

## Quick Links

[Who We Are](#)  
[Our Work](#)  
[Contact Us](#)



## Every Child Deserves a Childhood

Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps is a private, non-profit licensed child welfare agency providing community-based services, education, foster care and adoption, residential treatment, and juvenile justice programming to individuals and families in crisis. Our programs are focused on helping children and adolescents deal with past hurts, develop self-esteem, and have a chance for a brighter future as contributing members of society. All that we do at RFK Children's Action Corps is based on the belief that every child deserves the chance to lead a happy, healthy, and productive life. For more information and to get involved, visit [www.rfkchildren.org](http://www.rfkchildren.org).

## Models for Change Resource Center Partnership

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice is part of the *Models for Change* Resource Center Partnership, established by the MacArthur Foundation to advance juvenile justice reform efforts throughout the country. To learn more, visit [modelsforchange.net/resourcecenters](http://modelsforchange.net/resourcecenters).

