



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

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

### Special Announcement

#### Request for Applications: Comprehensive Probation System Review

##### Want to Learn More? **Save the Date!**

A Webinar Information Session will be held on **Monday, October 7 at 1:00 p.m ET**. Representatives from probation departments and local, regional, and Tribal juvenile courts are encouraged to participate to learn more about the project and application process. *The forthcoming registration link will be emailed to our [e-newsletter](#) subscribers and announced on our website.*

We are excited to [invite jurisdictions](#) to apply to become one of three selected sites to receive consultation and technical assistance to undertake a comprehensive Probation System Review. The competitively selected

jurisdictions will partner with the RFK National Resource Center, as part of its *Dennis M. Mondoro Probation and Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Project*, in federal fiscal years 2020-2021. This opportunity is made possible through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Second Chance Act award entitled *Ensuring Public Safety and Improving Outcomes for Youth in Confinement and While Under Community Supervision*.

Through a dedicated two-year partnership with selected jurisdictions, the RFK National Resource Center will conduct a comprehensive analytic review and examination of current probation and juvenile justice system practices, followed by the delivery of technical assistance support to implement the recommendations offered within the final Probation System Review report. This project will provide selected jurisdictions with extensive support to: create or enhance a comprehensive juvenile justice system improvement plan; identify opportunities for improved community supervision/probation performance based on best practice standards that address the needs of youth both with and without trauma and behavioral health diagnoses; and implement a tailored improvement plan with the endorsement of local leadership, thus ensuring sustainable and measurable practice enhancement.

Applications are due on or before **October 11, 2019**.

### New Resource - Coming Soon!

#### *Alternative Response Initiative Workbook*

Consistent with our rich history of guidance and technical assistance support for field-based juvenile justice system enhancement and improvement, the RFK National Resource Center has developed an *Alternative Response Initiative Workbook* to assist state and local jurisdictions in developing systematic, systemic and multidisciplinary strategies to provide effective alternative responses for appropriate youth. The workbook provides the framework for an intensive, site-based Alternative Response Initiative that combines the technical assistance of the NRC with the partnership and leadership of juvenile court stakeholders to identify the current opportunities available to their youth pre-filing and pre-adjudication while simultaneously working to identify new, effective, and community-based opportunities. We look forward to sharing more about the workbook and the entire Alternative Response Initiative with you in October!

**Ready to Apply?**

[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

## Quick Links

- **Project Overview & Application:**  
<https://rfknrcjj.org/initiatives/apply-for-probation-system-review/>
- **Letter of Interest (Optional):**  
<https://rfknrcjj.org/initiatives/apply-for-probation-system-review/loi/>
- **Learn More - Probation System Review:**  
<https://rfknrcjj.org/our-work/probation-system-review/>
- **Have Questions or Want Additional Information?**  
Contact Kari Harp: [kharp@rfkchildren.org](mailto:kharp@rfkchildren.org)

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## On the Ground

### **Hennepin County, Minnesota Juvenile Probation System Review**

The RFK National Resource Center launched a Probation System Review (PSR) in Hennepin County in April 2019 and continues to conduct ongoing site visits hosted in Minneapolis. The PSR has been guided by the *Probation System Review Guidebook, 3rd Edition* and is also informed by the brief, *Developmental Reform in Juvenile Justice: Translating the Science of Adolescent Development to Sustainable Best Practice*. (These publications are made available through our Online Resource Library: <https://rfknrcjj.org/resources/>.) There has been outstanding participation by all stakeholders within the juvenile justice system and in the community. We remain excited about this opportunity and congratulate all parties in Minneapolis for their commitment to the exploration of ways in which youth may experience enhanced outcomes and the community may become stronger and safer through this effort.

### **Advancing Best Practices Training in Lancaster County, Nebraska**

On August 29, the Lancaster County, Nebraska County Attorney's Office hosted RFK National Resource Center Executive Director John A. Tuell to facilitate training on Advancing Best Practices in Youth Justice. The multi-disciplinary group of participants included prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers and managers, diversion staff, and mental health professionals. The participants were engaged and eager to learn and express their thoughts on the content which led to a dynamic training event. This is but one part of ongoing collaborative work in Lancaster County, Nebraska to implement, sustain and effectively measure impact of the transformation of their juvenile justice and probation system. As we continue our technical assistance relationship with this jurisdiction, it must be noted that this is an extraordinary group of committed professionals who seek to overcome challenges and build upon existing strengths to achieve success on behalf of their youth and families. It is quite a privilege to partner with them!

Our field-based training continues to support many jurisdictions though this cost-effective approach in their

## Meet Our Peer Mentors!

The RFK National Resource Center is delighted to offer **Peer Mentorship**, a valuable opportunity for leaders, practitioners, and collaborative teams from sites embarking on reform efforts to learn from the experience and expertise of the RFK National Resource Center's Practice Networks. Members of the Dual Status Youth (DSY) and Probation System Reform (PSR) Practice Networks represent communities from across the nation that have championed change, leading to enhanced system performance and improved outcomes for children and families. Practice Network Members have a deep understanding of the processes, challenges, barriers, and benefits of juvenile justice and child welfare reform efforts. With their on-the-ground experience, members of our Practice Networks are uniquely qualified to offer peer-to-peer mentorship, guidance, and support to other communities.

**[Click here](#) to meet our Dual Status Youth Peer Mentors!**

**[Click here](#) to meet our Probation System Reform Peer Mentors!**

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## Visit Our Online Resource Library!

All of our publications and tools are made available on our website to support jurisdictions undertaking reform, with or without technical assistance. Our Online Resource Library is designed to provide a user friendly experience for accessing our

transformational march forward and we look forward to upcoming scheduled opportunities in the Territory of Guam (September 2019 - Advancing Best Practices); Newton County, Georgia (September 2019 - Dual Status Youth); Fairfax County, Virginia (October - Dual Status Youth); and in Columbus, Ohio (October 2019 - Dual Status Youth). The RFK National Resource Center looks forward to working with you in the near future!

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)

## Support the RFK National Resource Center!

Your valued contribution directly supports the sustainability and expansion of the RFK National Resource Center's positive impact on children and families nationally. To make a donation, please [click here](#) and type in "RFK National Resource Center" in the "My donation is for a specific program" box. **Thank you!**

[Donate Now!](#)

### Quick Links

[Who We Are](#)

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### 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).

### 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).