



Call for Workshop Proposals

Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium: *Expanding Knowledge, Changing Practice, Achieving Outcomes* **March 24-25, 2021 | Nashville, Tennessee**

The RFK National Resource Center is pleased to invite practitioners, leaders, and experts from across the country to submit workshop proposals for the March 2021 [Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium](#). The RFK National Resource Center is accepting proposals focused on practical, effective, and innovative reform efforts that transform youth justice and improve outcomes for children and families.

Workshop and Presenter Criteria

The RFK National Resource Center is accepting proposals for workshops that will showcase reform efforts and practices that effectively impact the transformation of youth justice, resulting in improved outcomes for children and families. All workshops must feature methods and guidance for replication of the program or practice reform and incorporate participant engagement (e.g., interactive discussion, breakout groups, peer-to-peer learning activities). All workshop sessions will be a maximum of 90 minutes.

The RFK National Resource Center emphasizes the importance of peer- to-peer learning and diversity. We especially encourage workshops to be presented by individuals with on-the-ground experience, diverse backgrounds, and/or who are reflective of the constituencies they serve. We invite the submission of workshop proposals on all critical issues impacting juvenile justice reform and youth justice transformation, but will give preference to workshops focused on a variety of topics identified on our [Call for Workshop Proposals](#) webpage, including:

- Advancing State-Level Juvenile Justice Reform
- Balancing the Role of Probation and Community Supervision
- Building Resiliency in System-Involved Youth
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)
- Culture Change - Systemic, Organizational, etc.
- Dispositional Guidelines
- Dual Status Youth Reform
- Girls (Best Practices, Gender-Specific Programs, etc.)
- Graduated Responses - An Effective System of Accountability and Incentives
- LGBTQ Youth
- Opioid Addiction - Impact on System-Involved Youth and Their Families
- Positive Youth Development
- Probation and Juvenile Justice System Reform
- Racial Disparities - Designing Fair and Equitable Programs, Practices, and Systemic Reforms for Children and Youth of Color
- Tribal Youth

Proposal Guidelines and Instructions

All proposals **must be submitted online**. Guidelines and instructions are provided on our [Call for Workshop Proposals](#) webpage.

Deadline and Notice of Selection

Proposals must be received by **Friday, November 20 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time**. The Lead Contact will be notified of the final decision no later than Friday, December 18.

Questions?

Please contact Executive Director John Tuell (jtuell@rfkchildren.org) or Associate Executive Director Kari Harp (kharp@rfkchildren.org) with any questions about the Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium or the call for workshop proposals.

Coming Soon!

The RFK National Resource Center will be releasing an announcement about a unique, new partnership that will remarkably enhance our opportunity to positively impact the youth justice system and youth and families we serve throughout the country and across the globe. **Stay Tuned!**

2021 Events



Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium & Training Institutes

March 24 - 26, 2021
Nashville, Tennessee

Both events will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in the heart of Downtown Nashville during its stunning spring season:

March 24-25, 2021
Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium: *Expanding Knowledge, Changing Practice, Achieving Outcomes*

March 26, 2021
Transformation of Youth Justice Training Institutes

To learn more about the Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium and Training Institutes, please [visit our website](#).

Safety is Our Priority!

In collaboration with the Doubletree Hotel in Downtown Nashville, we are committed to creating a safe and conducive learning environment. We will incorporate practices to promote safety for all attendees and the support

On the Ground

Bonneville County, Idaho and the state of Delaware

The RFK National Resource Center is pleased to report that our Dual Status Youth technical assistance initiative with a special focus on commercially and

sexually exploited children (CSEC) is now active in Bonneville County, Idaho as well as the state of Delaware. With the launch in Bonneville County this month through grant funds from the State Justice Institute, we are now using our seminal framework for dual status youth to guide committed, multi-agency leadership and community collaborations to create innovative and practical approaches to positively impact youth. With dedicated and informed expertise fostered in each jurisdiction, we look forward to reporting on their positive achievements that will likely serve as replicable examples for other state and local jurisdictions across the country. We wish to thank and congratulate the outstanding professionals in each site who are making this progress possible!

Clark County, Ohio Launches a New Dually Involved Youth Initiative

On September 24 & 25, Clark County's multi-agency and community partnership facilitated a full-day training for over 150 participants to launch the new Dually Involved Youth Initiative. Through the inspired leadership of Judge Katrina Lancaster and Virginia Martycz, Director of Job and Family Services, and many other dedicated professional stakeholders, this training event highlighted the new policies, practices, procedures, and measurement methods developed over the past year through the technical assistance support of the RFK National Resource Center -- made possible by a scholarship awarded by the Ohio Supreme Court. The initiative features:

- early and consistent identification of their target population of dually involved youth;
- early intervention to stabilize placement, family situation and exploration of alternative responses to formal prosecution;
- multi-agency teaming at key decision points;
- expedient access to more precisely identified treatment and service interventions;
- coordinated cross-system case management; and,
- an exemplary method for measurement and reporting of outcomes.

Their work has already been instructional in ongoing dual status youth initiatives in Delaware, Idaho, Pennsylvania, and California. Congratulations to Clark County! We look forward to continuing our partnership with you to support implementation over the next twelve months.

Please contact John A. Tuell, Executive Director (jtuell@rfkchildren.org) or Kari L. Harp, Associate Executive Director (kharp@rfkchildren.org) to learn how the RFK National Resource Center can serve your community!

From the Field

New Urban Institute Brief on Juvenile Diversion in Kentucky

The Urban Institute has [released a new brief](#) assessing Senate Bill 200 juvenile diversion reforms in Kentucky. Urban examined the state's juvenile diversion program to see how reforms impacted case decision making and outcomes for youth entering intake on less serious offenses. The research presented in [Assessing Juvenile Diversion Reforms in Kentucky](#) shows not only that more youth were diverted from formal court involvement after reform, but also that Kentucky maintained its high diversion success rates (nearly 9 out of 10 youth completed diversion) and had no statistically significant change in recidivism in any eligible complaint category. Urban observed increases in diversion for all youth - that is, for boys and girls, white youth and youth of color, and youth charged with a wide range of complaints. Though racial and ethnic disparities are significant and persistent, particularly for Black youth, Urban found that policy reforms began to narrow the gap between White and Black youth in some cases.

New Report on the Impact of Juvenile Justice Involvement on School Attendance

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center released a new report that summarizes key findings from an unprecedented research study on the impact of juvenile justice system involvement – particularly probation – on school attendance in South Carolina and challenges jurisdictions across the country to reconsider whether system involvement is the most appropriate and effective way to promote youth's school success. [Rethinking the Role of the Juvenile Justice System: Improving Youth's School Attendance and Educational Outcomes](#) reveals that kids involved in the juvenile justice system in South Carolina not only didn't experience school attendance improvements, but their attendance actually got worse. The CSG Justice Center study also raises concerns about whether some schools' policies and practices make it harder for justice-involved youth to engage and succeed in school. This new research compels policymakers, judges, attorneys, probation directors, and educators to wrestle with an important question: are juvenile justice system involvement and school disciplinary measures really the most appropriate and effective ways to help kids succeed in school?

The report is accompanied by a set of infographics on [truancy](#) and [juvenile probation's role in youth's education](#) that include concrete policy and practice recommendations for jurisdictions to consider.

staff who make these events possible, while still providing a dynamic networking and learning experience. Please continue to look for updates on what we are doing, both in front of and behind the scenes, to maintain wellness - together.

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!

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 practical and informative resources, as well as presentations and materials from our events.

To access all of our Resources, please visit: rfknrcjj.org/resources

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.

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.

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