

Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council State FY 2025 Report

Executive Order 01.01.2022.06

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

June 10, 2025

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Executive Order 01.01.2022.06 (MSAR #15000)

Dear Governor Moore:

As required by Executive Order 01.01.2022.06, please find an enclosed copy of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's report, titled *Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council FY 2025 Report*. This report details the functions of the Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council, Maryland's State Advisory Group, as required by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended in 2018.

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, in coordination with the Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council, provides funding assistance from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to state and local jurisdictions to support community-based programs and services, alternatives to confinement, and diversion programs throughout the State.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

As required, five color copies will be sent to the DLS Legislative Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy J. Lennig".

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

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Roster of Members

During FY 2025, the Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council was composed of various members appointed by the Governor, and a Chair. Appointments are staggered.

Fred Chavis, Chair

Liberation, Inc.

Beyer Bullard

Student, Northeastern University Youth Member

Jeffrey Breslin

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Baltimore

Mayo Lajan Cephas

Cambridge City Commissioner

Tiana Davis

Department of Juvenile Services

Derrell Frazier

Policy Entrepreneur, Next 100 Youth Member

Janet L. Furman

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Derek A. Getic

Department of Juvenile Services

Janette Graham

No Struggle No Success, Parent Member

Kya Hector

Student, Howard University Youth Member

Miya Horsey

Consulting Specialist, Parent Member

Delegate Kym Taylor

Maryland House of Delegates

Loi James Townes

National Association of Public Defense

Rachel Johnson

American University, Washington School of Law

Shannon McFadden

Jerome McFadden Educational Center, LLC

Jessica Port

Mental Health Association of Maryland

Amanda Rodriguez

TurnAround, Inc.

Shameka N. Stewart, Ph.D.

Towson University

Dr. Kenneth Waters, Ed.D

St. Andrew's Episcopal School

Laura C. Wilt, Esq.

Frederick County State's Attorney's Office

Executive Summary

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2022.06, the Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council (also known as the State Advisory Group) must submit a report to the Governor by way of the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) by June 30 of each year, as it relates to its activities and recommendations.

Pursuant to its charge, this *Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council 2025 Report* includes information on the activities of the State Advisory Group, the administration of funds, and specific plans to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. It also provides a follow-up to several reports submitted in prior years. These reports are available on GOCPP’s website at:

<https://gocpp.maryland.gov/reports-and-publications/>.

Background

In 1974, Congress enacted the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (Act), which “established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system.”¹

In 2002, Congress reauthorized the Act “to assist State and local governments in addressing juvenile crime through the provision of technical assistance, research, training, evaluation, and the dissemination of information on effective programs for combating juvenile delinquency.”² The Act also required all states that participate in the Title II Formula Grant Program to establish a multidisciplinary advisory group (State Advisory Group); develop a youth justice and delinquency prevention three-year plan to describe the progress of implemented programs and the status of compliance with certain requirements; and review grant applications and make funding recommendations.³

In 2018, President Trump signed into law the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, which reauthorized and substantially amended the Act.⁴ The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 changed the “effective application dates, definition of terms, annual reporting requirements, state allocations, state plan requirements, and the distribution of funds not allocated due to state

¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2019). *Key Amendments to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Made by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018*. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/pubs/252961.pdf>

² U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 from 2005*. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/media/document/JJDPA-2002.pdf>

³ Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended in 2018, 34 U.S.C. §§ 11131-11133.

⁴ Text - H.R. 6964 - 115th Congress (2017-2018): Juveniles Justice Reform Act of 2018. (2018). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6964/text>

noncompliance.”⁵ It also modified the core requirements with which a State must comply to receive its full Title II award.⁶

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders:** The Act revised the deinstitutionalization of status offenders core requirement, which prohibits the secure detention or confinement of a youth who commits a status offense (i.e., an offense that would not be a crime if committed by an adult). Specifically, use of the valid court order exception to securely detain or confine a youth status offender must comply with additional requirements, such as issuance of a court order and a seven-day maximum length of detention.
- **Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates and Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups:** The Act modified the separation and jail removal core requirements to specify that sight or sound contact is the level of contact prohibited between youth and adults. Sight or sound contact means any physical, clear, visual, or verbal contact that is not brief or inadvertent.
- **Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities:** The Act revised the disproportionate minority contact requirement to require a state to implement policy, practice, and system improvement strategies to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the youth justice system. It retains the prohibition against using numerical standards or quotas.

To comply with this Act and its amendments, Maryland enacted Executive Order 01.01.2022.06 on June 17, 2022, which charged the Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council to serve as the State Advisory Group (SAG) to develop a youth justice and delinquency prevention three-year plan, review grant applications, and make funding recommendations.⁷

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2019). *Key Amendments to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Made by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018*. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/pubs/252961.pdf>

⁶ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Compliance with the Core Requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act*. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/about/core-requirements>

⁷ State of Maryland, Executive Department. (2022). *Executive Order 01.01.2022.06: Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council*. <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/Executive-Order-01.01.2022.06.pdf>

Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council

In August 2024, the State, with the advice of the SAG, submitted its *Maryland State Advisory Group 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan* to OJJDP for approval.⁸ Based on the Title II Formula Grant Program areas, the SAG selected four priorities to address over the new three-year period:

- **Positive Youth Development:** Programming to promote broad utilization of projects to engage youth in intentional and productive places/spaces throughout the various points of the juvenile justice system.
- **Community-Based Alternatives to Incarceration and Institutionalization:** Programming targeted towards (i) status offenders and other youth who need temporary placement such as crisis intervention, shelter, and after-care; (ii) youth who require residential placement: a continuum of foster care or group home alternatives that provide access to a comprehensive array of services; and (iii) youth who need specialized intensive and comprehensive services that address the unique issues encountered by youth when they become involved with gangs.
- **Community-Based Programs and Services:** These programs and services work with parents and other family members to strengthen families and help keep youth in the home; support youth and their families during and after confinement to ensure the youth's safe return to the home, and to strengthen the families; and support parents with limited English-speaking ability.
- **Aftercare and Reentry:** Programming to focus on services designed for youth will successfully return to their communities after completing a period of out-of-home placement with a focus on: job training, life skills, education, family, behavioral health, somatic health, and financial obligations (i.e. restitution).

State Advisory Group Activities

In accordance with 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(3)(A)(v) of the Act, the SAG currently includes 20 appointed members. This membership includes three individuals who were under the age of 28 at the time of their appointment and two members who are the parents of former justice-involved youth. GOCPP also dedicates four positions to the Act's management: the Juvenile Justice Specialist, the Statewide Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator, the Compliance Monitor, and the Youth Justice Division Specialist.

The SAG also established standing subcommittees to address specific goals and update the full SAG on those efforts.

⁸ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. *Maryland State Advisory Group 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan*. <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/Title-II-3-Year-Plan-2024-2026-FINAL.pdf> It is important to note that the three-year plans are based on the federal fiscal year. Federal fiscal 2024 funding will be released to Maryland sub-recipients in July 2026.

Grant Monitoring Subcommittee

Separate from GOCPP's grant monitoring and oversight obligations, this subcommittee engages with the Title II Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant (JJAC) sub-recipients continually, facilitating sub-recipient presentations, conducting site visits, and providing technical assistance. These contacts highlight client needs, trends, system referrals, underserved populations, partnerships and community resources, program highlights, barriers, sustainability planning, and performance tracking.

In State fiscal 2025, the subcommittee made significant changes to the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to ensure greater access to small, grass-roots, and community-based providers that may not have applied for funding in the past. It also included a tiered system for applications based on the annual revenue for each applicant entity. Additionally, a Collective-Impact Partnership Tier was created to encourage non-profit organizations with revenue of less than \$150,000 per year to form a partnership and apply together. This, in turn, will allow smaller entities to build capacity and share resources with similarly situated organizations. GOCPP released the NOFA in March 2025 to invite eligible applicants to request funding for the State fiscal 2026 grant cycle (July 1, 2025 - June 20, 2026).⁹

Recruitment, Training, and Regionalization Subcommittee

This subcommittee assists with the recruitment of new members and makes recommendations to the Executive Director and Governor for approval; develops, in partnership with the Juvenile Justice Specialist, new member onboarding and orientation; collaborates with the Emerging Leaders Subcommittee to recruit youth members; and develops and oversees a regionalization plan for the SAG, and a plan to increase statewide awareness of the SAG. In State fiscal 2025, GOCPP assisted the subcommittee in successfully recruiting and interviewing new appointees to maintain a full roster in compliance with the Act. For the upcoming year, the subcommittee will focus on youth recruitment and the replacement of members whose terms are set to expire on June 30, 2025.

Emerging Leaders Subcommittee

This subcommittee focuses on the engagement of youth, and reform of youth justice practices in Maryland, and ensures the voices of youth are heard and accounted for in discussions on youth justice. The subcommittee includes all SAG youth members who work to increase youth engagement and maintain positive interactions with justice-involved youth through volunteerism and community efforts. The subcommittee develops agendas and projects to obtain youth input. The subcommittee also participates in full SAG and individual subcommittee meetings.

⁹ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2025). *State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 Title II Formula (JJAC) and Juvenile State Match Requirement (JSMR) Grant Program Application Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)*. https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/SFY2026-JJAC_JSMR-NOFA.pdf

In addition, members review grant applications and provide input on funding decisions. Members also have the opportunity to participate in other subcommittee meetings, including the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Subcommittee. By participating in the R/ED Subcommittee, members helped to plan and lead several events that screened *Stamped From The Beginning*, a documentary about “anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American History.”¹⁰ The first screening event occurred in January 2025, and panelists provided their insight on racial justice and how it will affect generations to come. Additionally, Emerging Leaders supported the second screening of *Stamped From The Beginning* in April 2025.

The subcommittee also hosted two Youth Justice Action Month (YJAM) events in October 2024. The first event was held in person in Baltimore City with a focus on youth voting and legislative engagement. SAG members Derrell Frazier, Beyer Bullard, and Kya Hector (Emerging Leaders chair) all supported the planning and execution of this event. All three members participated on a panel, along with other youth-promoting individuals from the legislative space to discuss how youth can become involved. The second event was held virtually and focused on addressing mental health for system-involved youth.

In late 2024, the subcommittee developed the following goals for the year:

- Increasing membership and engagement with youth community members through recruitment events at local colleges and universities;
- Consistently host more youth-engagement events in the community; and
- Expanding overall media presence by working with GOCPP to share content and develop partnerships with other youth-serving and youth-led organizations.

The subcommittee also provided feedback to the SAG on incorporating more intentional and consistent feedback from Emerging Leaders and other youth into its decision-making processes. Recommendations included:

- Emerging Leaders’ participation in the grant review process;
- Soliciting youth feedback in the by laws, priorities, and funding decisions;
- Emerging Leaders’ participation and feedback in SAG decisions with a focus on system-impacted youth; and
- Requiring continued youth engagement activities in the NOFA process.

In State fiscal 2025, the subcommittee met monthly and primarily focused on community engagement and recruitment. Emerging Leaders created recruitment flyers to be distributed within communities and educational institutions (including high schools and higher education institutions) to share information about the SAG. These flyers allowed interested youth to receive additional information regarding the subcommittee and subcommittee objectives, including:

¹⁰ <https://www.ibramxkendi.com/stamped>

- Spreading awareness about the SAG and Emerging Leaders Subcommittee;
- Ways that the Emerging Leaders Subcommittee engages with the community;
- Impacts of the subcommittee on providing insight to the SAG on funding and policy recommendations; and
- Hearing the experiences of young people with law enforcement and justice systems and their vision of change.

Finally, the subcommittee participated in the NOFA development meeting and provided feedback on the *SFY 2026 Title II Formula Grant (JJAC) and Juvenile State Match Requirement (JSMR) Grant Program NOFA*. Specifically, members provided feedback on best practices in order to place youth at the forefront of the decisions and funding opportunities of this grant program. The SAG also extended the opportunity for youth in funded programs to participate in the Emerging Leaders Subcommittee as members of the public. With support from SAG leadership and staff, members and prospective members were strongly encouraged to connect the youth in their circles to this space. A crucial role of adult members in this space is to bridge the connection between youth and Emerging Leader participation.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Subcommittee

Staffed by the Statewide R/ED Coordinator, this subcommittee assisted with drafting *Maryland's Annual Racial and Ethnic Disparities Plan* to reduce racial and ethnic disparities at various decision-making points in Maryland's youth justice system.¹¹ The subcommittee also worked to develop comprehensive data collection and analysis tools.

In Maryland, the overall number of referrals to court/intake, pre-trial detention, and disposition commitments has increased over the past two fiscal years. Notwithstanding these escalations, Maryland's SAG and the subcommittee remain committed to addressing issues of R/ED by coordinating the following strategic efforts:

- Expanding diversion and trauma-informed programming at the front end of the State's youth justice system.
- Requiring grant applicants to address racial and ethnic disparities per 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(15) of the Act.¹²
- Providing technical assistance to youth-serving and community-based organizations, local and state government agencies, and youth justice stakeholders to enhance awareness and strengthen strategic efforts to reduce referrals and juvenile complaints.

The subcommittee collaborated with the Grant Monitoring Subcommittee to promote availability to smaller community-based organizations in the eligibility criteria presented in the *SFY 2026*

¹¹ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. *Maryland's Annual Racial and Ethnic Disparities Plan*. https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/Final-Draft-FY24-R_ED-Plan.pdf

¹² *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act of 1974*, as amended in 2018, 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(15). <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/34/11133>

JJAC/JSMR NOFA.¹³ Discussions on this began in late 2024, and resulted in the creation of a tiered system for applicants. This system aims to create more opportunities, ensuring that smaller, under-resourced organizations have a better chance of securing funding and support.

The subcommittee also worked on community-focused events, to include one key initiative that focused on documentary screenings and panel discussions with young men who shared their lived experiences to help youth avoid the impact of involvement with the youth justice system. These events had 82 registrants and included support from several local organizations.

Legislative Subcommittee

This subcommittee is tasked with monitoring bills that affect the SAG's three-year plan, core protections of the JJDP, or system-involved juveniles in Maryland. During Maryland's legislative sessions, the subcommittee meets weekly or biweekly, depending on the availability of subcommittee members.

During the 2025 legislative session, members monitored all relevant bills and supported the SAG through submitting written testimony in support of Senate Bill 827/House Bill 1107, legislation that would ensure Maryland's compliance with the JJDP.

Executive Subcommittee

This subcommittee meets throughout the year to ensure subcommittees are on track and address any operational issues that may arise. The SAG Chair or staff can call meetings.

Review and Make Recommendations on Grant Applications

GOCPP, in collaboration with the SAG, continued to fulfill its role of distributing federal funds to support the following federal purpose areas: programs for positive youth development, diversion, community-based alternatives (including home-based alternatives) to incarceration and institutionalization, and community-based programs and services. Moving forward, the SAG and GOCPP will continue to support programs that have been successful in programming for youth involved with the system or at-risk of involvement with the system while also promoting accountability and preventing future delinquency.

For State fiscal 2025, GOCPP received, and the SAG reviewed and scored, 21 grant applications that resulted in nine awards, totaling \$1,359,921. Of the total awards, approximately \$778,564 consisted of Juvenile State Match Requirement (JSMR) funding.

¹³ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2025). *State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 Title II Formula (JJAC) and Juvenile State Match Requirement (JSMR) Grant Program Application Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)*. https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/SFY2026-JJAC_JSMP-NOFA.pdf

For State fiscal 2026, GOCPP released a *SFY 2026 JJAC/JSMR NOFA* in March 2025.¹⁴ The State fiscal 2026 NOFA was designed to guide funding toward small grassroots organizations and community-based providers that may have experienced barriers when applying for State and federal grant funding due to limited resources and capacity. To reduce such barriers, applicants will be divided into three tiers:

- Tier 1 is open to all entities with an annual budget of over \$500,000.
- Tier 2 is open to non-profit applicants with annual budgets of under \$500,000. Tier 2 applications are also eligible for a portion of continuation funding in State fiscal 2027 and State fiscal 2028, if positive outcomes and performance measures are reported.
- Tier 3 requires a Collective Impact Partnership between a minimum of three separate non-profits, each with an annual budget of under \$150,000. Tier 3 applicants are also eligible for a portion of continuation funding in State fiscal 2027 and State fiscal 2028, if positive outcomes and performance measures are reported.

In accordance with the Act, the SAG will have the opportunity to review the grant applications and provide funding recommendations to GOCPP. The awarded grants will begin on July 1, 2025, and will cover a period of one year.

Finally, the SAG is making adjustments to funding priority areas due to Maryland's noncompliance with section 223(a)(11)(b) of the JJDPA as reauthorized in 2018.¹⁵ If a state is out of compliance with one or more of the core requirements of the JJDPA, its award amount will be reduced by 20 percent for each requirement with which the state fails to comply under 34 U.S.C. § 11133(c)(1)(A).¹⁶ Additionally, to receive any allocation, the state must use 50 percent of the amount received to achieve compliance pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 11133(c)(1)(B)(i).¹⁷ Based on these requirements, compliance has been added as a priority area under the funding opportunity. This priority area will fund programs that:

- Provide programming or services to assist in any aspect of preparing for a youth transfer hearing back to juvenile court from adult court.
- Provide navigation support for youth and/or their families while charges are being addressed.
- Provide advocacy assistance or private legal representation for youth who are awaiting disposition of adult charges while in secure detention.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974*, as amended in 2018, 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(14). https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/media/document/jjdpas-amended_0.pdf

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Ensure Compliance with the Act

To ensure compliance, Maryland must “provide for an effective system of monitoring” to demonstrate that the four core requirements are met.¹⁸ To achieve this, GOCPP’s Compliance Monitor visits and collects information from all secure facilities and submits the findings in an annual compliance monitoring report to OJJDP. These findings illustrate Maryland’s level of compliance with the four core requirements and are used to determine eligibility for the State’s continued participation in the Title II Formula Grant Program.

Barriers to Compliance with the Act

The Act was reauthorized in 2018, and provides several key updates to federal law. These updates impact Maryland’s compliance with the Act’s core requirements which will result in a 20% reduction in grant funds for each core requirement that is noncompliant with the Act.

Effective December 21, 2021, section 223(a)(11)(b) of the Act requires youth charged as adults and placed in an adult jail to be sight and sound separated from adult inmates and removed from the jail within six hours, unless a judge issues an order finding that it is in the “interest of justice” to continue placement. Over the past few years, several legislative bills were introduced to ensure Maryland’s compliance with the updated requirements of section 223(a)(11)(b); however, each bill was unsuccessful.¹⁹ Most recently, Senate Bill 827 (cross-listed with House Bill 1107) filed in Maryland’s 2025 legislative session would have ensured compliance with the Act. Although the SAG submitted written testimony in support of the bill, which described Maryland’s current noncompliance with section 223(a)(11)(b) and the importance of restoring compliance with the Act, the bill was unsuccessful.²⁰

The Compliance Monitor will continue to work with the juvenile law committee of the Maryland Judiciary to ensure the use of the “interest of justice” court orders when a youth has their initial hearing. Currently, the use of these forms has been limited and is not widely used by judges due to a conflict in the jurisdictions of the court as the proper venue for making these determinations.

The State has incurred numerous violations of section 223(a)(11)(b) in the fiscal 2022, fiscal 2023, and fiscal 2024 reporting periods:

- 1,248 violations reported in federal fiscal 2022
- 1,260 violations reported in federal fiscal 2023

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Maryland General Assembly. (2023). *Senate Bill 704 (2023), Children Charged as Adults - Confinement* [Withdrawn by Sponsor]. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0704>. Maryland General Assembly. (2023). *Senate Bill 93 (2023), Juvenile Court - Jurisdiction* [In the Senate]. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0093>

²⁰ Maryland State Advisory Group. (2025). *Testimony in Support with Amendments of Senate Bill 827*. https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/SB827_HB1107-SAG-Letter-of-Information-signed-2-13-25.pdf

- 1,600 violations will be reported for federal fiscal 2024²¹

On January 15, 2025, OJJDP electronically issued a threshold for compliance with the 223(a)(11)(b) requirement in which a state may not have more than 14.68 violations per 100,000 youth.²² Based on the reported federal fiscal 2023 violations, Maryland’s rate of violations is 116.12 per 100,000 youth. Therefore, the violations under this requirement will reduce Maryland’s federal fiscal 2025 funding by 20%. GOCPP is prioritizing non-legislative strategies to restore Maryland’s compliance by partnering with Maryland’s Judiciary to increase the use of “interest of justice” orders statewide through training, determining resources needed to decrease violations occurring in Maryland’s most populated and high crime areas, ensuring transfer hearings are held in a timely and productive manner, and working with the Department of Juvenile Services to determine housing options for juveniles.

Compliance with the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Core Requirement

The purpose of this core requirement is to ensure equal and fair treatment for all youth involved in the youth justice system. Statistics at the state and national level show the cumulative impact of racial disparities at each contact point in the youth justice system. Because decisions made at one stage contribute to increasing disparities at subsequent stages, the SAG will focus on the following goals in its current plan:

- Reduce intake complaints by increasing the number of diversion and detention alternative opportunities for youth of color.
- Increase the availability of community-based alternatives by funding programs that focus on positive youth development from GOCPP’s Title II Formula (JJAC) and JSRM Grant Program funding.
- Conduct outreach and education to counties showing the largest disparities and the largest counties in the State to address R/ED.

Ongoing Strategy and Conclusion

The SAG will continue to focus on its mandate. It will also collaborate with the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging Best Practices, which was established by Chapter 735 of 2024.²³ Moving forward, the SAG will appoint support leadership to help facilitate greater collaboration between State agencies and stakeholders regarding youth justice issues. In addition, the SAG will continue to focus on community engagement and youth participation.

²¹ This number will not be verified until final submission to OJJDP.

²² Chiancone, J. (2025). [Letter issued by deputy administrator of Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to state agency directors]. Sent via email.

²³ Maryland General Assembly. (2024). *Chapter 735 of 2024 (House Bill 814), Juvenile Law - Reform*. https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2024RS/chapters_noln/Ch_735_hb0814E.pdf

Consistent with the priorities identified in the newly drafted three-year plan, the SAG will continue to:

- Review and comment on Title II Formula grant and state youth justice proposals;
- Monitor Maryland's compliance with the core protections of the Act, including the removal of youth from adult jails and lockups, the deinstitutionalization of status offenders, and the separation of youths from adults while in police custody;
- Reduce the overrepresentation of minorities in the youth justice system; and
- Review progress and accomplishments of projects funded with federal and State youth justice funds.

The SAG remains committed to building upon the efforts made to date and will continue to collaborate with GOCPP, service providers, courts, and the Department of Juvenile Services.