



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Juvenile Justice-Juvenile Community Programs

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William L. Lassiter, Deputy Secretary
Cindy Porterfield, Director

To: JCPC Chairpersons
County Boards of Commissioner Chairs
County Managers and County Finance Officers
JCPC-Funded Program Providers

From: Cindy Porterfield, Director Juvenile Community Programs *CP*

Cc: William L. Lassiter, Deputy Secretary of Juvenile Justice

Re: Continuity of Operations and Guidelines

Date: April 6, 2020

In less than three weeks, COVID-19 has transformed our personal and professional lives, provoking questions and uncertainty as we strive to continue our mission to serve the youth and families in your communities and across North Carolina as a whole. First, our focus is upon preservation of life and health for all during this unprecedented pandemic, and collectively, we each share the responsibility as individuals to avert the spread of this unpredictable virus.

Second, we would like to address the myriad of concerns and questions from the field, questions that are related to several broad topic areas. We are appreciative of the North Carolina Association of Community Alternatives for Youth's board of directors for reaching out to North Carolina's juvenile justice provider network to offer a platform to receive your questions. Thank you for completing their survey and for sharing your new, creative approaches to your work, work that is vitally important to North Carolina's juvenile justice mission. In our careful review and aggregation of the NCACAY's survey responses, in addition to questions that have been raised from providers through direct contact with the state and area offices, our guidance is being offered across two broad topic areas:

- Guidance for JCPC-Funded Programs
 - Continuity of Services
 - Continuity of Funding
 - Flexibility and Variance in Policy
 - Programmatic and Fiscal
 - Creative Strategies and Resources
- Guidance for JCPC Operations
 - Continuity of Operations
 - Continuity of Funding
 - Flexibility and Variance in Policy
 - Fiscal and Procedural
 - Creative Strategies and Resources

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Attached please find **Attachments A and B** recommended operational guidance for JCPC-funded Programs and Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils as related to flexibility and variations from the norm in the execution of local, state-level, and program practices during this state of emergency. If local advisory bodies, including JCPCs, are not meeting during this time, and county officials or JCPC leaders have concerns about gaps in services due to delayed decision-making, please reach out to your consultant to discuss options.

Additionally, **Attachment C** offers resources and strategies that are currently available to program providers. It is our hope that these strategies may assist with supporting family engagement practices, while offering safe, yet critically important, contact with our juvenile population and their families via technology, if possible.

And finally, the section deems it necessary to the critical operations and mission of our work for discretionary funding to be available to our providers to promote and support continuity of services to our youth. A Discretionary Funds announcement will be forthcoming in the next week and will offer opportunities for programs to apply for funding to support the use of technology, videoconferencing, tele-health, electronic signature and other web-supported software to enable continued service delivery to our juveniles.

We are grateful to you, our partners, and local governmental officials for pulling together at this critical time in our nation. Our response to this pandemic must be unified and whole—a whole-of-county, whole-of-state response—and must consider flexibility and/or the removal of work-related barriers that may hinder continuity of services and the disruption of our mission while also ensuring the safety and health of all. Thank you for your continued commitment and stay safe.