



Division of Community Services  
**PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES 2015**  
*Serving DJJ Youth, Families, and Victims in the Community*



DJJ's Division of Community Services is responsible for a wide range of direct services to youth and their families, as well as victims of crime, in the community through 43 DJJ county offices, servicing all 46 counties in the state. Among these services are a number of programs and initiatives aimed at providing effective supervision of youth *in the least restrictive environment*, who are on probation or parole and support for their families, with the goals of reducing juvenile crime and recidivism, and providing for safer communities.

**Auxiliary Probation Officer (APO)** – The APO program is comprised of volunteers from the community who serve in the local DJJ offices supervising one or more non-violent and low-risk juvenile probationers. Operating similar to a regular DJJ probation officer working to ensure that the youth is complying with all conditions of probation, APOs go through extensive training and upon completion are sworn in by a Family Court Judge. The program's goals are to reduce recidivism, provide more one-on-one positive adult contact with youth, and to reduce DJJ probation worker's caseloads so they can focus on the more serious offenders.

**Boy's Council** – The Council for Young Boys and Men is a strength-based group approach program for boys and young men ages 9 to 18, designed to promote a safe and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years by building strong, positive relationships. In a structured environment, boys and young men have the opportunity to address masculine definitions and behaviors, and build their capacities to find their innate value and create good lives. Recognizing boys' strengths and capacities, the Council challenges stereotypes, questions unsafe attitudes about masculinity, and encourages solidarity through personal and collective responsibility.

**CHOICES** – A key aspect of the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) model is for juvenile offenders to develop competencies that will enable them to remain crime-free. Taught at the local county level in many communities across the state, "CHOICES" is a curriculum tool that teaches young people to make positive decisions in their lives to help them avoid repeating criminal behaviors.

**Community Juvenile Arbitration Program** – The Community Juvenile Arbitration is a state-wide collaborative effort between DJJ and all 16 of South Carolina's solicitors and one sheriff's department. The programs divert first-time juvenile offenders charged with a non-violent crime away from the formal juvenile justice system to an arbitration process conducted in the youth's community. Through Arbitration, trained volunteer arbitrators guide the development of common sense solutions and monitor the youths' progress throughout the 90 days they are participating in the program.

**Earn & Return** – *Earn & Return* is a DJJ youth accountability initiative designed to support the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ), which provides young offenders with an opportunity to earn money through their own work at community service work sites to repair the harm they have caused to their crime victim and the community through paying restitution. Funded by contributors who make a monetary donation through their organization or directly to DJJ, the funds are distributed by the DJJ's Victim Restitution Program and promote the goals of holding young offenders accountable, building relationships with positive adults, and enhancing community safety.

**Family Solutions (FS)** – Family Solutions is a 10-week family-centered intervention program that targets first time offenders, and simultaneously addresses the needs common to DJJ juveniles and their families. Parents and youth can be court ordered to complete a FS cycle or it may be used as a diversionary tool. The objective is to enable the parents to work effectively with their children as they embrace positive and pro-social interactions.

**Global Appraisal of Individual Needs – Short Screener (GAIN-SS)** – The GAIN-SS or the "No Wrong Door" initiative as it is also known, is a universal screening tool used by DJJ and other provider agencies in the community for early identification of referral needs for treatment services. GAIN-SS is designed to identify or rule out juveniles as having any behavioral health disorders, serve as an easy-to-use quality assurance tool across diverse agencies and staff, and to provide a periodic measure of any changes in behavioral health.

**Girl's Circle** – Girl's Circle is a program for girls ages 9 to 18 designed to foster self-esteem, help girls maintain authentic connection with peers and adult women in their community, counter trends toward self-doubt, and allow for genuine self-expression through verbal sharing and creative activity. Conducted by trained local DJJ county office female staff volunteers, the Girl's Circle groups consist of 5 to 10 girls who meet once weekly. Topics include friendship, body image, female identity, stereotypes, trusting self and others, aggression and dating violence, diversity and cultural heritage, relationships, substance abuse and risk behaviors, goal setting, and self-care.

**Gang Resistance, Education, and Training (G.R.E.A.T.)** – G.R.E.A.T. is a statewide gang and violence prevention program built around a school-based, law enforcement and DJJ probation officer-instructed classroom program of study. The program is intended to help prevent their involvement in delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership. G.R.E.A.T. lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid using delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems, in 13 weekly one hour sessions along with a summer program and a family training component.

**Intensive Family Services (IFS)** – Intensive Family Services offers a unique combination of rehabilitative behavioral health services that focus on strengthening the family unit in the community. Service plan development, individual therapy, family therapy, family support, and crisis intervention services are offered in the youth's home setting several hours each week.

**Intensive Supervision (IS)** – Intensive Supervision is designed to promote public safety and reduce recidivism. The service targets youth returning to their communities from a correctional facility environment, as well as high-risk youth on probation in communities that require an intensive level of support. IS is a level of supervision that requires a case load of no more than 20 offenders per Intensive Supervision Officer (ISO). Each ISO works to redirect the lives of youth, as well as their families, toward productivity, self-sufficiency, and law abiding behavior. It has been demonstrated that youth supervised under IS are less likely to re-offend.

**Intensive Intake Services (IIS)** – Intensive Intake Services provide a comprehensive assessment for all youth entering the juvenile justice system by identifying and applying appropriate interventions and support services for youth as soon as possible after a referral. IIS seeks to provide alternatives to prosecution, reduce the likelihood that a youth will further penetrate the system, and promote community safety. Using the latest screening tools and interviewing techniques, a DJJ Intensive Intake Case Manager meets with the youth and their parents or guardians to assess the situation, and decide the course of action that will best address the issues at hand.

**Job Readiness Training (JRT)** – The JRT program is an after-school and summer employability skills training program for at-risk high school students. JRT is designed to help prepare teens (ages 14 to 18) for success in future employment, as well as, in school and in their communities. JRT sites are typically located youth serving community sites, including Teen After-School Centers (TASC). Students receive a minimum of 20 hours of job readiness skills training, and have the opportunity to complete an internship with a local business partner, where they can earn up to \$7.25 per hour while gaining practical “real life” work experience.

**Lunch Buddies** – Lunch Buddies is a program designed to connect elementary, middle, and high school students with a caring adult volunteer. A Lunch Buddy spends an hour or two each month to share lunch, fun, friendship, and support the school’s academic and enrichment activities. The Lunch Buddies program also provides an opportunity for DJJ to introduce delinquency prevention and intervention programs to enhance the student’s personal growth and help them make good choices, and allows DJJ to give back to the community and make a positive difference in the lives of the youth.

**Project: Adopt-A-Class (PAAC)** – Project: Adopt A Class is a violence prevention program where local DJJ county offices “adopt” classes at local elementary and middle schools based on their population of “at risk” youth. Professional DJJ staff spend at least one-hour per month directly interacting with their “adopted” students teaching them about making good positive decisions that build character, self-esteem and good citizenship. This program is in partnership with the SC Department of Education, the SC Bar Association and the SC Department of Mental Health.

**Project: Right Turn (PRT)** – Project: Right Turn is a program that provides youth and their parents an opportunity to tour one of DJJ’s three evaluation centers as a result of a Family Court order, as an intervention through Arbitration or contract, or as a graduated sanction for youth on probation. The program focuses on educating young offenders about good decision making and the potential consequences of continued delinquent behavior, and includes a parent education component and a presentation from DJJ’s *The Insiders*.

**Placement Services** – In an effort to create a continuum of options for placement, DJJ has developed an array of community-based residential services with the goal of keeping youth in the least restrictive environment. These services located throughout South Carolina include alternative placements in lieu of secure detention or evaluation, therapeutic foster care, intermediate and intensive group care, marine and wilderness programs, and independent living programs. These placements offer a structured supportive environment in a community setting.

**Restoring Carolina through Youth Service** – Each year in September hundreds of DJJ youth along with DJJ staff and many community partners across the state of South Carolina participate in the *DJJ Restoring Carolina through Youth Service* event. This agency-wide event coincides with the *National Day of Service* and emphasizes the agency’s continuing commitment to playing an active role in helping our communities become better places to work, live, and play. It also provides DJJ youth and staff an opportunity to give back to their communities in a positive way and promotes the concept of Balanced and Restorative Justice.

**Teen After-School Centers (TASC)** – DJJ has partnered with local churches, community centers, and other youth serving organizations across the state to provide TASCs. These centers offer structured time, activities, and supervision between the end of the school day and when parents return from work, which is a risky time for young people, and when serious and violent crime committed by youth increases. This nationally recognized program is specifically designed to reduce the likelihood that participants could be incarcerated and is geared toward those youth in need of additional structure and assistance, often supplementing the normal supervision that DJJ provides to youth on probation, parole, or on contract.

**Think Twice** – *Think Twice* is a DJJ prevention and intervention initiative consisting of a newly produced video and companion workbook, designed to provide at-risk youth and their parents/guardians with real world information about the consequences of juvenile crime, and its impact on the victims and the youth personally. Ultimately, *Think Twice* is intended to help direct youth away from the DJJ system and toward making more positive and informed decisions about their behavior.

**Victim Services Program (VSP)** – DJJ is committed to serving those impacted by crime, especially the victims. Victims are involved and informed regarding the status of their case throughout the juvenile justice process, notified regarding the location and/or release of incarcerated offender(s) relative to their case, and referred to community resources for assistance.

**Volunteer in Probation (VIP)** – VIP volunteers assist the local DJJ county office by providing additional contact with one or more minor offenders on probation or on contract. VIPs meet face-to-face with these youth and their parents/guardians in the local DJJ county office several hours twice or more a month to ensure the youth is complying with all probation or behavioral contract requirements, and to provide any needed direction or assistance. Program goals are to help ensure that youths do not re-offend and further penetrate the juvenile justice system, and to allow DJJ staff additional time to focus their efforts on the more serious offenders.

**Wrap-around Services (WRAP)** – Wrap-around Services are additional support services which are provided to juveniles under DJJ supervision and at risk of placement or institutionalization. These services include transportation and behavior modification services provided by private providers. Transportation services assist the youth and families in accessing the required appointments and services, while behavior modification offers a service plan with the goal of altering behavior that is inappropriate or undesirable, while optimizing behavioral functioning.

**For more information contact the Division of Community Services**

4900 Broad River Road, PO Box 21069, Columbia, SC 29221-1069 ♦ Phone: (803) 896-9113

For additional DJJ resources please visit our website: <http://www.state.sc.us/djj/>

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age.

THE FOLLOWING OFFICES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES:

Title IX –Inspector General’s Office – 803-896-9595, Title II & 504 – Special Education Office – 803-896-8484