



2024 -
2027

Comprehensive Three-Year Plan

GUAM JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS
2024 - 2027

A. Proposal Narrative

Guam is the largest and southernmost island of the Marianas, measuring thirty miles long and eight miles wide at its widest point, and can be considered one of the most progressive, island societies in the Western Pacific. Located between Hawaii and the Asia continent, Guam is an unincorporated territory of the United States of America. Guam also serves as a critical distribution center within Micronesia, the Pacific, and Asia because of its ports of entry and air links. According to the United States Census Bureau, Guam's population in 2020 was 153,836. Children aged 0-17 make up 27% of Guam's population. Currently, Chamorus (the indigenous people of Guam) comprise the largest ethnic group, accounting for 33% of the total population, Filipinos make up 29%, and other Pacific Islanders make up 13%.¹

Guam is an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States with policy relations under the jurisdiction of the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior. The island has only one level of government which includes one police department, one correctional facility (one for adults and a separate facility for juveniles), one judicial branch and one attorney general's office. The Department of Youth Affairs (DYA) is a governmental agency under the Government of Guam created through the enactment of Public Law 14-110 on March 2, 1978. In 2008, former Governor Felix Camacho signed Executive Order 2008-15 designating DYA as the state agency to prepare and administer Guam's State plan [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(1\)](#). In addition, E.O. 2008-15 authorized DYA to implement the State plan [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(2\)](#). Attached in this report, as Attachment A, is E.O. 2008-15. The purpose of the department is to plan, coordinate, and implement programs, services, and activities geared towards youth development, rehabilitation and involvement in the community. DYA is responsible for the care and custody of youth

¹ Public Information Office, "2020 Island Areas Censuses Data on Demographic, Social, Economic and Housing Characteristics Now Available for Guam", United States Census Bureau, Revised October 20, 2022, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2022/2020-island-areas-guam.html>

remanded to the Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) and Cottage Homes. While recognizing that some juvenile offenders will require placement in the facility, a vast majority of them can be safely handled in community settings if an appropriate range of graduated accountability sanctions are made available, such as the department's Aftercare (community reintegration) Programs.

The Guam Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) serves as the State Advisory Group (SAG) as defined in [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(3\)\(A\)\(i-v\)](#). Attached in this report, as Attachment B, is Guam's SAG listing. GJJAC members have training, experience, and special knowledge concerning the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency. DYA and GJJAC participate in the review of Guam's juvenile justice plan prior to submission to the supervisory board [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(3\)\(B\)](#). GJJAC is afforded the opportunity to review and comment no later than 45 days after submission to the supervisory board regarding juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(3\)\(C\)](#). Additionally, GJJAC advises DYA and Guam's supervisory board and receives input from current juveniles in the justice system. [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(3\)\(D\)\(i\)\(iii\)](#) and [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(3\)\(E\)\(i-ii\)](#). A report regarding Guam's compliance with Title II has not been submitted to the Governor since 2018. GJJAC and with the help of DYA, plans to submit this required report in December 2024 [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(3\)\(D\)\(ii\)](#).

One of the responsibilities of the department is to have general purview of youth activities within Guam. The department's mission is to improve the quality of life on Guam by the development and implementation of programs and services that promote youth development, strengthen the family units, to include the involvement of grandparents and extended family members ([34 USC § 11133\[a\]\[17\]](#)) and communities of these juvenile offenders, and to ensure the offenders are

provided with appropriate treatment and are held accountable of their actions. DYA and GJJAC ensures youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, family income, and disability [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(16\)](#).

The system has a range of methods and programs for addressing juvenile crime, taking into account the severity of the offense and the background of the youth offender. Establishing a comprehensive approach to providing services and programs to youth involves collaboration with GJJAC. The system provides for escalating responses to offenses on increasing severity such as probation and incarceration. Because the system has a goal for rehabilitation, many more agencies within the Government of Guam, to include Superior Court of Guam, Office of the Attorney General of Guam, the Guam Department of Education, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam Police Department, village Mayors and other community-based organizations are key players in providing services addressing juvenile crime. One of the highlights of Guam's effort to addressing services for justice involved youth was created in February 2024. The Judiciary of Guam has coordinated a Juvenile Justice Reform effort to address five (5) remedies for: 1. Dual status youth (justice involved youth whom are also a client of Child Protective Services), 2. Data collection and sharing, 3. Statutory and rule changes, 4. Juvenile referral process and detention, and 5. Family engagement and community resources. Subsequently, five (5) subcommittees were created comprised of youth service providers in the government agencies.

Guam ensures fiscal control and fund accounting procedures necessary to assure prudent use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received are adhered to [34 § USC 11133\(a\)\(20\)](#). Attached in this Plan is DYA's Financial Capability completed by Guam's fiscal entity who is responsible for handling drawdowns of federal grant awards, the Department of

Administration (See Attachment C). Additionally, DYA and GJJAC assures Federal funds made available will supplement, but not supplant any programs funded locally, federally, or non-Federally [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(21\)](#). Title II grant funding will not cause displacement of any current employee nor will it affect any collective bargaining relationship, agreement, contract, or services [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(19\)](#). The use of formula grant funds is to impact identified needs in Guam’s juvenile justice system in order to support improvement efforts and annually assess compliance with funding requirements. To the extent applicable, DYA will give priority in funding to programs and activities that are based on rigorous, systematic, and objective research that is scientifically based. DYA will not expend funds to carry out a program if the recipient of funds failed to demonstrate substantial success in achieving the goals specified in the application in the preceding two years [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(22\)](#). Guam will provide not less than 75% of the funds for programs described under item 9 of the Title II program [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(9\)](#).

DYA did not receive under section 222 (42 USC 5632) any amount that exceeded 105 percent of the amount Guam received under such section for fiscal year 2000, which was \$117,000. DYA assures that any amount exceeding \$117,000 should be received, all excess shall be expended through or for programs that are part of a comprehensive and coordinated community system of services [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(24\)](#).

Guam DYA allocates 0%, no funds, to incentivize grants to units of general local government that reduce the caseload of probation officers [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(25\)](#).

Consultation and participation of units of local government [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(4\)](#)

DYA welcomes and seeks collaboration and partnership with local governmental units. Government organizations and community stakeholders involved in Guam’s juvenile justice system operate under the understanding that, “It takes a village to raise a child.” DYA has

supported government outreach events involving youth. One example of DYA's participation with a unit of local government is its support to the Guam Police Department's (GPD) Junior Police Cadet Pilot Program and the Project U program. The Junior Police Cadet was piloted in the DYA Resource Centers for elementary aged children during summer camps. Project U is geared toward older, at-risk adolescents and operates during school breaks and provide law enforcement mentorship, with a goal of instilling good decision making and leadership values. GPD would return in kind a presenter or presentation during DYA's outreach programs at our three resource centers or schools. Another illustration of intentional collaboration is providing Guam's Department of Education an alternate educational setting for students who are suspended from public school at DYA's resource centers. The Alternatives to Suspension program ensures a safe, positive, and proactive atmosphere conducive to learning through effective supervision. In addition, other juvenile justice agencies provide feedback, though informally, their input guides DYA as well as the GJJAC to further enhance and develop Guam's State Plan.

66 2/3 Pass through waiver [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(5\)](#)

Guam DYA has submitted for FY 21, FY 22, and FY 23. However, DYA has received a granted a pass-through waiver of 66 2/3 local distribution requirements in July 2020- attached in this Plan as Attachment D.

Analysis of juvenile delinquency and problems (youth crimes) and needs. [34 USC § 11133 \(a\) \(7\)\(A\)](#)

As part of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Formula Grant Program, Guam is require to analyze current juvenile delinquency trends, challenges and prevention needs specific to our island's youth who intersect with the juvenile justices system on Guam.

Gender specific services [34 USC § 11133 \(a\)\(7\)\(B\)\(i\)](#)

Currently, at all points in the juvenile justice system, males continue to outnumber their female counterparts. Additionally, as the Department of Youth Affairs moves toward full compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) policy and protocols are in place for youth who identify as LGBTQ or gender non-conforming, to be respected and protected while in custody. Further, as female youth enter the system, specific pathways for victim services are identified at intake and through more comprehensive screening and assessment. An array of services ranging from individual counseling through specialized services from VARO (Victim Advocates Reaching Out - Office of the Attorney General); Domestic Assault Response Team – Guam Police Department; Healing Hearts (Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center); as well as non-governmental or not for profit services, such as Harvest House, Island Girl Power and Mañelu. Additionally, the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence provides prevention training and education to practitioners, victims and the general community [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(33\)](#).

Inclusive of the 3-year planning process, as recognized by DYA, is the need for specific gender-related services for its juvenile clientele. DYA’s clinicians are trained to recognize when a referral is needed for gender-specific services. If a request is made by the youth and/or the clinician/social worker believes that a female teenager needs a female therapist or female only program, they are immediately referred (e.g. Mañelu, Island Girl Power, Girl Scouts of Guam). In the community, the court provides therapy services with numerous licensed therapists at the Client Services and Family Counseling Division. For alcohol and drug addicted young adult females who are incarcerated, there is a residential treatment facility called Sagan Na’Homlo (Translated: A place for healing) offered by Sanctuary Inc., that was developed specifically for

chemically dependent youth. The social workers and clinicians employed at DYA who work directly with juveniles within and outside of the facility have worked closely with staff to address any gender issues that may be salient for the youth.

DYA's use of mechanical restraints are limited to hand and ankle applications for the department's criminal offenders. The application is also limited in use strictly for transportation off the facility's compound and if the juvenile poses a high risk to escape, to themselves, others, or property. On rare occasions DYA has received pregnant females remanded into custody. DYA's policy prohibits the use of leg restraints or wrist restraints affixed behind the back of pregnant females. [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(7\)\(B\)\(ix\)](#).

According DYA's Youth Correctional Facility's Manual of Operations, mechanical restraints are mainly utilized for non-status offenders during transportation off -compound or clients who pose a risk to themselves, others, or property. DYA youth correctional staff are trained to utilize "verbal judo" as the first means to diffuse a client from using violence. As of May 2021, DYA's training officer has received Train-the-Trainer certification from the Verbal Judo Institute. If mechanical restraints are used in incidents of violence, staff must report the use of mechanical restraints and how long such restraints were applied. These reports are reviewed by the Youth Corrections Superintendent to determine if procedure was followed accordingly. If the Superintendent determines employee's conduct was unreasonable, he can request an Internal Affairs investigation to be conducted [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(29\)](#).

DYA's current intake process, includes screening and assessments. The Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI) 2 is a quick behavioral health screen and will trigger more comprehensive, immediate intervention when necessary. The Prison Rape Vulnerability Assessment is an instrument which assesses risk of victimization and/or sexually aggressive

behavior and overall risk. This tool provides another opportunity for victims of domestic human trafficking to disclose a history of victimization or abuse. However, this specific information is sometimes provided by the referring agency. DYA's social workers conduct this assessment and if any indications of sexual abuse and/or human trafficking are discovered, the social will file reports with the Guam Police Department and Child Protective Services. In addition, the minor will be provided therapeutic services by DYA's contractual therapist or other victim serving entity [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(33\)](#).

Compliance of the Core Requirements of the JJDP Act (19 - Compliance Monitoring)

Last review of Guam's 2014 Compliance Monitoring Report by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) determined that we were in full compliance of the four core requirements: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) and removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups has shown positive progress and reformation towards the right direction. Additionally, many members of the GJJAC have received training on their responsibilities under the JJDP Act. As a result, DYA continues to move forward with training and education of the 4-Core Requirements will all precincts, holding cell, the Courts of Guam, Criminal Justice Classes at the Guam's local college, and new staff at the facility.

Additionally, The GJJAC continues to work at ensuring that Guam remains in compliance through coordinated State Efforts with the Guam Police Department, the Department of Corrections, and the Superior Court of Guam.

The department will continue targeted efforts at providing training and technical assistance for facilities found to be in violation of the core requirements. Monitoring of secured facilities continue to be conducted. Guam's Compliance Monitoring Policies and Procedure Manual has been finalized and will be updated as needed. The JJ Specialist, who also conducts compliance

monitoring activities, will continue to work with the GJJAC to enhance the department's training efforts by improving the training curriculum and disseminating any new knowledge to personnel and ensure that all facilities receive information and updates relative to compliance issues. The documentation and data collection will be maintained and available for review. The department will consult OJJDP and notify its State Representative and any circumstances that would jeopardize its ability to maintain compliance requirements.

The Guam Police Department and the Department of Corrections managements are supportive of the department's efforts to bring Guam into compliance with the Act and address and resolve issues, to include the Superior Court of Guam.

Further, Guam's Law Revision Commission on Juvenile Justice will ensure local definitions are consistent with federal definitions while standards of the Act will be incorporated into departmental and organizations policies and procedures to be able to comply with the core requirements.

In order to establish an effective compliance monitoring system, the department works closely with the GJJAC/SAG for any concerns and issues surrounding compliance monitoring.

(1) Plan for Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders.

According to the data submitted in Guam's 2015 Compliance Monitoring (CM) Report, Guam was found to be in full compliance with Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO). Corrective actions were taken to eliminate DSO violations in previous years.

There were collaborative efforts between DYA and the National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) to train DYA personnel, law enforcement officers and command staff on compliance monitoring and the four core requirements in February, July and September

2010, and most recently the Development Services Group (DSG) in February 2012 to the GJJAC/SAG.

Status offenders are not placed in secure facilities as cited in local law, 19 GCA § 20118 (See Attachment E) [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(11\)\(A\)](#). DYA operates a residential facility for Status Offenders called Cottage Homes.

Valid Court Order [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(23\)](#)

There are no reported occurrences a status offender is detained in a secure facility. However, it is allowable with a valid court order for a period no longer than three days as indicated in 19 GCA § 20202 (See Attachment F). DYA assures [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(23\)](#) is abided by.

Compliance Monitor and JJ Specialist continue to monitor facilities, to include consultation with Youth Correctional Facility and Cottage Homes' staff, training and technical assistance, review of policies and procedures, etc. DYA's holding logs for the Youth Correctional Facility's (YCF) Intake Unit to record all juveniles admitted and processed continues to capture necessary data. Data will be reviewed monthly and verified by the JJ Specialist/DYA staff to ensure accused status offenders, non-status offenders and federal wards are not held securely detained for more than 24 hours. Review of the Daily Population Report and classification of juveniles reflected in these reports include those adjudicated status offenders, non-offenders and federal wards to ensure they are not securely detained for any length of time. Monthly data is collected within the week the following the reporting month. Holding logs are digitally prepared at Intake and forwarded to the JJ Specialist/DYA staff.

SAG will continue to work closely with the JJ Specialist on issues concerning the DSO requirement and seek more training opportunities.

(2) Plan for Separation of Juveniles from Adult Offenders.

Guam law 19 GCA § 5111 (c), indicates a juvenile shall not be confined in a jail or holding facility for adults. Although DYA has no record of juveniles being held in an adult detention/correction setting, 19 GCA § 5111 (c) also permits a child between 16 to 18 years of age, “... whose conduct or condition is such as to endanger his safety or welfare or that of others in a detention facility for children...” will allow for detention in an adult facility but in a separate ward (See Attachment G). In 9 GCA § 83.55 (See Attachment H) Guam’s Department of Corrections conducts a full study report of committed youth offenders to determine his/her detention in the adult facility [34 USC § 11133 \(a\)\(11\)\(B\)\(ii\)](#). In regard to court hearings conducted every 30 days a juvenile is housed in an adult holding facility [34 USC § 11133 \(a\)\(11\)\(B\)\(iii\)](#), DYA is working with the Guam’s judiciary to implement compliance.

The collaborative efforts between DYA, NTTAC and DSG have provided critical training to personnel on Compliance Monitoring and the four core requirements of the JJDP Act.

Guam is in full compliance with separation of juveniles from adult offenders. DYA works to ensure waived juveniles are transferred within six months after reaching the age of 18 or are otherwise under the jurisdiction of a criminal court, be moved to an adult facility or separated from other juvenile delinquent offenders in YCF.

The Compliance Monitor will monitor all Guam Law Enforcement Facilities within the Corrections, Judicial, and the Police Departments to ensure sight and sound separation between juveniles and adult inmates and thus make it a practice to not have both adults and juveniles in their holding facilities at the same time. A few have a separate area in which they routinely hold juveniles. Others have a more eclectic approach, using the holding facility if no adults are there, and turning to another location if adults are in holding [34 USC § 11133 \(a\)\(12\)\(A\)](#). The Guam Police Department (GPD) General Orders No 97-24 (NOTE: we were unable to submit a copy of

this General Order at the time of submission of this Plan) specifically outlines the training and process to properly handling and processing of juveniles. Guam does not possess the policy requiring individuals who work with juveniles and adult inmates but plan establishing this in DYA's Compliance Manual [34 USC § 11133 \(a\)\(12\)\(B\)](#).

SAG will work closely with the JJ Specialist on issues concerning compliance with the separation of juveniles from adult offenders' and seek more training opportunities.

(3) Plan for Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups.

Guam is in full compliance with the jail and lock up removal requirement based on its 2014 Compliance Monitoring Report.

The collaborative efforts between DYA, NTTAC and DSG have provided critical training to DYA and law enforcement personnel on compliance monitoring and the four core requirements of the JJDP Act.

The Guam Police Department (GPD) General Orders No 97-24 specifically outlines the proper handling and processing of juveniles. GPD's juvenile processing is managed by the Juvenile Investigation Section. This section's primary task is to handle all juvenile cases.

Police precinct holding logs are reviewed monthly and data verified by the JJ Specialist/DYA staff to ensure status and non-status offenders are not held securely and accused juvenile delinquents are not held in excess of the six-hour rule. Holding logs of the four precincts (Dededo, Tumon-Tamuning, Sinajana and Agat) are then prepared digitally by DYA's JJ Specialist/DYA staff.

DYA will conduct compliance monitoring of facilities on an annual basis that will include the police precincts, adult detention facility, the Judiciary Building (classified as a Court Holding Facility), etc. in order to maintain compliance.

The GJJAC will work closely with the JJ Specialist on issues concerning compliance with the removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups' requirement and seek more training opportunities.

Plan for implementing policy, practice, and system improvement strategies to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among you who come into contact with juvenile justice system 34 USC § 11133 (a)(15)(A-C).

Migrants from outer islands, particularly Chuuk, are disproportionately represented in Guam's juvenile justice system and this overrepresentation becomes amplified at each successive decision point - from contact through commitment. Guam's admission data continues to show an overrepresentation of Chuukese youth suggesting an ongoing need for work in this area. Although the number of DYA admissions has decreased, the group representing the highest percentage, at 50% or over, are youth from Chuuk.

Guam's goal to eliminate racial inequalities and inequities across all points of contact consists of

1. Have interpreters available to assist Chuukese families involved in the juvenile justice system;
- and 2. Provide literature written in the reader's language explaining Guam's laws and social norms ; and 3. Foster partnerships between community-based organizations (CBOs) and other youth-serving agencies and law enforcement, with a specific focus on helping law enforcement entities interact with youth in ways that are sensitive to their sociocultural context. 4. DYA will seek technical support with Center for Coordinate Assistance to States (CCAS) in accomplishing this goal.

Activities: To date, planned activities fall into three main areas: grants, training/education, and data. The GJJAC will provide a plan and anticipates this plan will be developed by the end of 2023.

Plan for Compliance Monitoring for the First Three Core Requirements of the JJDP Act.

DYA effectively monitors juvenile holding facilities every six months. The Compliance Monitor will review the facility’s plant and juvenile holding log to review if there are any violations. Page 14 to 15 of Guam Compliance Monitoring Manual (Attachment I) illustrates DYA’s system of monitoring jails, lock ups, the detention facility, and correctional facility [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(14\)](#).

A. Description of the issue

The island’s juvenile justice system is comprised of the police, juvenile courts, the Office of the Attorney General’s Family Division, Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) and Cottage Homes. As mentioned earlier, the Judiciary of Guam is organizing government agencies involved in juvenile justice to address perceived issues. However, key areas of concern previously identified by the GJJAC/SAG relative to the analysis of juvenile crime trends and gaps that exist within the juvenile justice system also include the following: dual status youth, racial and ethnic disparity among the youth from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) population at multiple data points within the juvenile justice system; family engagement for juveniles in the justice system; difficulty of determining appropriate treatment for youth, especially those suffering from mental disorders; and limited resources to provide prevention services. In addition, data collection capacity remains challenging for Guam. Within DYA, a case management software system has been established in 2022. However, the juvenile justice system continues to strengthen its collaborative tracking system for juvenile offenders from the point of entry to release back into the community.

Inclusive of the 3-year planning process, as recognized by DYA, is the need for specific family-engagement services of all youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The barriers that

families face may include the lack of financial and social supports necessary to meet the child's need for services.

DYA and the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) have been working very closely and successfully provided appropriate assessment and treatment services for incarcerated juveniles and those placed in aftercare (transitional) services. This came as a result of direct meetings with the GBHWC administration and clinical service heads for children and adolescents. Before these meetings, there were challenges with referring youth, including follow-up by the GBHWC staff. At the current time, DYA is very satisfied with the services provided by GBHWC as youth referred have been seen and assessed 100% of the time and most importantly, they have worked closely with DYA staff to make follow-up clinical/medication appointments for the youth. They have been instrumental in the communication and the subsequent improvements that are needed in the referral processes.

Information sharing among youth service providers is improving. However, DYA continues to establish contact and as a result, the data provided in the subsequent pages were obtained from major sources involved with youth going through the system. The data shown would be the basis of the juvenile crime analysis, reflecting increases and decreases in juvenile offending.

Table 1 Juvenile Offenders by Offense 2021 - 2023 illustrates data for 2023 with 202 offenses committed, including major crimes such as burglary, assault, criminal sexual conduct, and vehicle theft. Assault, Family Violence, and Beyond Control consistently held the highest number of offenses from 2021 to 2023. Overall, Guam's total juvenile offense rates increased by 36% within the past three (3) years. The increase can be attributed to the rescinding COVID-19 public health restrictions ordered by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero between 2021 and 2022.

Of great concern is the data collected and labeled “All other offenses” and the inability to reference and analyze these specific charges for which minors were taken into custody, hence a major administrative focus will be on enhanced data collection.

Table 1. Juvenile Offenders by Offense, Guam: 2021 – 2023

Offense	2021	2022	2023
Murder	0	1	0
Rape/Criminal Sexual Conduct	5	6	11
Robbery	0	5	4
Aggravated Assault	8	8	9
Burglary	9	10	11
Theft of Property	3	2	9
Vehicle Theft	6	4	3
Arson	0	0	1
Assaults	12	28	17
Family Violence	18	12	20
Rioting	0	3	7
Stolen Property	0	5	9
Vandalism	0	5	1
Weapon Violations	0	2	0
Terrorizing	6	13	9
Drug Abuse Violations	2	25	3
Driving Under the Influence	1	0	3
Drunkenness	5	23	16
Disorderly Conduct	5	8	8
All other Offenses	34	86	96
Curfew Violations	3	6	7
Beyond Control	28	50	66
TOTAL JUVENILE OFFENDERS	74	180	202

Source: Guam Police Department

Table 2 DYA Admissions 2021 - 2023 shows total admission have increased 36% from 41 in 2021 to 202 in 2023. The increase in admissions can be contributed to the rescinding COVID-19 public health restrictions. In addition, the Judiciary’s juvenile justice reform efforts emphasizes alternate placement or recommendations for community supervision as opposed to detention. DYA and Guam’s State Advisory Group also continue to address juvenile justice programs and services, review current juvenile policies supported with research and seek strategies to

strengthen family engagement involving evidence and community-based programs to reduce recidivism [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(8\)](#) and [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(10\)](#).

Table 2. DYA Admissions 2021 - 2023

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total Admission	74	180	202
1st contact	33	64	88
2nd or more contacts	41	116	114

DYA’s recidivism rate in **Table 3** shows a decrease in the recidivism rate from FY 2022 to FY 2023. DYA and GJJAC hope to sustain or decrease the recidivism rate in the next three years.

Table 3. DYA Recidivism Rate 2021 – 2023

FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
55.40%	64.44%	57.42%

DYA’s strategies are to continue its efforts to aid in reducing the recidivism rates. Its clinicians and social workers utilize quasi-MST (Multi-systemic Therapy) as its primary model for treatment. Research has shown that MST, an evidence-based approach, reduces youth delinquent criminal behaviors. MST focuses on the factors of each youth's social network that are contributing to his or her antisocial behavior. The ultimate goal of MST is to empower families to build a healthier environment through the mobilization of existing child, family, and community resources hence, reduction of reoffending [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(30\)](#).

DYA has implemented best practices consistent with strategies to better prepare youth residents to integrate back into their communities. The crafting of written case plans are developed with information collected upon admission through intake and are developed through weekly case management meeting with Guam Department of Education's Liheng Famagu'on program, family input, the JOG's clinical psychologist, Dr. Rapadas (Client Services and Family Counseling), Individual/Marriage Family Therapist, Edward Taitano, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center and the DYA assigned social worker.

Pre-release and post plans are reviewed and approved by the Family Court Judge who determines release based on the progress of each individual case [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(31\)](#).

DYA and the court continue to unify rehabilitative treatment services, such as risk and needs assessment tools to determine the classification of juveniles as low-medium or high risk and establish programs tailored to their individual needs. Additional assessments prior to release strengthen re-entry, follow up and supervision services [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(10\)](#).

Additionally, in 2022, DYA acquired technical assistance services from the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice to conduct a comprehensive system and facilities review at DYA's Youth Correctional Facility and Cottage Homes Facility. A recommendation identified by the RFK National Resource Center is to increase evidence-based programming and services to reduce recidivism and improve youth outcomes. Implementing more programming, such as DYA's behavioral reward program, BeHIPP. Residents earn daily points which are tallied weekly in which they can expend for snacks, drinks, clothing, and/or hygiene products. BeHIPP incentivizes a residents positive behavior displayed by their respect for themselves, others and their "community".

Table 4 DYA Top Five Offenses 2021 – 2023 shows Beyond Control and Family Violence have been consistently a top-two offense for the past three (3) years.

Table 4. DYA Top Five Offenses 2021 – 2023

FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Beyond Control (28)	Beyond Control (50)	Beyond Control (66)
Family Violence (18)	Family Violence (28)	Family Violence (20)
VCO (16)	Substance Related (25)	Assault (17)
Assault (12)	Assault (12)	Alcohol Related (16)
Aggravated Assault (8)	Aggravated. Assault (8)	CSC/Rape (11)

Chronic juvenile offenders with two or more contacts continue to receive the treatment they need while confined in the Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) or Cottage Homes with consideration for placement in the early reunification or reintegration into the community through weekend furloughs and/or AfterCare (DYA’s program to assist juveniles and their families). These programs require frequent visitations and spot checks by DYA staff to gauge compliance as well as exit interviews with the youth and parents/guardians to rate personnel performance, programs and services, and address issues/concerns.

Within the community, DYA established Youth Resource Centers in the northern (Dededo), central (Mangilao) and southern (Agat) regions of Guam to offer programs and services for children, youth, and families, including those with special needs and disabilities and youth in the juvenile justice system. In efforts to support court-involved youth released from DYA, the Aftercare Program was established to help prevent them from returning to the YCF or Cottage Homes.

The Aftercare Program team consists of social workers/ Resource Center leader, community program aides, and on occasion, a therapist. The team also utilizes a quasi-multi-systemic therapy approach. Two critical services of the Aftercare Program are *intensive monitoring* and *counseling*. Intense monitoring occurs in the home and school settings. Community program aides conduct daily school monitoring, spot checks, confer with teachers and school administrators, and retrieve attendance and other reports, such as academic performance, behavioral concerns or issues. These consultations provide further insight to the respective social worker by being proactive and more responsive to the unique needs of each client and guide him/her to become academically successful [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(8\)](#).

Counseling services are accessible for clients under the Aftercare Program. DYA's Individual/Marriage/Family Therapist utilizes the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) as the primary model of treatment. CBT aims to affect negative behaviors into positive behaviors by changing the way a person thinks, as well as regulating emotions. Social workers and the Therapist work hand-in-hand with the clients and their families to identify determinants of anti-social behaviors, develop treatment plans and establish goals targeting behavioral changes, reinforce treatment plans and assist in goal achievement and navigate community resources. Therefore, the quality of services rendered support positive youth development that ultimately aims to prevent the client from re-offending and re-entering the Youth Correctional Facility or Cottage Homes.

The Family Court can defer cases to the Aftercare program as an alternative to incarceration. This component will allow levels of monitoring and other services for a minimum of six months up to 12 months. Additional phases of Aftercare allow families to continue services as needed.

Recent and ongoing literature and statistics have shown that upon a juvenile's release from a correctional facility setting, if no follow-up care is provided, the likelihood is that the particular juvenile will either violate again or commit another offense, which may continue into their adulthood. The recidivism rate is much higher in juveniles where no follow-up care and/or services are provided versus the ones who do receive such services. Oftentimes, troubled youth have poor academic standings because they lack self-esteem and consequently, this usually contributes to negative anti-social behavior. DYA passionately believes that if youth are empowered with knowledge and education, then their overall sense of value and self-worth will increase, which will ultimately assist in improving their overall behavior within the classroom and school settings, homes, and within their community. DYA is fortunate GDOE conducts their school curriculum in DYA's Youth Correctional Facility and Cottage Homes Facility. The majority of DYA admissions are students of GDOE and hence their studies are minimally affected. Upon the minor's release, their schedule and progress report is provided. GDOE's personnel assigned to DYA will also provide the minor's main school additional information upon request in order to support his/her educational progress [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(32\)](#).

Individualized and family centered programs along with community-based programs as Mañelu (formerly Big Brothers Big Sisters) and Island Girl Power help to reconnect youth to their respective neighborhoods. More services require additional staff and consistent funding; therefore coordinated volunteer efforts from the general population (i.e. military, senior citizens, youth groups) should always be pursued. DYA also welcomes community volunteers.

The demographic makeup of juveniles served in DYA consists of male minors from single unwed parents and socioeconomic impoverished homes, both impacting their educational

attainment and likelihood of statistical success in Guam’s society. Male minors continue to make up the majority of the DYA population.

Table 5 DYA Admissions Top Five Age Groups 2021– 2023 reflects the age of 17 as highest ranked overall.

Table. 5 Admissions: Top 5 Age Groups

Age	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
13 y.o.	10	20	19
14 y.o.	8	25	27
15 y.o.	10	29	36
16 y.o.	15	35	38
17 y.o.	22	48	51

Table 6 DYA Admissions Top Five Ethnic Groups 2021 – 2023 reflect that Chamorro and FSM juveniles, particularly Chuukese, remain the top ethnic groups admitted to the Youth Correctional and Cottage Homes facilities. In the past three (3) years, Chuukese made up the largest single ethnic group by at least 47% followed by Chamorros at 31% of 361 total admissions to DYA facilities.

Table 6. DYA Admissions Top Five Ethnic Groups 2021 – 2023

FY 2021		FY 2022		FY 2023	
CHamoru	33	CHamoru	47	CHamoru	87
Chuukese	35	Chuukese	120	Chuukese	107
Filipino	2	Filipino	7	Filipino	2
Pohnepian	1	Pohnepian	2	Pohnepian	1
Other FSM	1	Other FSM	2	Other	2

Chuukese youth, relative to their smaller proportion in Guam’s total population are consistently disproportionate and are over-represented in multiple data points throughout the juvenile justice system. Risk factors include poverty, system bias, less emphasis on education, and poor community integration have been very challenging to address and overcome. Developing governmental and nongovernmental interagency collaboration, particularly FSM community engagement will be a key strategy to effectively address disproportionality in this program year.

Other contributing factors for the youth crime trends include parent/child relationship, gang/peer group influences, lack of positive role models, school academic failures and lack of viable positive programs and activities in the community. Education is provided as mandated by public law for those who choose to stay in school or those who still exhibit appropriate behaviors within the school environment.

With the exception of schools, there are limited outlets and island-wide activities for youth to attend and/or positively socialize. Outlets that are available usually require fees. For single-parent homes and struggling families who are unable to afford the fees, an extra-curricular activity becomes a hardship. Many of these youth come from schools and villages located in the northern district of Guam, such as Dededo and Yigo, along with other more centrally located villages (Mangilao and Barrigada), where most of the admissions into DYA have come from.

Table 7 DYA Admissions Top Five Drug Use 2021 – 2023 illustrates the majority of juveniles assessed during intake have reported alcohol-related offenses. Table 7 shows a decline of drug use reported by clients however, alcohol offenses remain prevalent as data from GPD shows violations consistently rating high in offenses charged.

Table 7. DYA Admissions Top Five Drug Use 2021 - 2023

Description	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
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Alcohol-Related	5	16	15
Marijuana	2	3	0
Methamphetamine	2	21	3
Tobacco	0	3	2
Other	0	0	0

Guam’s legal age to purchase and consume alcohol beverage is 21. GPD reported that most juvenile cases involving criminal behaviors were associated with alcohol. Guam recently passed a law to increase the legal tobacco consumption age to 21 in 2018.

Within the Guam Department of Education (GDOE), the school system continues to experience youth violence incidences on campus, however in **Table 8** DYA Admissions by Schools shows John F. Kennedy High School rank number in two (2) of the past three (3) years. Through collaborative efforts between agencies and organizations, more outreach needs to be made as GDOE may be redistricting students this upcoming school year to address overcrowding.

Table 8. DYA Admissions by Schools: Top Five Schools 2021 - 2023

FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Tiyan High School 10	John F. Kennedy High School 45	John F. Kennedy High School 38
John F. Kennedy High School 8	Tiyan High School 25	Tiyan High School 26
George Washington High School 8	Simon Sanchez High School 20	George Washington High School 19
Okkodo High School 8	Jose Rios Middle School 19	Southern High School 17
Southern High School 7	George Washington High School 17	Simon Sanchez High School 16

This review is part of the grant project activities as further elaborated under goals and objectives. In addressing clients' school issues, DYA continues to work in partnership with GDOE and others. DYA ongoing meetings with their administrators, offers its Alternatives to Suspension and Expulsion Programs via the Youth Centers, outreach presentations about the realities of institutional living, follow up Aftercare services upon clients return to their home schools, etc.

With regard to the issues relating to juvenile delinquency encompasses many areas, of high concern is the island's drug-related crimes and drugs entering Guam. The effect on youth criminal activities has heightened public concern with regards to prevention and control. The Department of Youth Affairs, its partners and the GJJAC/SAG recognize there is no one method or program of prevention that will control or curb the problems of juvenile delinquency. The prevention and control of the total juvenile delinquency problem will require several means and new alternatives methods in delinquency prevention and rehabilitation for juvenile offenders. Collaborative efforts, data collection, including training opportunities for personnel must be maintained with all current associations as we continue to strengthen our efforts to implement appropriate intervention and prevention measures for youth involved in the court system [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(10\)](#).

Plan for implementing policy, practice, and system improvement strategies to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among you who come into contact with juvenile justice system [34 USC § 11133 \(a\)\(15\)\(A-C\)](#).

Migrants from outer islands, particularly Chuuk, are disproportionately represented in Guam's juvenile justice system and this overrepresentation becomes amplified at each successive decision point - from contact through commitment. Guam's admission data continues to show an overrepresentation of Chuukese youth suggesting an ongoing need for work in this area.

Although the number of DYA admissions has decreased, the group representing the highest percentage, at 50% or over, are youth from Chuuk.

Guam’s goal to eliminate racial inequalities and inequities across all points of contact consists of

1. Have interpreters available to assist Chuukese families involved in the juvenile justice system;
- and 2. Provide literature written in the reader’s language explaining Guam’s laws and social norms; and 3. Foster partnerships between community-based organizations (CBOs) and other youth-serving agencies and law enforcement, with a specific focus on helping law enforcement entities interact with youth in ways that are sensitive to their sociocultural context. 4. DYA will seek technical support with Center for Coordinate Assistance to States (CCAS) in accomplishing this goal.

Activities: To date, planned activities fall into three main areas: grants, training/education, and data. The GJJAC will provide a plan and anticipates this plan will be developed by the end of 2023.

B. Project Goals and Objectives

NOTE: The total funding amount is based on FY 2023’s Title II award.

PRIORITY #1 Program Area Name: After-School Programs

Anticipated amount of funding to be used toward this Program Area: \$49,651 (The state does not expect to fund sub-grantees.)

Goal 1: After-school programs provide at-risk juveniles and juveniles in the juvenile justice system with a range of age-appropriate activities, including tutoring, mentoring, and other educational and enrichment activities. There are three strategically located youth centers located in the north, central, and southern Guam. The centers provide an educational and recreational services to the community as well as DYA’s Aftercare program participants (most participants

are adjudicated minors released from DYA’s correctional facility reintegrating back to their families, schools, and community).

Describe how the provision of this activity/service/project(s) meets an identified juvenile crime problem and/or juvenile justice and delinquency prevention need of the state or Indian Tribe based on the information provided in the crime analysis.

The GJJAC/SAG is aware of the heightened existence of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and violence in the schools. The members believe it is important to identify the extent of each issue and seek alternatives to address the issues. As a result, the group hopes to reduce the occurrence of these issues in the schools and delinquency associated with use. DYA assures the coordinated use of funds provided by Title II with local funds is directed at juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(28\)](#). After-school programs at DYA’s youth resource centers provide a safe learning setting beneficial to youth. Activities carried out at the resource centers aim to improve their school performance and reduce juvenile delinquency.

Specifically, and concretely, describe how the project design and implementation steps will assist in achieving the stated goal and objective(s).

Provides resources at no cost for youth to engage in positive, culturally competent and wholesome activities (i.e. sports, beautification projects) after-school and during breaks with emphasis on mentoring. DYA’s youth centers offer a safe and enriching environment to learn and engage in positive activities. DYA’s youth centers also doubles as a space for our Aftercare clients who receive mentorship and therapeutic services in order to provide positive alternatives that allow at-risk youth the opportunities to be productive members of society.

Objective 1A: Provide alternative activities for the youth to replace the anti-social behavior reflected in negative incidents at school and in the community involving drugs, alcohol, tobacco,

crime problem and/or juvenile justice and delinquency prevention need of the state or Indian Tribe based on the information provided in the crime analysis.

The SAG is a vital component for fulfilling the requirements of the JJDP Act and providing an opportunity for Guam to access Title II funding.

Specifically, and concretely, describe how the project design and implementation steps will assist in achieving the stated goal and objective(s).

SAG meeting agendas will be developed in advance with meetings devoted to particular topics associated with the Title II responsibilities of the SAG and DSAs. One example is development of the annual report to the Governor and analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of programs and activities carried out under the plan.

Objective 2A: The JJ Specialist will develop a list of topics for discussion at the SAG meetings, with a priority for discussing the biennial report to the Governor and Legislature regarding Guam’s compliance with the core requirements and recommendations.

Objective 2B: SAG will be provided with training to better understand their role and responsibilities with the JJDP Act requirements.

Activity/Service/Project(s) to be provided: JJ Specialist will submit a TTA request to CCAS for SAG 101 training to be provided to their newly constituted SAG.

Anticipated outputs and outcomes of this goal and the associated objectives and activities/services/projects: The SAG will have a better understanding of their role and responsibilities and how they work and collaborate with the Designated State Agency (DSA). They will be prepared for participating in the processes required for development of Guam’s 2028 - 2010 three (3) year juvenile justice and delinquency prevention plan.

PRIORITY #3

PROGRAM AREA NAME: Compliance Monitoring

Anticipated amount of funding to be used toward this Program Area: \$7,200 (The state does not expect to fund sub-grantees.)

Goal 3: To maintain compliance with the JJDP Act Core Requirements of Separation, Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, and Jail Removal.

Describe how the provision of this activity/service/project(s) meets an identified juvenile crime problem and/or juvenile justice and delinquency prevention need of the state or Indian Tribe based on the information provided in the crime analysis.

Compliance with the 4 core requirements of the JJDP is necessary for Guam to receive its full Title II allocation. Also, the last review of Guam’s 2023 Compliance Monitoring Report (See Attachment J) by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) determined that we were in full compliance of the four core requirements: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) and removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups has shown positive progress and reformation towards the right direction.

Additionally, many members of the GJJAC/SAG have received training on their responsibilities under the JJDP Act. As a result, DYA continues to move forward with training and education of the 4-Core Requirements will all precincts, holding cell, the Courts of Guam, Criminal Justice Classes at the local college, and among new staff at the facility and compliance has been maintained.

Specifically, and concretely, describe how the project design and implementation steps will assist in achieving the stated goal and objective(s). Training provided to staff in secure settings will provide knowledge about what compliance means and how compliance is measured in secured settings. Policies and Procedures will provide the processes to follow for secure settings to maintain their compliance with the core requirements, and monitoring by the DSA

will provide the information needed to demonstrate compliance to OJJDP.

Objective 3A: The Guam Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC), also known as the State Advisory Group (SAG), will continue to work at ensuring that Guam remains in compliance through coordinated State Efforts with the Guam Police Department, the Department of Corrections, and the Superior Court of Guam.

Activity/Service/Project(s) to be provided: The department will continue targeted efforts at providing training and technical assistance for facilities found to be in violation of the core requirements.

Objective 3B: Compliance Monitoring activities will continue throughout Guam to collect and review data and to understand internal processes when juvenile are held securely.

Activity/Service/Project(s) to be provided: Monitoring of secured facilities will continue to be conducted. Guam’s Compliance Monitoring Policies and Procedure Manual, which were just finalized, will be updated as needed. The JJ Specialist, who also conducts compliance monitoring activities, will continue to work with the GJJAC/SAG to enhance the department’s training efforts by improving the training curriculum and disseminating any new knowledge to personnel and ensure that all facilities receive information and updates relative to compliance issues.

Anticipated outputs and outcomes of this goal and the associated objectives and activities/ services/projects: Guam’s compliance monitoring documentation and data collection will be maintained and available for review and will show continued compliance.

PRIORITY # 4 PROGRAM AREA NAME: Juvenile Justice Systems Improvement

Anticipated amount of funding to be used toward this Program Area: \$12,254 (The state does not expect to fund sub-grantees.)

Goal 4: Data within Guam’s juvenile justice and delinquency prevention system’s agencies is very difficult to access, to understand, and to ensure exactly what the data means or what it is capturing. This creates difficulties in fully understanding how Guam can work to make improvements in the juvenile justice system; the data must be clear in order to justify changes.

Describe how the provision of this activity/service/project(s) meets an identified juvenile crime problem and/or juvenile justice and delinquency prevention need of the state or Indian Tribe based on the information provided in the crime analysis.

Funding in this program area will assist with subscription services for DYA’s case management system which was implemented in 2022. DYA is still adjusting to the implementation of the system into daily operations but plan to be fully integrated by 2025.

Having a systemized process for data collection, using standardized forms and with an online resource guide for user sponsor by the GJJAC will provide the infrastructure support needed to implement a new solution for data gathering and management through a new web-based data management system.

Specifically, and concretely, describe how the project design and implementation steps will assist in achieving the stated goal and objective(s).

Funding in this program area will assist with subscription services for DYA’s case management system which was implemented in 2022. DYA is still adjusting to the implementation of the system into daily operations but plan to be fully integrated by 2025. The system will be relied on heavily for information reference and data queries.

Objective 4A: To continue the subscription services of DYA’s current case management system.

Activity/Service/Project(s) to be provided: Make decisions regarding what data will be collected, provided definitions for each data item and collect using standardized tool data all of

which will be memorialized in a resource guide for the user.

PRIORITY #5 **PROGRAM AREA NAME:** Planning and Administration (P&A)

Anticipated amount of funding to be used toward this Program Area: \$26,721 (The state does not expect to fund sub-grantees.)

Goal 5: The Designated State Agency will have sound policies, procedures and practices in place that will allow it to appropriately administer the Title II Grant Program as well as meet the needs of the SAG so they can in turn operate effectively and functionally. DYA will seek technical support with Center for Coordinate Assistance to States (CCAS) in accomplishing this goal. NOTE: DYA is submitting a request to waive the P&A match requirement. Please see Attachment K.

Describe how the provision of this activity/service/project(s) meets an identified juvenile crime problem and/or juvenile justice and delinquency prevention need of the state or Indian Tribe based on the information provided in the crime analysis.

The Title II program is a vital component of the Guam juvenile justice and delinquency prevention system for several reasons: promotion of the core requirements, an emphasis on data driven planning and priority area selection to encourage focusing on most imperative issues affecting the JJ system, and funding to accomplish some of this important work. The JJ Specialist and the SAG need training and technical support to assure their work is done in compliance with the JJDPA but also efficiently and effectively.

Specifically, and concretely, describe how the project design and implementation steps will assist in achieving the stated goal and objective(s).

The JJ Specialist will be able to manage the mechanics of the Title II program (awarding funds and managing funded projects) more efficiently. The SAG will, with the JJ Specialist's support

develop an understanding about what they need to also operate more effectively and efficiently.

Objective 5A: JJ Specialist will request CCAS training on specific topics as the need arises.

Activity/Service/Project(s) to be provided: JJ Specialist training will provide information that will help Guam's JJ Specialist to better understand the requirements of Title II and to develop processes that will assist in accomplishing the major tasks of the Title II program.

Objective 5B: The Title II program in Guam will have a solid foundation based on up to date Policies & Procedures for Grant Management as well as for meeting all the requirements of the DSA related to the Title II program.

Activity/Service/Project(s) to be provided: The JJ Specialist will review current grant management policies and procedures of the DSA and request revisions for the Title II program processes that will reflect what is required by the current JJDP and federal laws, rule and regulation for managing federal funding.

Anticipated outputs and outcomes of this goal and the associated objectives and activities/services/projects: The Title II Formula program will be well established in Guam with sound written guidelines, and a systematic process ensuring compliance with federal regulations.

C. Collecting and Sharing Juvenile Justice Information

Juvenile Justice Information and data sharing in Guam is challenging. Currently, there exists no central repository for juvenile justice information. Multiple juvenile justice and child/youth serving agencies have separate operational systems with no interface capabilities which makes data collection and analysis difficult and time consuming. Much information is not readily available to requesting agencies without ample notice and varying disclosure and consent forms.

The department understands the importance of gathering information and data sharing within the juvenile justice system. Continued collaborative efforts and support are made possible among the

various youth-serving agencies and organizations including the Judiciary of Guam, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Department of Public Health and Social Services' Child Protective Services (CPS), Sanctuary, Incorporated, etc. In particular, DYA and CPS have an effective working relationship. On many occurrences CPS is made aware of a minor's admission, either by the minor's family members or GPD, as they are being processed. DYA and CPS would work in conjunction to provide court-ordered and/or treatment services for the minor and family [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(26\)](#). The Department of Youth Affairs works collaboratively with Child Protective Services on dual status youth which ensures that case plans receive judicial review and approval prior to implementation and will ensure all youth protections relative to 42. U.S Code §672 [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(27\)](#).

Meetings between agencies and organizations are held to further discuss trends, issues and concerns and how they can better assist one another. For example, DYA takes part in the judiciary of Guam's quarterly meetings of the Guam Criminal Justice Automation Commission. These meetings are attended by different law enforcement agencies, mental health department, Attorney General's Office, Public Defender, Office of the Governor, and Legislature.

Although data and research are limited among these entities, the department utilizes them as they become available. DYA is working with the Judiciary of Guam to integrate data collections systems.

Information and data are made available upon request, giving the department and the GJJAC/SAG an overview of the current trends and issues surrounding the juvenile justice system. Information and data will project and define strategies in the development of the 3-year plan. The department also utilizes online statistics made available through websites that are updated regularly.

When agencies undergo changes and priorities, data collection becomes difficult to obtain. The process in which the department currently gathers juvenile justice information and data involves written correspondence from the DYA Director to said entities. Upon approval of each request, they would then be forwarded to the proper unit/section that will provide the information or data. DYA has been fortunate to obtain funding to improve the in-house Juvenile Information Database. Although several youth service providers have already established their information systems, the department's close networking relations with them continue to be sound and cohesive.

DYA has always maintained records of juvenile delinquents and their family's information and services received protected. Guam law, 19 GCA § 5124, seals all government records concerning children within the territory of Guam to have violated any territorial law (See Attachment K) [34 USC § 11133\(a\)\(18\)](#). in the jurisdiction All employees, volunteers, interns, or contractors are required to complete confidentiality agreements before entering DYA's Youth Correctional Facility, Cottage Homes, or who's duties allows exposure to identities and/or care of juveniles in the Aftercare program.

As mentioned earlier, The Judiciary of Guam has coordinated a Juvenile Justice Reform committee to address juvenile justice information sharing. The key objective of the committee is to implement data-sharing protocols and confidentiality guidelines among juvenile justice partners. The committee has identified laws and policies that govern the sharing of information among government of Guam agencies involved in the juvenile justice system. Guam's efforts started in February 2024, but with the help of OJJDP's *Guidelines for Juvenile Information Sharing*, progress is beginning to gain traction.