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JUVENILE JUSTICE

AT A GLANCE

- MacArthur's approach to juvenile justice reform is grounded in the growing body of research on youth development. The MacArthur Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice brings together experts from multiple disciplines to examine issues at the intersection of adolescent development and juvenile justice.
- The Foundation's juvenile justice initiative aims to promote a fair, rational, and effective juvenile justice system that is linked to other relevant agencies and organizations and is held accountable for public safety and the rehabilitation of young offenders.
- *Models for Change* is an effort to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice reform through targeted investments in key states. With long-term funding and support, Models for Change seeks to accelerate movement toward a more rational, fair, effective, and developmentally appropriate juvenile justice system. Illinois, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Washington states form the core of the initiative. Other states participate in *Models for Change* through action networks designed to improve mental health services to youth offenders and to reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth in the juvenile system.

OVERVIEW

Increasingly, justice systems across the U.S. have come to treat juvenile offenders as if they were adults: prosecuting them in adult criminal courts, imposing harsher and more punitive sanctions, and often jailing juveniles and adults in the same facilities. These policies have high social and individual costs that receive little public scrutiny. Of special concern is the disproportionate weight of punitive policies borne by minority youths.

In addressing these and other issues in the field of juvenile justice, the Foundation has taken an unorthodox approach—one that is grounded in the growing body of research on youth development. At its heart is the belief that a thorough understanding of child and adolescent development will enable decision makers to develop more effective policies and

practices and make more rational choices in individual cases. It is a perspective that seeks common ground between the critics who decry the system as not tough enough to preserve public safety, and those who say that the system fails to consider children's individual needs.

GRANTMAKING STRATEGY

The Foundation's juvenile justice initiative comprises a coordinated set of activities in research, training, policy analysis, public education, and advocacy. Its aim is to promote a fair, rational, and effective juvenile justice system that is linked to other relevant agencies and organizations and is held accountable for public safety and the rehabilitation of young offenders.

Such a system—encompassing laws, regulations, court rules, policies, and

administrative practices—would be built on a framework of six basic principles:

- Fundamental fairness for all youth who become involved in the system
- Recognition of the developmental differences between young people and adults, as determined by sound scientific research
- Recognition of young offenders' potential to be rehabilitated and to change in a way that benefits them and society as a whole
- Safety for communities and individuals
- Personal responsibility for one's own actions
- Society's obligation to safeguard the welfare of children and adolescents, to support them in need, and to help them grow into healthy, productive citizens.

The Foundation is implementing its strategy at three levels: developing a knowledge base and tools to inform decisions in policy

and practice; developing and promoting model demonstrations of system-wide reform in targeted sites; and translating knowledge into action through advocacy and dissemination.

1. Developing the knowledge base.

The Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice is the anchor grant for this initiative. The goals of this long-term, comprehensive, interdisciplinary program are to identify areas in which there is existing knowledge about adolescent development that might be put to better use by practitioners and policy-makers; to develop new knowledge regarding adolescent development as it relates to juvenile justice decision making by the courts, legislatures, and agencies; to disseminate that knowledge to professionals and to the public; to improve decision making in the current system; and to prepare the way for the next generation of juvenile justice reform.

2. Models of systems reform. On a national level, the Foundation has supported a variety of efforts to train practitioners, to promote appropriate laws and policies, to establish community-based alternatives for sanctioning and supervising juvenile offenders, and to develop and foster more effective practices in Illinois and nationwide. While these are critical elements of systems reform, the next challenge is to integrate the elements in specific sites.

Under *Models for Change*, the Foundation is supporting the development of reforms it hopes will lead to model systems in a small number of states. In Illinois, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Washington State, the Foundation is working on a range of issues, including aftercare, community-based alternatives to incarceration, and the coordination of the juvenile justice system

with other partners in the community such as the education, child welfare, and mental health systems. The goal is to bring about changes in law, policy, and practice that may serve as models for juvenile justice reform elsewhere. In each of the targeted states, the Foundation also is pursuing the specific goal of reducing racial and ethnic over-representation in the system. *Models for Change* works with more states through action networks focused on the critical challenges of reducing racial and ethnic disparities and meeting the mental health needs of juvenile justice involved youth. The action networks link four new states with the four core *Models for Change* states. Colorado, Connecticut, Ohio and Texas will participate in the Mental Health Action Network, which is coordinated by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. Kansas, Maryland, North Carolina and Wisconsin will participate in the Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network, which is coordinated by Center for Children’s Law and Policy. By supporting work in these targeted sites and bringing it to national attention, the Foundation hopes to create a level of awareness about the promise of reform that will stimulate the interest to improve policies and practices in other jurisdictions.

3. Advocacy and dissemination. The Foundation has supported efforts to strengthen and build a constituency for rational and effective juvenile justice policy by engaging professional organizations and civic and community groups not previously involved in juvenile justice advocacy. We also seek to expand state advocacy efforts through grants to national advocacy organizations with state and local affiliates and networks of reform organizations active across the country.

REPRESENTATIVE GRANTS

Models for Change – Illinois

COMMUNITY JUSTICE FOR YOUTH INSTITUTE
Chicago, IL
 \$250,000 to expand a diversion program for juvenile offenders and position it as a community-based juvenile justice model as part of Illinois *Models for Change* (over two years). (2006)

JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE
Springfield, IL
 \$375,000 in support of efforts to improve the juvenile justice system as part of Illinois *Models for Change* (over three years). (2004)

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CIVITAS CHILD LAW CENTER
Chicago, IL
 \$750,000 in support of activities as the lead entity for Illinois *Models for Change* (over three years). (2006)

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CHILDREN AND FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
Chicago, IL
 \$650,000 in support of its activities as part of Illinois *Models for Change* (over three years). (2005)

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Models for Change – Louisiana

JEFFERSON PARISH COMMUNITY JUSTICE AGENCY
Jefferson, LA
 \$350,000 in support of activities in Jefferson Parish as a local demonstration site in Louisiana *Models for Change* (over two years). (2007)

LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS
Baton Rouge, LA
 \$800,000 in support of activities as the lead entity for Louisiana *Models for Change* (over two years). (2006)

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
 SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
New Orleans, LA
 \$400,000 in support of the training and delivery of community evidence-based practices for the identification and treatment of juvenile justice involved youth with mental health and substance abuse conditions as part of Louisiana *Models for Change* (over two years). (2006)

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES' OFFICE
Alexandria, LA
 \$300,000 in support of activities in Rapides Parish, Louisiana, as a local demonstration site in Louisiana *Models for Change* (over two years). (2007)

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA
New Orleans, LA
 \$150,000 in support of efforts to improve statewide programs to divert children and families from formal juvenile court involvement as part of Louisiana *Models for Change* (over 18 months). (2006)

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Models for Change – Pennsylvania

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION
Harrisburg, PA
 \$276,000 to provide technical assistance and training to judges and probation officers in model aftercare approaches as part of Pennsylvania *Models for Change* (over three years). (2004)

JUVENILE LAW CENTER
Philadelphia, PA
 \$1,025,000 in support of activities as the lead entity for Pennsylvania *Models for Change* (over three years). (2005)

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Harrisburg, PA
 \$540,000 to improve educational outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system as part of Pennsylvania *Models for Change* (over two years). (2007)

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
Harrisburg, PA
 \$300,000 to develop accredited professional certification programs for state employees in juvenile justice facilities and improve the coordination of mental health services as part of Pennsylvania *Models for Change* (over two years). (2006)

PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Philadelphia, PA
 \$240,000 in support of a model aftercare program as part of Pennsylvania *Models for Change* (over three years). (2004)

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Models for Change – Washington

CHILDREN AND YOUTH JUSTICE CENTER
Seattle, WA
 \$700,000 in support of acting as a lead entity for the *Models for Change* initiative in Washington State (over two years). (2007)

PIERCE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
Tacoma, WA
 \$400,000 in support of efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact and achieve system collaboration, as part of the *Models for Change* initiative in Washington State (over two years). (2007)

TEAMCHILD
Seattle, WA
 \$250,000 in support of efforts to improve juvenile indigent defense in Washington State as part of the *Models for Change* initiative (over two years). (2007)

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
 DIVISION OF PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE POLICY
Seattle, WA
 \$400,000 in support of community capacity-building for the identification and treatment of youth with mental health and substance abuse conditions in contact with the juvenile justice system as part of the *Models for Change* initiative (over 2 years). (2007)

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Models for Change – National Resource Bank

CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S LAW AND POLICY
Washington, DC
 \$1,750,000 to administer and manage the *Models for Change* Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network (over three years). (2007)

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
Washington, DC
 \$1,200,000 in support of the Juvenile Justice Division activities in *Models for Change* states (over three years). (2005)

COUNCIL OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
Braintree, MA
 \$585,000 in support of general operations and activities in the *Models for Change* states (over three years). (2006)

JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE

Washington, DC

\$675,000 in support of policy advocacy and communications planning for the *Models for Change* initiative (over three years). (2006)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

Reno, NV

\$1,500,000 in support of technical assistance, documentation, and coordination for the *Models for Change* initiative (over two years). (2005)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

Washington, DC

\$600,000 in support of the Latino Juvenile Justice Network activities in the *Models for Change* states (over three years). (2007)

NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER

Washington, DC

\$1,275,000 in support of activities to provide professional development and training to juvenile court personnel in adolescent development and enhance the capacity of juvenile defense counsel in the *Models for Change* states (over three years). (2006)

POLICY RESEARCH

Delmar, NY

\$1,500,000 to administer and manage the *Models for Change* Mental Health Action Network (over three years). (2007)

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AT WORCESTER

Worcester, MA

\$975,000 in support of the National Youth Screening Assistance Project in the *Models for Change* states (over three years). (2005)

VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

New York, NY

\$250,000 for data analysis and facilitated strategic planning in *Models for Change* states (over 18 months). (2006)

W. HAYWOOD BURNS INSTITUTE

San Francisco, CA

\$230,000 in support of activities to reduce disproportionate minority contact and racial and ethnic disparities in the *Models for Change* states (over 18 months). (2006)

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Philadelphia, PA

\$600,000 in support of a project to manage and coordinate research activities in the *Models for Change* initiative. (2007)

For More Information

about the Foundation's juvenile justice grantmaking

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About the MacArthur Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is a private, independent grantmaking institution dedicated to helping groups and individuals foster lasting improvement in the human condition. Through the support it provides, the Foundation fosters the development of knowledge, nurtures individual creativity, strengthens institutions, helps improve public policy, and provides information to the public, primarily through support for public interest media. With assets of more than \$6.4 billion, MacArthur makes grants and low-cost loans totaling approximately \$225 million each year. For more information or to sign up for the Foundation's free electronic newsletter, please visit www.macfound.org.

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