



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Acting Commissioner

July 29, 2015

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

Thank you for submitting Niagara Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. Your plan has been reviewed by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and I am pleased to inform you that your county's STSJP plan has been **approved**.

Niagara is eligible to receive 62% State reimbursement for STSJP expenditures up to the capped STSJP allocation amount. Your Niagara will continue to receive 49% State reimbursement for eligible detention services expenditures up to the capped allocation amount. If your municipality shifts a portion of its detention allocation into its STSJP plan, your municipality will receive 62% State reimbursement if such shifted funds are spent on STSJP eligible expenditures. Niagara may make an initial detention allocation shift or increase the amount of the detention allocation shift until December 31, 2015. If Niagara plans to shift its detention allocation for STSJP eligible expenses, please submit a request on official letterhead to Cara Korn and email it to stsip@ocfs.ny.gov outlining the amount that will be shifted and the type of programming or services the re-purpose detention funds will be used for under STSJP. An amend STSJP plan will also need to be submitted, if (Niagara) shifts its detention allocation for STSJP eligible expenses

All STSJP claims must be submitted electronically via the Juvenile Detention Automated System (JDAS) for the service period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Questions on all aspects of claiming process should be directed to Daniel Hulihan at (518) 473-4511 or at Daniel.Hulihan@ocfs.ny.gov.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we reform the juvenile justice practices in New York State by safely engaging youth and their family through innovating alternative to placement and detention programs.

If you have any questions, please email us at stsip@ocfs.ny.gov and write "STSJP Plan Questions" in the subject line so that we may best assist you in a timely manner. You can direct all STSJP inquiries to Cara Korn at (518) 408-3999 or Cara.Korn@ocfs.ny.gov and Shawn Chin-Chance at (212) 961-4110 or Shawn.Chin-Chance@ocfs.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Mancini".

Joseph Mancini
Associate Commissioner
DJJOY Office of Community Partnerships

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
SUPERVISION AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR JUVENILE PROGRAM (STSJP)
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016 ANNUAL PLAN

STSJP Plans are due to the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) by 6 / 29 / 2015

Plans should be submitted to: ocfs.sm.stsjp@ocfs.ny.gov

Please ensure that the title **“Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Plan”** and your municipality name are in the subject field to facilitate the timely review of your STSJP Plan. **Note:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 replaces the term State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015-16 and FY 2015 replaces the term SFY 2014-15.

Please direct any STSJP Plan questions to either:

Shawn.Chin-Chance@ocfs.ny.gov PH. 212-961-4110

Cara.Korn@OCFS.ny.gov PH. 518-408-3999

SECTION ONE- Municipal Information			
NAME OF MUNICIPALITY: Niagara County			
STSJP LEAD AGENCY: Social Services		STSJP LEAD PERSON: Meghan Lutz	
STSJP LEAD PHONE NUMBER: 716-278-6872		STSJP LEAD E-MAIL: meghan.lutz@dfa.state.ny.us	

SECTION TWO – List of Programs and Services to be Funded			
In this section, list the exact name of each program who have received STSJP funds, along with the projected amount of STSJP funds to be used for each. If this is a rollover program, please answer questions that are relevant to the funded program:			
Program One-Name	Casey House Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter	Type of Program	ATD/ATP
Total Program Expenses	\$ 20,000	Rollover Funded Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1. Please indicate specific zip codes that your plan targets:	14094	14305	
	14132	14172	
	14120	14028	
	14301	14108	
	14303	14092	
2. How will the program reduce the number of youth who are detained or in residential placement? Casey House provides immediate emergency respite services for youth on PINS and involved with Niagara County Probation as well as youth that are at risk of becoming JD youth. Casey House provides the youth and their families with linkage to services in the community to assist with correcting negative behaviors. Positive Youth Development Activities are designed to give youth the skills necessary to become a successful member of society. Educational assistance is provided and families are encouraged to participate in activities together. Casey House is an alternative to being out on the streets. This option in turn reduces possibilities of youth being involved in criminal activity. School attendance is monitored by Casey House staff and is a requirement for residency at Casey House.			
3. How will the program be family focused? Casey House's main goal is family reunification. All youth in residence are offered family mediation services before discharge. All families are offered referral to MST (Multi-Systemic Therapy) counseling and all youth participate in Positive Youth Development Activities including; Anger Management, Self-esteem workshops and Safety Planning. Programming is geared to each individual youth, their family and their specific needs and goals. Casey House also incorporates family style meals and duties for youth in residence, helping open lines of communication and create consistency, structure and support.			
4. Can the program be replicated across multiple locations? Yes, if funding is available, some non-residential services can be offered remotely.			

5. What is the projected number of youth that are served by this STSJP funded program?

465 Youth served residentially, via crisis hotline calls and with transitional service assistance. The program will serve 130 residential clients, 300 non-residential crisis calls and 35 transitional services clients.

6. If program is being used as an Alternative to Detention (ATD) and an Alternative to Placement (ATP), how will it serve both populations of youth?

Youth enter the program with family reunification as main goal. Youth are connected to appropriate services in the county as well as family based services such as MST programming and Niagara County Probation/PINS. Youth are also enrolled in school or after school programs if appropriate. These programs include but are not limited to; The Reporting Center for Boys program run by New Jerusalem or Connections, a program for youth after school and on weekends. Family mediation is offered and families are encouraged to set rules and boundaries. Positive reinforcements and goals are established for a successful reunification.

7. If the program was used during FY 2015, please assess whether the service or program achieved the projected reductions in detention utilization and/or residential placements and other performance outcomes.

Service Outcomes achieved for 2015 funding period are as follows:

- 95% of youth received case management services (projected 85%)
- 92% of youth received counseling (projected 90%)
- 90% of youth received life skills enhancement (projected 85%)
- 100% of youth received HIV/AIDS education (projected 97%)
- 100% of youth received crisis intervention (projected 100%)
- 89% of youth left Casey House with a safe exit (projected 75%)
- 95% of youth agree they can make better choices (projected 80%)
- 90% of youth agree they can work through conflict positively (projected 80%)
- 90% of parents agree they can make better choices (projected 80%)
- 88% of parents believe they can assess community services better (projected 80%)
- 154 Youth Sheltered at Casey House
1386 bed Days Sheltered

8. What were the barriers if not met?

Did the program receive STSJP funds for FY 2015? Yes No If Yes, answer the questions below:

1. When did the program start using FY 2015 STSJP Funds? 4/1/2014

2. What was the average length of stay for youth in program or service? 9 days

3. How many youth received services in the program during FY 2015? 162 Residential

Program Two -Name	Niagara County Juvenile Re-Entry Program	Type of Program	ATD/ATP
Total Program Expenses	\$ 105,806	Rollover Funded Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
1. Please indicate specific zip codes that your plan targets:	14301	14120	
	14302	14172	
	14303	14108	
	14304		
	14094		

2. How will the program reduce the number of youth who are detained or in residential placement?

Youth will receive case management services and supervision supports to reduce the need to detain youth in traditional detention environments. Re-Entry youth will receive case management and linkages to ensure successful re-integration to home

communities, after returning from out-of-home placements.

3. How will the program be family focused?

Family Driven Care concepts have been integrated into all case management services and linkages. Counseling supports will be specifically linked for families and youth to ensure a holistic approach to the resolution of the presenting problems. Families in need of food, clothing or linkage to other services will be referred to community programs or those found on site at Community Missions through our Crisis Services Division.

4. Can the program be replicated across multiple locations?
 Yes this will be a Niagara County-wide service provision. Office locations will be made in Niagara Falls and by in-kind arrangement in Lockport.

5. If the program was used during FY 2015, were the performance outcomes met and describe the outcomes?
 This Re-Entry program did not use 2015 STSJP funds.

6. What were the barriers if not met?

7. If program was used as an ATD and an ATP, how was it used to serve both populations of youth?
 Youth who are being referred for ATD services will be provided case management and linkages designed to prevent the need for detention, where those youth referred for ATP services will be provided with linkages and supports for Re-Entry, which will eliminate their return to placement settings by providing supportive community linkages and services.

8. What is the projected number of youth that will be served by this STSJP – funded program? This Re-Entry Program expects to serve twenty (20) families per year

Did the program receive STSJP funds for FY 2015? Yes No **If Yes, answer the questions below:**

1. When did the program start using FY 2015 STSJP Funds? _____

2. What was the average length of stay for youth in program or service? _____

3. How many youth received services in the program during FY 2015? _____

Program Three -Name	Type of Program	
Total Program Expenses	\$	Rollover Funded Program <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1. Please indicate specific zip codes that your plan targets:		
2. How will the program reduce the number of youth who are detained or in residential placement?		

3. How will the program be family focused?

4. Can the program be replicated across multiple locations?

5. If the program was used during FY 2015, were the performance outcomes met and describe the outcomes?

6. What were the barriers if not met?

7. If program was used as an ATD and an ATP, how was it used to serve both populations of youth?

8. What is the projected number of youth that will be served by this STSJP – funded program? _____

Did the program receive STSJP funds for FY 2015? Yes No If Yes, answer the questions below:

1. When did the program start using FY 2015 STSJP Funds? _____

2. What was the average length of stay for youth in program or service? _____

3. How many youth received services in the program during FY 2015? _____

SECTION THREE – Analysis of Communities

Provide an analysis that identifies the neighborhoods or communities from which the greatest number of juvenile delinquents, juvenile offenders and persons in need of supervision (PINS) are remanded to detention or residentially placed. Are these the communities and neighborhoods served in the previous years' approved plan, if not, what has changed?

Casey House has provided a specialized service to Niagara County families for 20 years. Casey House is the only Runaway/Homeless Youth Shelter in Niagara County, geographically serving approximately 523 square miles. Casey House provides crisis services, via a 24 hour crisis hotline to youth age 17-21 and emergency shelter to males and females, ages 12-17 years old. Niagara County youth often suffer from the high levels of stress that are placed on families due to declining population, poverty, minimal to no health insurance, unemployment, lack of affordable housing, health and mental health issues and family instability. There are a multitude of socioeconomic factors that contribute to families and youth becoming homeless. The economic conditions of the Niagara Region and the City of Niagara Falls greatly impact our young people. The Youth Services Program/Casey House services can be accessed by any Niagara County youth and their family at no charge and on a voluntary basis. These youth present with backgrounds of violence, physical & sexual abuse, lack of connections to stable adults, substance abuse, mental health issues, poor school performance, and unsafe neighborhoods and homes. Family & Children's Service of Niagara's Youth Services Program/Casey House provides short term emergency shelter to youth who are at high risk of becoming JD or PINS. The services are preventative in nature and assist in diverting youth at risk of placement; we do this by providing a crisis focused 24 hour emergency service for vulnerable youth and their families. The program strives to provide these services by working with each family member involved in a caring and respectful manner. The main motivation for running away is because youth experience neglect or abuse at home. They decide that their only chance to survive is to leave home. As adults, we realize that the dangers youth face on the streets are often greater than risk they would face at home; still, many of these teens often choose to stick it out on their own. They believe they have at least some control over their lives — rather than return to an environment where they know they will be abused.

Given current figures for Niagara County Youth, it appears that our Juvenile Re-Entry projected numbers will be fourteen (14) youth served from Niagara Falls, and six (6) youth served from all other county areas combined (Lockport, North Tonawanda, Wheatfield). These areas would be the historical locations and numbers for programs providing services to juveniles. In 2014, CMI ran the Juvenile Intensive Case Management program which was limited to youth from the Niagara Falls area only. It is our intention to provide services to the youth and families on a county-wide basis with this Re-Entry program. Further data will be available, once services are implemented.

SECTION FOUR – Disparity

In this section, please provide information indicating whether the use of detention or residential placement in your service area exhibits a significant racial or ethnic disparity or disproportionality. Please note that when looking for disparity, highlight, with the use of accurate data, youth who given comparable levels of need, do not receive equal utilization of services. Seek out all decision points to illustrate usage. When looking for disproportionality, identify any population groups who are underrepresented in a larger population and then overrepresented in a subset population. For example, population group A represents 15 percent of the general population but represents 75 percent of the detention population. If you currently do not measure these variables, please include your plan for data collection for Racial and Ethnic Disparities across your system. If no disparities or disproportionalities exist in your system simply state that in the space below.

In 2013, minority youth represented 18% of the local juvenile population, yet accounted for 46% of juvenile arrests, 55% of cases referred to juvenile court, 51% of cases diverted, 67% of juvenile secure detentions, 43% of cases petitioned, 38% of cases resulting in delinquent findings, 29% of cases resulting in probation placement, and 100% of cases resulting in confinement in secure juvenile correctional facilities. A Relative Rate Index (RRI) comparison with white juveniles in the county shows that minority youth were arrested 3.83 times more often, referred to juvenile court 1.46 times more often, had cases diverted 0.83 times as often, and had no statistically significant differences in cases placed in secure detention or in cases that had petitions filed.

Black youth were most over-represented in the county compared to white youth. While Black youth represented 11% of the county's juvenile population, they accounted for 38% of juvenile arrests, 48% of cases referred to juvenile court, 43% of cases diverted, 33% of juvenile secure detentions, 37% of cases petitioned, 28% of cases resulting in delinquent findings, 29% of cases resulting in probation placement, and 67% of cases resulting in confinement in secure juvenile correctional facilities. A Relative Rate Index (RRI) comparison with white juveniles in the county shows that Black youth were arrested 5.27 times more often, were referred to juvenile court 1.53 times more often, had cases diverted 0.81 times as often, and had no statistically significant differences in placements in secure detention, or in petitions filed.

While Hispanic youth represented 4% of the county's juvenile population, they accounted for 5% of juvenile arrests, 5% of cases referred to juvenile court, 5% of cases diverted, 13% of juvenile secure detentions, 6% of cases petitioned, 6% of cases resulting in delinquent findings, 0% of cases resulting in probation placement, and 33% of cases resulting in secure confinement. They were arrested 1.88 times more often than white youth.

If such disproportionality exists, describe how the service/program proposed for funding will address this disparity.

It is our intention to continue to monitor disparity numbers with NYS DCJS, and participate in training and reduction models as known. The Niagara County Juvenile Justice Taskforce will continue to prioritize training opportunities for the county. Where possible and appropriate, minority youth will be given priority in program service referrals.

SECTION FIVE – Strategy

Justification and Overall Strategy – The purpose of STSJP funds is to establish supports and services for youth who, absent these services, are likely to be detained or placed. Funds should therefore be clearly targeted to meet the needs of the types of youth who in the past have been admitted to detention or residential placement. With this specific purpose in mind, describe the strategy devised by your collaborative partners (list your collaborative partners) to address the STSJP Funding objective through the programs chosen in Section Two.

It is estimated that there will be a 15% reduction in Niagara County during the 2016 funding period in detention utilization and residential placements. Casey House will play a central role in the system producing this result. In addition, other service goals for the 2016 funding period are as follows:

- Short term crisis shelter will be provided to 130 runaway/homeless youth.
- 300 Crisis Hotline Calls will be received
- The runaway program will provide 250+ points of non-residential contacts (phone) to youth, their families and community resources.
- The runaway program will provide 1200 care days at Casey House.
- The program will provide 60 outreach school and/or community presentations reaching approximately 4500+ youth and adults.
- The program will provide in person or telephone outreach/aftercare services to 95% of the total number of youth sheltered within 2 weeks of discharge in a given year.
- 35 Youth ages 16-21 will enroll in Transitional Services Program.

- The program will provide outreach/aftercare services in person to 50% of youth within 2 weeks of discharge.

Linkage will be provided to services including, Niagara County Probation, MST Therapy, Family & Children's Service, Child Protective Services, Niagara County DSS, Job Corps, and additional educational assistance will be provided as needed. Youth will also be assisted in securing proper healthcare coverage.

The Niagara County Juvenile Justice Taskforce is made up of key partners within the County service provision area and has been active for more than twenty years in the County. Among the key partners are the Niagara County Department of Social Services, Niagara County Probation, Orleans/Niagara BOCES, Catholic Charities, Niagara Falls Schools, Northpointe, Community Missions, Family and Childrens Services, NYS Office of Children & Family Services, Niagara Falls Housing Authority, etc. This group has prioritized the consistent review of issues relating to Juvenile Justice, and meets on a regular basis to address and support planning and programs. The newly formed sub-committee is our Juvenile Re-Entry Taskforce, which has been activated to specifically review and support youth and families in Niagara County, who are returning from out-of-home placements. The primary objective is for all of these service partners to receive information on youth referred, prior to their return to their home communities, so that a safety web can be established to support the youth and families. Service providers have agreed to prioritize counseling and service slots for youth and families so this transition can be as seamless as possible. The Re-Entry Case Manager position is designed to support and engage families as a coordinator of services. We believe this model allows for family engagement, choice over services and planned access to community linkages to better prepare all members of the family for the youth's return. Budget monies provide for Pro-Social Support Funds to assist families with rent/security deposit assistance (needing bigger apartments), clothing for youth employment or volunteer interviews, fees (gym memberships and recreation participation) driver's education fees, mentors or afterschool tutoring, etc. All of these services and assistance help to focus families on successes rather than limit their ability to continue to achieve milestones. Strength-based concepts and recognitions are important parts of the family's support plan and the youth's re-entry to their home communities.

SECTION SIX – Outcomes

Performance Outcomes – For FY 2016, provide the projected performance outcomes for your proposed services and programs, being sure to include: An estimate of the anticipated reductions in detention utilization and residential placements.

It is estimated that there will be a 15% reduction in Niagara County during the 2014-15 funding period in detention utilization and residential placements. Casey House will play a central role in the system producing this result. In addition, other service goals for the 2016 funding period are as follows:

Service Outcomes projected for FY 2016 funding period are as follows:

- 85% of youth received case management services
- 90% of youth received counseling
- 85% of youth received life skills enhancement
- 97% of youth received HIV/AIDS education
- 100% of youth received crisis intervention
- 90% of youth left Casey House with a safe exit
- 80% of youth agree they can make better choices
- 80% of youth agree they can work through conflict positively
- 80% of parents agree they can make better choices
- 80% of parents believe they can assess community services better
- 130 Youth Sheltered at Casey House
- 1200 Bed Days Sheltered

Our performance outcomes will predominantly focus on ATP numbers. We believe the Re-Entry Program will show a seventy-five percent (75%) reduction in subsequent placements following re-entry to home communities. It is not clear how many ATD cases will be referred, but we are hopeful for a ten percent (10%) reduction in care days for this population. Both ATP and ATD referred youth are expected to show reductions in truancy, and through the use of the YASI instrument, we are hopeful to show a reduction in risk factors and an increase in protective factors.

Other projected positive outcomes for youth who participate in the services and programs:

Youth continue to utilize Casey House as a daytime drop in center. Completing job applications and managing appointments for healthcare. Casey House has seen a large number of drop-in youth who gained employment (19 youth). Casey House has become a successful neighborhood resource beyond sheltering youth. Youth have described program as "essential" and "important" to their distancing themselves from dangerous situations. Via survey youth consistently indicate that without access to Casey House and services provided at the sheletr they would be, "In Jail", or "Probably dead."

Additionally:

88% of youth's parents will indicate they can make better choices for their child

88% of youth's parents will indicate they feel more confident accessing the community's resources to help their family

Youth will be linked with mental health supports for both individual and family therapy. It is our belief that strengthening the family's ability to address support plans and crisis interventions will assist in reducing the need for youth to be placed outside of the home. We are also hopeful that mentoring and tutoring assistance will help youth achieve positive progress in their local school settings.

Are there any changes in allocations or practices planned for FY 2016 based on experiences in FY 2015, please list those changes:

Program will remain consistent with 2015 practices.

SECTION SEVEN– Comments

Casey House is the only shelter in Niagara Clouny available to Runaway and Homeless Youth ages 12-17 years old. Casey House operates a 24 hour crisis hotline, fielding approximately 300 calls per year. Casey House provides presentations about abuse and safety and the services available at Casey House to approximately 4500 youth in Niagara County per year. Casey House as part of Family & Children's Service of Niagara has access to a continuum of services within the agency including Care management Services, Domestic Violence services including emergency shelter, and Healthy Families Niagara.

Casey House is an essential program in the Niagara County community.

Community Missions has an extensive history of service provision to PINS and Juvenile Delinquents. Since 1981, CMI has had a variety of collaborative partners with NYS OCFS, NYS DCJS, NYS DPCA, Niagara County Department of Social Services and Niagara County Department of Probation to provide Non-Secure Detention, Secure Detention Holdover, Electronic Monitoring, Community Service Academy, PINS Diversion, Juvenile Intensive Case Management and Re-Entry Case Coordination. We believe we have continued to demonstrate successful models incorporating evidence-based interventions, which through our partnerships and direct services, have successfully diverted youth from further consequences within the juvenile justice system. We believe all our partners would recognize our services as a valuable diversion support for at-risk youth in Niagara County.

SECTION EIGHT– Plan Amounts

Instructions:

- A. Enter all program expenses in Program Services tab.
- B. Specify State Reimbursements for this plan (lines 6-9)

Expenses

1. Program Expenses (from Program Services)	125,806	
2. State Reimbursement (Line 1* 0.62)		78,000

Available Reimbursements

3. STSJP Allocation	78,000
4. Detention Allocation	590,870
5. JDAI	0

Reimbursements for this Plan

6. STSJP Allocation	78,000
7. Detention Allocation being shifted to STSJP (if applicable)	0
8. JDAI (if applicable)	0
9. FY 2015 Rollover (if applicable)	0
10. Total Reimbursements (Lines 6-9)	78,000

State and Local Totals

11. State Share Amount (Line 10)	78,000
12. Local Share Amount (Subtract Line 11 from 10)	47,806

SECTION NINE– Approval

Approval of the Chief Executive Officer

As STSJP Lead for Niagara County Municipality, I certify that the CEO
 William Ross has reviewed and approved the 2015-2016 plan.

Date: 7 / 8 / 2015 STSJP Lead 29b753 STSJP Lead Meghan Lutz
 User ID: _____ Printed Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

Instructions for properly processing an STSJP plan.

- a. Once you have opened a copy of the OCFS-2121 form, please immediately use the "Save As" function in Microsoft Word to save a copy of the document on your computer.
- b. Please save your STSJP plan using the following format; (Municipality Name 2015-2016 STSJP Plan)
- c. Work from the "saved" plan document using it to record all of your municipality's information. Please use the document OCFS- 2121A to document additional STSJP programs.
- d. Once you have satisfactorily completed entering the required data, save the document.
- e. Section Nine must be completed prior to OCFS review of STSJP Plan.
- f. Upload completed plan and send it to OCFS via the STSJP email address at ocfs.sm.stsjp@ocfs.ny.gov

Approval of the OCFS STSJP Program Lead

As OCFS STSJP reviewer, I certify that I approve of this Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles
 Program Plan for Niagara Municipality and 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Date: 7/29/2015 User ID: MJ0687 Printed Name: Shawn A. Chin-Chance