OCFS-2121 (6/2014)

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

SUPERVISION AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR JUVENILE PROGRAM (STSJP)
SFY 2014-2015 ANNUAL PLAN

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

7 / 11 / 2014

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 county name in the subject field to facilitate the timely review of your STSJP Plan.

Please direct any STSJP Plan questions to either;

Johne.Johnson@OCFS.ny.gov PH. 518-486-4665 Cara.Korn@OCFS.ny.gov PH. 518-408-3999

COUNTY INFORMATION	
NAME OF APPLICANT COUNTY, COUNTIES OR JURISDICTION: Rensselaer County Department of Social Services	
LEAD AGENCY FOR STSJP SUBMISSION: Rensselaer County Department of Social Srvices	NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: Annemarie Vielkind
CONTACT PERSON'S PHONE NUMBER: 518-833-6009	CONTACT PERSON'S E-MAIL ADDRESS: annemarie.vielkind@dfa.state.ny.us

STSJP SFY 2014 - 2015		
SFY 2014-2015 Starting County Detention Allocation amount	$ 661,695	
SFY 2014-2015 County STSJP Allocation amount	$ 75,430	
SFY 2014 -2015 County Detention Allocation being shifted		Actual amount of plan
Total SFY 2014-2015 STSJP Reimbursement Allocation amount	$ 75,430	
Maximum STSJP Reimbursement amount for a 2014-2015 Plan	$ 121,661	$ 91,675
SFY 2014-2015 STSJP State Share amount	$ 56,838.50	
SFY 2014-2015 STSJP County Share amount	$ 34,836.50	
SFY 2014-2015 Revised County Detention Allocation amount	$ 645,020.00	
TOTAL COUNTY OBLIGATION:	$ 34,836.50	

SECTION ONE – Analysis of Communities

Provide an analysis that identifies the neighborhoods or communities from which the greatest number of juvenile delinquents and persons in need of supervision (PINS) are remanded to detention or residentially placed. Note any communities or neighborhoods that are different than in last year's plan. Please ensure that your identification of target areas or populations is clearly highlighted in your plan.

Rensselaer County is in the eastern part of New York State. The eastern boundary of Rensselaer County runs along the New York-Vermont and New York-Massachusetts borders. Rensselaer County's population as of the 2010 census is 161,129 people. The racial make- up of the county was 88.73% White, 7.14% Black or African-American, 0.23 % Native American, 1.71% Asian, and 0.89% from other races. In 2012, the median income for a household in the county was $60,553.The county is served by sixteen school districts. Troy is a city located in Rensselaer County with a population of 49,946. The racial makeup of the city is 68.8% white, 14.2% African-American, and 8.0% of the population are Hispanic or Latino of any race. About 17.3% of families and 22.1% of the population were below the poverty line, including 25.0% of those under age 18. Crimes in Troy are concentrated in the western side of the city and are particularly dense north of Hoosick Street. This is the area where the largest number of youth on probation and placed residentially live with their families.The largest number of youth placed in detention and out of home placements continues to be in the City of Troy. In 2013, twenty-two (22) youth were placed residentially from the City of Troy, whereas in the rest of the county three(3) youth were residentially placed. There were twenty-six (26) youth

placed in detention from Troy in 2013, with nine(9) detention remands from the rest of the county.

SECTION TWO – Description of Services and Programs to be Funded

List the **name of each service and program** who you expect will received STSJP funds, along with the **projected amount of STSJP funds** to be used for each: As a Guide to providing the information needed to properly review your plan, please provide programmatic information in the format listed below;

- Provide the Name of the Provider of the Service/Program.
- The Amount of any Juvenile Detention Services funds projected to be spent for STSJP Services.
- The communities and types of youth targeted.
- The projected number of youth that will be served.
- Answer a series of Demographic questions

"Please enter each program individually, and if you have more programs than the form accounts for, please use the addendum supplied with this document."

1.)a.) Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth/Stepping Stones Program
13640 Route 22
Canaan, New York

Stepping Stones Program is an intensive, home-based program that is designed to reduce or eliminate detention remands and provides a 30- 60 day family assessment in the home. It provides intensive, ongoing services to youth at risk of future court involvement.

b.) The cost of the program is $91,675.00 a year. Since Rensselaer County's prevention allotment is $75,430.00, $16,245.00 will be taken from the detention fund to pay for the program.

c.) This program focuses on PINS/JD's at risk of detention or placement. Stepping Stones also has a no-reject policy, which means that all alleged PINS/JD's or adjudicated PINS/JD's and their families will be accepted for services.

d.) Stepping Stones can service six (6) youth and their family at a given time. The average length of time the family is involved with services: 30-60 days. Due to the combined efforts of the Berkshire Farm Stepping Stone Team and Rensselaer County DSS in keeping with the fidelity of the 30-60 day model, more families were served in 2013. The projected number of youth to be served was seventy (70) annually; however in 2013, ninety-six (96) were served. This number includes siblings of the identified child that are at risk of a detention remand or an out of home placement.

e.)There is access to the Family Specialist or Assistant Director 24/7 should a crisis situation arise.

f.) The program provides immediate response to referrals 24 hours a day.

g.) Weekly meetings are held with Rensselaer County Department of Social Services, Rensselaer COunty Probation, and Berkshire Farm's Family Specialist and Assistant Director.

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STSJP Program One	Berkshire Farm's Stepping Stones Program	**Type of Program (ATD/ATP)**	ATD and ATP
The amount of STSJP funds that your jurisdiction will devote to the services from this program?			$ 91,675
1. What geographic areas has your analysis suggested you target? The City of Troy			
2. What is your Jurisdiction's Projected Number of Youth that will be served by this STSJ Program? 70 youth annually, however in 2013, 96 youth were served. This number includes siblings of the identified child that are at risk of a detention remand or an out of home placement.			
Did the program listed above receive STSJP funds for 2013-2014? If so, provide answer the questions below. If not, please proceed to section "STSJP Program Two".			
1. When did the program start using 2013-2014 STSJP funds? 4/1/13			
2. How many slots were created in the program with STSJP funds? Six youth and their family at a given time.			

3. What was the average length of stay for youth in the program or service? 30-60 days- can be extended per the request of Rensselaer County.
4. How many youth received services in the program during 2013-2014? 96 youth including siblings of the identified youth.
For programs intended as alternatives to detention, how many youth in the program experienced each of these outcomes:
1. Successfully completed the program (not re-arrested and appeared in court as directed) :29 successful discharges out of 34 total discharges in 2013.
2. Did not appear in court when directed to do so :none
3. Were re-arrested before appearing in court : one
4. Moved to detention because of non-compliance with the program or any reason (other than re-arrest or failure to show at court) : One youth was placed in detention, however 4 were placed residentially, and one was sent to Rensselaer County Jail.
5. What amount of last SFY allocation for this STSJP Service Program was left unspent: 0.00

STSJP Program Two		**Type of Program (ATD/ATP)**	
The amount of STSJP funds that your jurisdiction will devote to the services from this program?			**$**
1. What geographic areas has your analysis suggested you target?			
2. What is your Jurisdiction's Projected Number of Youth that will be served by this STSJ Program?			
Did the program listed above receive STSJP funds for 2013-2014? If so, provide answer the questions below. If not, please proceed to section "STSJP Program Three".			
1. When did the program start using 2013-2014 STSJP funds?			
2. How many slots were created in the program with STSJP funds?			
3. What was the average length of stay for youth in the program or service?			
4. How many youth received services in the program during 2013-2014?			
For programs intended as alternatives to detention, how many youth in the program experienced each of these outcomes:			
1. Successfully completed the program (not re-arrested and appeared in court as directed)			
2. Did not appear in court when directed to do so			
3. Were re-arrested before appearing in court			
4. Moved to detention because of non-compliance with the program or any reason (other than re-arrest or failure to show at court)			
5. What amount of last SFY allocation for this STSJP Service Program was left unspent:			

SECTION THREE – Disproportionality

Provide available information (use objective data or, if none exists, you may provide anecdotal or other information) indicating whether the use of detention or residential placement in your service area shows a significant racial or ethnic disproportionality. What, if any, differences are there from what was noted in last year's plan? Additionally if NO data exists, what measures will your jurisdiction implement to monitor disproportionality?

If such disproportionality exists, describe how the service/programs proposed for funding will address the disproportionality:

a.)A total of thirty-seven (37) families with ninety-six (96) youth, including siblings, were served while in the Stepping Stones Program in 2013. There were eighteen (18) Caucasian families, three (3) Hispanic families, two (2) Bi-Racial families, and fourteen (14) African-American families. Youths ages ranged from 0-18. Seventy (70) percent of the youth served were between the ages of 13-18 years old.

Ethnicity Breakdown of the households served by Stepping Stones:
2013: Caucasian: 49% Hispanic-Latino: 8% Bi-Racial: 5% African-American: 38%

Ethnicity Breakdown for detention remands:
2013: Females: White: 21.0% Multiple: 7.9% African-American:0.0% Other: 7.9%
Males: White: 51.7% Multiple: 3.4% African-American:31.0% Other: 13.8%

Ethnicity Breakdown for placements:
2013: Females: White: 60.0% African-American:10.0% Hispanic: 10.0% Bi-Racial: 10.0%
Males: White: 18.8% African-American: 68.8% Hispanic: 12.5%

Percentage Distribution of Detention Admissions: Non-Secure
2012 White: 49% Black: 35 % Hispanic: 16%
2013: White 48% Black: 38% Hispanic: 12%

Percentage Distribution of Detention Admissions : Secure
2012: White: 21 % Black: 53% Hispanic: 24 %
2013: White 17% Black: 71% Hispanic: 12%

b.)The Family Specialist has an excellent understanding of the family dynamics, as well as any cultural differences, in order to assist the family in forming plans to resolve identified issues. The Stepping Stones Family Specialist works with every family that is referred to them for services and is able to break down any cultural barriers in order to get a successful outcome.
The Family Specialist and Program Coordinator ensured translation services through All Language Translations. Interpreters from this agency were utilized for weekly home visit family meetings in order to successfully conduct assessments and engage the family in treatment planning and interventions.

SECTION FOUR – Efficacy of the Programs and Services

Provide a description of the proposed services and programs that explain the four listed elements
Please answer the questions below for each of the programs highlighted in Section Two

How they will reduce the number of youth who are detained or residentially placed:

a.)Provide intensive services for 30-60 days. Will extend services if necessary.

b.)Provide immediate crisis intervention (24/7).

c.)Provide up to five (5) contacts per week with child/family. (At least three(3), face to face)

d.)Family Specialist works on a flexible work schedule in order to provide services when needed.

1. e.)Family Specialist is trained in assessment tools and techniques.
2. How they are family –focused: The Family Specialist engages children, and families, and other community members in order to produce an individualized family focused, child center service plan. The family is supported so that any unmet family needs can be provided in order to help the youth succeed at home, and in school, improve the overall stability of the home environment and prevent out of home placement.
3. Whether the services/programs are capable of being replicated across multiple sites: Services are Capable of Being Replicated Across Multiple Sites: The Stepping Stones program is home-based. The Family Specialist also attends family court appearances, school meetings, mental health appointments with the youth and family, as well as help with transportation when needed.

If the same plan was used last SFY, were the performance outcomes met and describe the outcomes.

Performance Outcomes

A.)85% of the youth will avert a detention remand.

2012: Twenty-five (25) out of thirty-one (31) youth or eighty-one percent (81%) of identified youth averted non-secure detention placement.

2013: Thirty-three (33) out of thirty-seven (37) youth or eighty- nine percent (89%) of identified averted non-secure detention placement.

B.)90% of youth will avert residential placement.

2012: Thirty (30) out of thirty-one (31) or ninety-seven percent (97%) of the identified youth from the Rensselaer County Stepping Stones Prevention Program averted residential placement. Sixty-five (65) out of sixty-seven (67) or ninety-seven percent (97%) total youth averted residential placement.

2013: Thirty-two (32) out of thirty-seven (37) or eighty-six percent (86%) of the identified youth from the Rensselaer County Stepping Stones Prevention Program averted residential placement. Ninety-one (91%) out of ninety-six (96) or Ninety-five percent (95%) total youth averted residential placement in 2013.

Assessment of Success Achieving Previous Performance Outcomes:

Rensselaer County Department of Social Services continues to contract with Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth to provide detention services for Rensselaer County Youth. In addition, to providing detention services, Rensselaer County Department of Social Services also has a contract with Berkshire Farm's Stepping Stones Program, in order to reduce the number of detention remands and out of home placements.

1.)Performance Outcomes:

•In its fourth year of operation and in collaboration with the Rensselaer County Department of Social Services, Berkshire Farm/Rensselaer County Stepping Stones Program helped avert a remand to non-secure detention of thirty-three (33) of the thirty-seven (37) or eighty-nine (89%) of the identified at risk youth served in 2013. All thirty-three (33) youth were a very high risk of a remand to detention due to the level of behavioral non- compliance, aggressiveness and involvement with probation.

•Due to the collaboration with Rensselaer County Department of Social Services, Berkshire Farm/ Rensselaer County Stepping Stones Program helped to avert the out-of-home placement of thirty-two (32) out of thirty-seven (37) or eighty-six (86%) of the identified youth served in 2013.

**Estimated anticipated reduction in detention utilization and residential placements: 5%

a.) Other projected positive outcomes for youth:

** Increase the use of respite services by 3% (in lieu of detention remands)

2.) a.) Number of youth under 16 arrested: One hundred -forty-eight (148) juveniles

b.) The number of youth placed in detention programs in 2013:

Secure: 42

Non-Secure: 42

c.)The number of youth placed out of their home JD/PINS in 2013:

JD: 11 youth

PINS: 14 youth

d.)The number of youth who participated in services and programs using STSJP funds in 2013:

Ninety-six (96) youth including siblings of the identified youth.

3.) STSJP FUNDS FOR 2013-2014:

a.) Rensselaer County began using STSJP funds in July 2011.

b.) Six (6) slots were created

c.) In 2013 the average length of time for service: 30-60 days.

d.) Ninety-six (96) youth, including siblings were served in the Stepping Stones Program

4. e.) 1.)There were twenty-nine (29) successful discharges out of thirty-four (34)total discharges in 2013.

5. What were the barriers if not met? There continues to be areas that need improvement. Judges and Probation Officers are continuing to pursue remands to detention when a youth is not a flight risk or has not committed a criminal crime. Many youth have been remanded to detention when they are not indeed a flight risk or a threat to the community, and it is often used as a consequence pursued by the Probation Officers and agreed upon by the family court judges. School truancy has also been a cause for an increase in remands this year. The youth are sent away to detention, where they fall further behind in their school work. Continuing education is needed for the Attorney for the Child, Probation, and Judges regarding the purpose of the Stepping Stones Program and the services offered by the program. At times, Rensselaer County youth are still entering detention without notice to the Stepping Stones Program; therefore no intervention has been explored.

SECTION FIVE – Justification for the Proposed Programs and Services

The purpose of STSJP finds 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 residentially placed. With this specific purpose in mind, describe the demonstrated effectiveness of the proposed services and programs, or provide (in the form) other justification of why you are proposing these services/programs for funding. Please answer the questions below for each of the programs highlighted in Section Two. Since January 2010, Rensselaer County has contracted with Berkshire's Stepping Stones Program in order to reduce the county's need to place youth in detention or other out of home placements. The staff from Stepping Stones have partnered with probation, and social services in order to best plan and provide the necessary services to meet the needs of the youth and their family. A meeting is held every week with these departments and Stepping Stones staff in an effort to keep the child safe at home while addressing at risk behaviors.

The Stepping Stones Family Specialist carries a daily caseload of six families and provides a minimum of three face-to-face contacts per week. Additionally, the Family Specialist maintains regular contacts with collateral agencies, school officials, and other service providers. The Family Specialist works closely with local community resources and providers to ensure that the families served build a sound support network and have their wide ranging needs met.

While a family is receiving services, the Stepping Stone's Family Specialist will do whatever it takes, to address school,

community, and home related issues. This translates into strategies that are individualized and flexible based on the needs of each family; these are solution focused and address interpersonal and/or systemic factors. Strategies can include: Cognitive behavioral counseling, consultation, crisis intervention, parent training, family skill building, group counseling, career development and social skill/self esteem development. The Family Specialist works to build the therapeutic relationship with all members of the household, and help them identify personal strengths and resources.

The Family Specialist is trained in the Sanctuary Model and has been implementing the evidence-based therapeutic strategies. The Family Specialist emphasizes trauma –informed care practices and psycho-education in her work with families.

Berkshire Farm has also embraced the Professional Learning Communities (PLC). The PLC is evidence based, culturally competent approach designed to shift the organization's culture to one of collaboration and learning. All staff is trained on this model and each program has a PLC team and SMART goals. The focus is on learning in a collaborative context with a clear emphasis on results.

The Clinical Director of Berkshire Farm has worked to develop a new Comprehensive Assessment for the agency that will encompass three evidence based screening tools. The screening toll will help to identify strengths and needs for family members and address the level of trauma for youth and parent.

The Assistant Director and Family Specialist attended two-day training on Restorative Justice in July 2013. This training focused on the Restorative Justice Community Conferences practices that assist the JD population. The Community Conference and Restorative Justice approach is a pro-active model that can be used as an alternative to detention by "thinking about crime and conflict...how we respond to crime and how we restore the balance." The Family Specials works with community providers, families, and Probation arranging Community Conferences with Stepping Stone's youth.

The Assistant Director and Family Specialist also participated in two-day training on Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in October 2013. Following the training, there will be monthly Conference calls with the facilitators for one year. At that time, certification will be given in the TF-CBT model.

SECTION SIX – Performance Outcomes

For 2014-2015, 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: 5%

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

•Youth and families will live in safe and secure environments

a.) 100% of youth and families will be in safe and secure environments prior to the case being closed with the Stepping Stones Program.

•Youth and families will be served in a cost effective manner.

a.) 90% of the parents will increase their involvement in the school system, health services, community resources and Stepping Stones activities.

2013: Thirty-one (31) out of thirty-seven (37) or eighty-four (84%) of the parents increased their involvement in the school system, mental health services, community resources and Stepping Stones activities.

- Increase the use of respite by 3%
- Rensselaer County will continue to partner with Berkshire Farms' Stepping Stones Program to reduce detention remands and residential placements. 1.) 85% of youth will avert a detenetion remand. 2.) 90% of youth will avert residential placement.

SECTION SEVEN – Assessment of Success Achieving Previous Performance Outcomes

Although performance outcome data for 2013-2014 may be incomplete because many jurisdictions were unable to implement programs until late in the year and data-producing structures are not yet in place, we are asking you to provide available data on your STSJP programs for each of the following parameters for 2013-2014 year. The inclusion of that information will help establish local and state baseline information on SSJP programs and may be useful in informing discussions about potential improvements to be made in your STSJP Plan.

- What were your projected performance outcomes in your 2012-2013 STSJP Plan for your proposed services and programs:
- Performance Target: 85% of the youth will avoid a remand to detention
- 2013 Performance: 89% of identified youth avoided a remand to detention.
- Performance Target: 90% of youth will avert residential placement.
- 2013 Performance: 86% of youth identified from the Rensselaer County Stepping Stones Prevention Program averted residential placement.
- 95% total youth averted residential placement (this percentage includes the siblings of the identified youth).

- Were there other positive outcomes for youth participating in STSJP services and programs? There were no detention remands for youth that were involved in the Stepping Stones Program for the first half of 2013. The Family Specialist and Assistant Director have been working diligently to find alternatives to detention and new community resources throughout the year. Because the Family Specialist works with the entire family, several siblings have been the focus of services as well, due to their high risk behaviors and involvement with the court system.The Family Specialist has also been working closely with parents who have mental health needs to ensure they receive support and treatment. The Court Diversion Council which consists of staff from mental health, probation, social services, convenes bi-weekly to discuss youth at high risk of detention and residential placement. Alternatives to detention and placement are discussed with input from the family, so that a plan is developed that focuses on the strengths and needs of the family.These meetings have been productive in finding strategies and supports for families prior to court hearings.

Please provide the following information for your county or the jurisdiction served by your STSJP programs for 2013-2014, indicating if the geographic area is anything other than countywide: N/A

TTL number of youth under 16 arrested: 148

TTL number of youth admitted to detention programs: 84

Secure detention:	42
Non-Secure detention	42

TTL Number of youth placed out of their home as part of a disposition in a JD and/or PINs case:

Number of JDs placed with OCFS or LDSS:	11-LDSS/1-OCFS
Number of PINs placed:	15
TTL Number of youth who received service and programs as a result of STSJP funding:	96 including the siblings of the identified youth.

COMMENTS

Please assess whether the services and programs in your 2013-2014 STSJP Plan achieved the projected reductions in detention utilization and residential placements and other performance outcomes. If they did not, what were the barriers?

The Stepping Stones Program achieved the projected reductions in detention, when a case was referred to them for services. However, Judges and Probation Officers are continuing to pursue remands to detneion when a youth is not a flight risk or has not committed a criminal offense. The Probation Officers, in particular are still using detention as a consequence. Truancy has been causing an increase in detention remands. At times, Rensselaer County youth are still entering detention without notice to the Stepping Stones Program and therefore no intervention has been explored.

The performance target to have youth avert residential placement did not meet the 90% target by 4%. A barrier could be that once a youth get referred for placement, the probation officers, county attorney and family court judges are reluctant to changes their minds. There are also times when the Stepping Stones staff is not given enough time to engage the youth and family in ther services.

Are there any changes in allocations or practices planned for 2014-2015 based on experiences in 2013-2014? Please list those changes.

No Change.

SECTION EIGHT – Cooperative Applications Submitted Jointly by Two or More Counties

(Complete this section only if this is a joint application)

Two or more eligible local jurisdictions (counties) may join together to establish, operate, and maintain supervision and treatment services for juveniles programs and may make and perform agreements in connection therewith . Counties submitting such applications must provide the following information:

- Describe the provisions for the proportionate cost to be borne by each county:

N/A

- Describe the manner of employment of personnel across and between counties in the cooperative:

N/A

- Identify whether a single fiscal officer shall be the custodian of the funds made available for STSJP:

N/A

SECTION NINE– Additional Comments

None

APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As Chief Executive Officer of the applicant municipality named on Page 1, I certify that I approve of this Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program Plan.

Kathleen M. Jimino
Name (Please Print)

7/10/2014
Date

X Kathleen M. Jimino
Signature

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; (Somewhere County 2014-2015 STSJP Plan)

c. Work from the "saved" county plan document using it to record all of your county's information.
d. Once you have satisfactorily completed entering the required data, save the document, print the plan.
e. Then have the person named in the plan as the CEO sign the hard copy of the document.
f. Upload the signed copy of the plan and send it to OCFS via the STSJP email address at ocfs.sm.stsjp@ocfs.ny.gov