

REDUCING RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

ADDRESSING RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The **Pennsylvania Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program** is an intensive training designed to support local counties within Pennsylvania in their efforts to **reduce racial and ethnic disparities in their juvenile justice systems**. The program is operated jointly by the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) and the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP), and funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

The three primary goals of the Certificate Program are to help jurisdictions reduce:

- **Overrepresentation** of youth of color in the juvenile justice system;
- **Disparate treatment** of youth of color as compared to white youth within the juvenile justice system; and
- **Unnecessary entry and movement deeper** into the juvenile justice system for youth of color.

While the program will primarily address disparities in the juvenile justice system, **it will also include a focus on the relationship between disproportionality in the juvenile justice system and disparate treatment in other child-serving systems**, including **child welfare and education**. Further, the specific program modules will be tailored based on the composition and goals of the selected teams.



OVERREPRESENTATION

Children of color are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system in the United States. They are **more likely to be arrested, charged, and incarcerated than their white counterparts, even for the same behaviors.**

Involvement in the juvenile justice system has **numerous negative consequences** for young people, including educational disruptions, reduced employment rates, and increased likelihood of criminal justice involvement as an adult. **Disparate treatment of youth of color** in the juvenile justice system can lead to disparities in other arenas, and **contribute to an intergenerational cycle of justice system involvement and other poor outcomes for people of color.**



CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM
WORKING ACROSS SYSTEMS OF CARE
mccourt school of public policy georgetown university

Children's
CENTER FOR
Law and Policy

A CURRICULUM DESIGNED FOR IMPACT

Since 2013, CJJR and CCLP have partnered to hold eight Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Certificate Programs, bringing more than 300 child-serving leaders from teams across the country to Georgetown. The Pennsylvania R/ED Certificate Program continues this work by bringing together multiple counties within the Commonwealth as they lead efforts to reduce disparities faced by youth of color at key decision points in the juvenile justice system.

The Certificate Program curriculum is designed to help teams of leaders identify the most promising areas for reform at key decision points in the juvenile justice system.

The program provides information about specific strategies to **address racial and ethnic disparities at those decision points** through a **series of modules, all of which present ways to overcome potential challenges**. Participants will have the chance to apply these strategies to **in-class exercises throughout the week**, and will also consider these topics within the context of their local systems. Instructors provide guidance throughout the training to make connections between each team's needs and best practices from the field.

After completing the program, **teams will be responsible for the development of a data-driven local Capstone Project reform effort and will receive technical assistance through two follow-up cluster visits and ongoing, remote support from CCLP and CJJR**. CCLP will also provide limited additional **on-site technical assistance to several sites on a site-by-site basis throughout the 18 months** of the project following the Certificate Program. The Capstone Project allows participants to apply what they learned from the Certificate Program toward new or existing efforts to reduce overrepresentation and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

A CALL FOR MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS

A maximum of seven multi-disciplinary teams will be invited for participation in the program. Each team should be **comprised of up to seven members** and should include leaders working in juvenile justice who are **positioned to affect meaningful change to reduce racial and ethnic disparities**.

When building a team, applicants should ensure that team composition **reflects the diverse community and youth they serve**, and should include leaders working in the juvenile justice field, as well as representatives from related child-serving agencies.

COUNTIES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Please find the list below for the counties eligible to apply:

- **Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Washington, Westmoreland, York**



KEY DATES



Informational Webinar: March 10, 2021, 1-2 pm

If you'd like to learn more, we will be holding an informational webinar to discuss the program and the application process,

Register at <https://pa-red-info-webinar.eventbrite.com>



Application Deadline: May 7, 2021

Applications are accepted until Friday, May 7th, and can be submitted through the online Submittable platform. Refer to the RFA for more information.



Program: September 20-24, 2021

The program will be held in Harrisburg, PA from September 20-24, 2021.