



Erie County Youth Bureau

**Supervision and
Treatment Services
for Juveniles
Program** (STSJP and STSJP-RTA)

RFP Info Session

February 24, 2026

Kate Hilliman, Executive Director

Introductions

- + Kate Hilliman - Executive Director, Youth Bureau
- + Norma Milholland - JDST Supervisor

Youth Bureau Overview

- + In Erie County, STSJP is administered by the Erie County Youth Bureau as a component of its continuum of positive youth development services.
- + The Youth Bureau is a division of the Erie County Dept. of Social Services.
- + The Youth Bureau is responsible for Youth Services Planning, based out of the Rath Building, and the Juvenile Delinquency Services Team (JDST), based out of Family Court.
- + The Youth Bureau is part of a statewide network of youth bureaus, overseen by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services.



Youth Services Continuum

- ➔ **Prevention** The Youth Bureau oversees a variety of community-based youth programs aimed at supporting youth, bolstering protective factors, and preventing delinquency. Prevention-focused funding includes Youth Development Program, Youth Team Sports, and Youth Sports and Education Programs, as well as Runaway and Homeless Youth non-residential support programs.
- ➔ **Diversion** - The Youth Bureau provides a team of Juvenile Justice Counselors who work in collaboration with the Departments of Probation and Mental Health to develop service delivery programs for youth engaged with the JJ system. The Youth Bureau also manages a variety of contracts for diversion services linked via this team. Diversion-focused funding includes Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program
- Detention** - Secure detention houses youth age 12 - 18 who are alleged to have committed a crime. Detention is a temporary facility for youth awaiting the outcome of their Court proceedings.
- ➔ **Placement, Re-entry & After Care** - Youth Bureau (JDST) is responsible for managing the process for youth who are court-ordered to an out-of-home agency placement or placement at an OCFS facility. If youth are released from Detention on Probation, PO's often use Youth Bureau services to support youth. Youth Bureau will be funding aftercare supports for youth released from an OCFS facility through the STSJP funding program in 2026-27.

Juvenile Delinquency Services Team (JDST)

- + Most STSJP and STSJP-RTA service referrals will come from Juvenile Justice Counselors in the JDST.
- + The JDST is a unique and formal collaboration between the Departments of Social Services (JJC), Mental Health (Clinical Mental Health Specialist), and Probation (PO).
- + The goal of the JDST is to work collaboratively to assess criminogenic factors and determine appropriate services to divert youth from further juvenile justice involvement.
- + The focus of the JDST is primarily on justice-involved youth at the pre-dispositional stages (Probation Intake or PDS) but STSJP services (Alternative to Placement) can be implemented for some adjudicated youth.

Overview

- + STSJP funds are used to provide local services that are intended to divert youth from detention, placement, or incarceration who are at risk of becoming, alleged to be, or adjudicated as Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) or Juvenile Delinquents (JD), and youth who are alleged to be or convicted as Juvenile Offenders (JO) or Adolescent Offenders (AO), or adjudicated as Youthful Offenders (YO)
- + These services are intended to maintain youth safely in the community, pending a family court disposition or conviction in criminal court.
- + STSJP funding is NYS allocated and overseen by OCFS.
- + Erie County also awards contracts for STSJP services to RTA youth.
- + This RFP is also soliciting services for Raise the Lower Age-eligible youth within the Prevention domain.

Award Information

- + Approximately \$1 million is potentially available for STSJP and STSJP-RTA awards (combined)
- + Awardees may be awarded less than requested.
- + All awards are subject to Legislative approval.
- + Contracts mailed when Legislative approval is obtained.

Eligibility and Target Populations

- + Youth who are at risk of becoming, alleged to be, or adjudicated as PINS.
- + Youth who are at risk of becoming, alleged to be, or adjudicated as JD, both non-Raise the Age (RTA) JDs and RTA JDs.
- + Youth who are alleged to be or convicted as JO or AO, or adjudicated as YO.
- + **Note:** Services for Raise the Lower Age youth are being solicited in this RFP. RTLA youth are youth under the age of 12 who are at risk of or who have been in contact with law enforcement. These referrals will be sent from the Family Services Team.

Raise the Lower Age

- + RTLA services are being solicited in this RFP within the Prevention domain. The target population will be youth under the age of 12 who are exhibiting behaviors which have or may bring them into contact with law enforcement.

- + Specific services sought for RTLA-eligible youth are as follows:

Case Management Services – Provide community services/linkages to youth and their families when preventive services are not desired or appropriate. In some instances, preventive services or wraparound services are too intensive during the Prevention phase for youth who are eligible for RTLA services.

Services providers are expected to complete a risk/needs assessment to address risk reduction and address family needs.

Examples of service linkages may include but are not limited to: mental health counseling, psychiatric evaluation, parental and educational supports, peer supports, prosocial and positive youth development activities, other identified supports.

Service Domain	Target Population and Goals
<p>Prevention</p>	<p>Only Prevention services for Raise the Lower Age-eligible youth are being solicited in this RFP (children under 12 years of age who do not fall under the definition of a juvenile delinquent (JD) as of December 29, 2022, and whose behavior would otherwise bring them within the jurisdiction of the family court under Article 3 of the Family Court Act (FCA).)</p> <p>Prevention programs serve youth with no juvenile justice involvement but who exhibit behaviors that place them at risk for juvenile justice contact.</p>
<p>Early Intervention</p>	<p>Youth on JD adjustment, PINS Diversion, or Voluntary Assessment and Case Planning Services (VACPS).</p> <p>EI programs utilize prosocial activities in a targeted strategy to engage youth at risk of becoming or alleged to be, a JD or PINS, or an alleged AO or JO engaged in VACPS who has not been referred for detention, to prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system.</p>
<p>Alternatives to Detention / Alternatives to Pre-Dispositional Placement</p>	<p>Programs that aim to reduce reliance on detention for youth alleged to be JDs, JOs, and AOs, or on pre-dispositional placement for youth alleged to be a PINS.</p> <p>ATD/ATPDP programs help ensure that youth return to court and remain crime free until the disposition of their case. The program service period is limited to the court case processing time frames.</p>
<p>Alternative to Placement</p>	<p>Programs that serve adjudicated youth who would otherwise be placed out of home if not for programs that can maintain youth safely in the community.</p> <p>ATP programs can be used for youth adjudicated as PINS, JDs and YOs, or convicted as JOs or AOs.</p> <p>These programs target and address known criminogenic risk factors and identified needs.</p>
<p>Reentry / Aftercare</p>	<p>Programs that support youth's reentry and reintegration into the community once released from youth-justice related residential placement.</p> <p>Programs that reduce length of stay in residential placement.</p> <p>Links the youth and family to community services, supports and supervision.</p>

Service Domains

Service Domain: Prevention (P)

Programs that serve youth with no juvenile justice involvement, but who exhibit behaviors that place them at risk for juvenile justice contact. These programs utilize prosocial activities that engage at-risk youth to lower their risk of entering the juvenile justice system.

Prevention programs could also serve children under 12 years of age who do not fall under the definition of a JD as of December 29, 2022, and whose behavior would otherwise bring them within the jurisdiction of the family court under Article 3 of the Family Court Act (FCA).

For the purposes of this RFP, the services in the Prevention Service Domain are being solicited **only to serve RTLA-eligible youth and their families.**

Service Domain: Early Intervention (EI)

Programs serve youth who have had some contact with the juvenile justice system; a youth who is on JD adjustment, PINS Diversion, or Voluntary Assessment and Case Planning Services (VACPS) would be a good candidate for this service type. These programs **utilize prosocial activities in a targeted strategy to engage youth at risk of becoming, or alleged to be, a JD or PINS, or an alleged AO or JO engaged in VACPS who has not been referred for detention, to prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system.** These programs target and address known criminogenic risk factors and identified needs.

+ **Examples:** youth courts for alleged JD youth, respite services, restorative justice programs, mediation, workforce development programs, educational advocacy, linkage to GED and employment.

+ **Outcomes Measured and Reported:**

Active Engagement

Positive Adult Connection

Prosocial Activities

Reduction in Truancy

School Suspension

PINS Referral

Arrest/Probation Intake

Successful Adjustment

Service Domain: Alternatives to Detention (ATD)/Alternatives to Pre-Dispositional Placement (ATPDP)

Programs that are intended to reduce the reliance on non-secure, secure, or specialized secure detention for youth alleged to be JDs, JOs, and AOs, or on pre-dispositional placement for youth alleged to be a PINS. ATD/ATPDP programs help **ensure that youth return to court and remain crime free until the disposition of their case**. The program service period is limited to the court case processing time frames. These programs target and address known criminogenic risk factors and identified needs.

+ **Examples:** specialized community supervision, calling services to remind youth to return to court, and electronic monitoring programs.

+ **Outcomes Measured and Reported:**

Active Engagement

Positive Adult Connection

Prosocial Activities

Arrest/Probation Intake

Failure to appear in court

Warrant issued

Detention or Jail Admission or Pre-Dispositional Placement

Service Domain: Alternatives to Placement (ATP)

Programs that serve **adjudicated** youth **who would otherwise be placed out of home if not for programs that can maintain youth safely in the community**. ATP programs can be used for youth adjudicated as PINS, JDs and YOs, or convicted as JOs or AOs. These programs target and address known criminogenic risk factors and identified needs.

+ **Examples:** evidence-based cognitive behavioral interventions, prosocial activities that target youth with leisure time/peer-group concerns, navigators/credible messengers/mentors, and substance abuse supports.

+ **Outcomes Measured**

Active Engagement

Positive Adult Connection

Prosocial Activities

Arrest/Probation Intake

Warrant Issued

Detention or Jail Admission or Pre-Dispositional Placement

Violation of Probation Filed

New Placement

Service Domain: Reentry/Aftercare (R/A)

Programs that support youth's reentry and reintegration into the community once released from residential placement and programs that reduce length of stay in residential placement. Links the youth and family to community services and supports. These programs target and address known criminogenic risk factors and identified needs.

+ **Examples:** vocational or educational support programs, prosocial activities for positive leisure time/building alternative choices, mentors/credible messengers/navigators, and housing supports.

+ **Outcomes Measured**

Active Engagement

Positive Adult Connection

Prosocial Activities

Arrest/Probation Intake

Warrant Issued

Detention or Jail Admission or Pre-Dispositional Placement

New Placement

Return to Placement

Ineligibility

- All Service Domains are eligible in this RFP.
- However, only RTLA services for youth under the age of 12 are eligible for **Prevention** Service Domain funding.
- Applicants wishing to propose STSJP services for RTA youth should complete the application in the same manner as required for non-RTA youth (i.e. individual program descriptions by service domain) but submit two distinct budgets - one for non-RTA and one for RTA.
- There is eligibility criteria for youth in each Service Domain.

Data Collection

- + Contracted vendors will collect detailed demographic and outcomes data on each youth enrolled.
- + Data rosters will be submitted to the Youth Bureau quarterly.
- + Youth summary data will be required on a monthly basis.
- + CONNECTIONS is not utilized for case notes in this program.
- + For more information about data collection, visit the [Recording Program Data webpage](#).

Service Domain	Effective Services and Programs	Target Outcomes
<p>Prevention</p> <p>**RTLA Youth Only**</p>	<p>Mentoring; Positive Youth Development Programs; Family Engagement and Parenting Support; Pro-Social and Recreational Opportunities; Case Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Engagement in Services • Positive Adult Connection • Connection to Prosocial Activities • Reduction in Truancy • Prevent School Suspension • Prevent PINS Referral • Prevent Arrest/Probation Intake
<p>Early Intervention</p>	<p>Intensive Case Management; Family Case Management; Mentoring; Youth Advocate Programs; Peer Advocates; Recreation Programs; Restorative Justice Programs; Evidence-Based Mental Health treatments; Mobile Crisis Services; Respite Services; Mediation; Assessment Centers; Positive Youth Development Opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Engagement in Services • Positive Adult Connection • Connection to Prosocial Activities • Reduction in Truancy • Prevent School Suspension • Prevent PINS Referral • Prevent Arrest/Probation Intake • Successful Adjustment
<p>Alternatives to Detention and Pre-Dispositional Placement</p>	<p>Specialized Community Supervision; Calling Services; Electronic Monitoring Programs; Intensive Case Management; Evidence-Based Mental Health Treatments including multi-modal delivery strategies; Youth Advocates; Peer Advocates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Engagement in Services • Positive Adult Connection • Connection to Prosocial Activities • Prevent Failure to Appear in Court • Prevent Arrest/Probation Intake • Prevent Warrant Issued • Prevent Detention or Jail Admission / Pre-Dispositional Placement
<p>Alternatives to Placement</p>	<p>Evidence-Based Cognitive Behavioral Interventions; Prosocial Activities; Peer Navigators/Credible Messengers and Mentors; Substance Abuse Supports; Intensive Case Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Engagement in Services • Positive Adult Connection • Connection to Prosocial Activities • Prevent Arrest/Probation Intake • Prevent Warrant Issued • Prevent Detention or Jail Admission / Pre-Dispositional Placement • Prevent Violation of Probation Filed • Prevent New Placement
<p>Reentry/Aftercare</p>	<p>Educational Advocacy; Vocation and Job Skills Training; Prosocial Activities and recreation; Mentors and Credible Messengers; Housing and Basic Needs Supports; Intensive Case Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Engagement in Services • Positive Adult Connection • Connection to Prosocial Activities • Prevent Arrest/Probation Intake • Prevent Warrant Issued • Prevent Detention or Jail Admission / Pre-Dispositional Placement • Prevent New Placement

General Program Requirements

- + Engagement Timeframe - Service providers are expected to attempt or make initial contact with youth and families within 48 hours of receipt of the referral. Length-of-stay is typically, but is not limited to, 3-6 months. Contact with target youth and family is expected to take place at a minimum once per week, preferably in-person. Agency staff are expected to be responsive by phone and email.
- + Documentation and Reporting Requirements - Service providers submit Monthly case summaries and Quarterly data rosters. Service updates may be requested outside of these documentation timeframes.
- + Flexible Scheduling and After-Hours/Weekend Availability
- + Engagement in the Community - In-person engagement in the community with clients and their families is expected. Clients should have the opportunity to meet service providers in a location with which they are comfortable and which is accessible to them and not limited to one office location. This may necessitate meetings in various sites as well as home visits.

- + Family Involvement - It is expected that service providers will fully engage family/parents/guardians in development of the youth's service plan and refer to additional family-centered services, if needed. Minimally, parents/guardians should be familiar with service provider staff and understand their role and goals with youth.
- + Linkage and Referral to Additional Services - STSJP services are intended to address criminogenic factors identified during intake and communicated on service referrals. However, additional needs are likely to present. STSJP providers are expected to link and refer youth and families to services which meet needs which are contributing to criminogenic factors. Collaboration with Youth Bureau and DSS staff may be necessary to meet these needs and case conferencing is expected when needed.
- + Cross-System Collaboration - Collaboration with community-based pro-social, mental health, child welfare (if applicable), family support, and Positive Youth Development agencies and programs is expected.

General Application Requirements

Appendix A

- + Proposal to Provide Service- **please provide separate descriptions of each component of service being applied for, as described on page 10.**
- + Signed Schedule A
- + For agencies not currently contracted with ECDSS to provide the requested service, references and data from similar work

Appendix B

- + Signed Fiscal Form
- + Budget Forms (**STSJP and STSJP-RTA services should be submitted on separate budgets (if applicable)**)

Appendix C

- + Most recent Audit report prepared by an independent CPA
- + Most recent Management Letter
- + Listing of Officers and Board of Directors

Questions on Page 13 include all information that should be included in the sections on the application form.

Proposals MUST be signed using the attached Schedule A: Proposer Certification. Unsigned proposals will be rejected.

Submission of the proposals shall be uploaded as three separate documents (Appendix A, B and C) to: [OnBase Unity Form](#). *You will receive an email confirming if it has been submitted.*

If unable to upload the proposal, a printed submission may be submitted to: Erie County Department of Social Services, Attn: Judith Kolmetz, 95 Franklin Street Room_804, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Additional Application Requirements

- + If you propose to serve RTA and non-RTA youth, please ensure you specify any differences in those services within each Service Domain description.

Needs of non-RTA and RTA youth often differ slightly due to developmental, education, or other common needs (i.e. pro-socials may be more commonly needed for non-RTA youth while GED and employment may be more commonly needed for RTA youth)

- + Ensure you provide a separate budget for RTA services if you chose to propose services for RTA youth along with non-RTA youth.

Evaluation Process

- + All proposals are evaluated and scored by a committee of no less than 3 people.
- + Scoring committees are comprised of Youth Bureau staff and staff from related departments.
- + Scoring criteria are listed in the RFP.

Payment and Claiming Process

- + Youth Bureau grants are reimbursement grants. Payment is issued when we receive and process your claim.
- + Claims must match your original budget in your contract.
- + Claims are submitted on a quarterly basis. Payment takes 30-90 days to process.
- + Claims must be accurate and complete.

Conflict of Interest

- + Proposers must disclose if anyone on your staff or board is or has been an Erie County employee in the last 12 months.
- + Any other real or perceived conflict of interest should be disclosed in your application. This includes relationships with any member of the Youth Board.

How to Submit Your Application

- + Appendix A - Application/Proposal
- + Appendix B - Budget
- + Appendix C - Supporting Fiscal Documents
- + [Online Submission Form](#) (OnBase System)
- + Reminders: If the documents are too large you can break it up and upload more than one document for each appendix.
- + Don't wait until the last minute!
- + If you are having any trouble uploading, contact Judie Kolmetz: Judith.Kolmetz@Erie.Gov.
- + A signed Schedule A and Signed Appendix B are required.
- + If you get an error when you try to upload/submit, try again.

Questions?

- + Questions asked today and answered on this session will be documented.
- + Questions may also be submitted via email.
- + Answers to documented questions will be posted on the Purchasing website.
- + More information about STSJP can be found on the [STSJP Homepage](#).