

Discretionary State Aid (DSA)

A(2)-2018-19 Biennium

Effective date 09/01/2017

Latest Revision 05/10/2017

I. GRANT DESCRIPTION.

- A. **Description.** Discretionary State Aid (DSA) is a competitive grant within State Aid created to comply with Human Resources Code (HRC) Section 223.001(c). DSA supports probation programs and services with a clearly defined target population that use research-driven practices and have well-defined recidivism reduction goals.
- B. **Goal.** The goal of the DSA program is to encourage the development of community-based programs that are research-based, use data to evaluate and inform program design and result in demonstrable recidivism reduction.
- C. **Objective.** The objective of the DSA program is to increase the availability of intensive community-based programs and aftercare services.
- D. **Target Population.** Youth appropriate for participation in a DSA-funded program are those with characteristics of the target population for which the program was designed, moderate to high risk to reoffend, and/or corresponding moderate to high treatment needs.

II. GRANT SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this grant:

- A. **Approved Risk Assessment.** The criminogenic risk assessment tool that TJJD has approved the Grantee to use for the purpose of determining risk to reoffend.
- B. **General Grant Requirements.** Programmatic and financial requirements established under the *State Aid and Targeted Grants Contract and General Grant Requirements for the 2018-2019 Biennium*.
- C. **Grant.** The DSA Program grant.
- D. **Grantee.** The juvenile board and/or juvenile probation department receiving funds under this grant.
- E. **Intensive Community-Based Programs and Aftercare Services or Program.** A planned and coordinated nonresidential activity designed to address a specific purpose or goal that has a measureable objective and outcome and is appropriate in methodology and dosage for juveniles with a moderate to high risk to reoffend and/or treatment need.
- F. **Outcome Measure.** Expected program outcomes that ensure the program's goal statement is being fulfilled. They are the measures that each program identified in the program description and logic model portions of the grant application.
- G. **Output Measures.** Measurable components of the program's activities that are tracked to ensure the program is being implemented with fidelity. Examples include, but are not limited to, number of youth served, attendance rates, number of activity sessions, and duration of activity sessions.
- H. **Qualified Personnel.** A person who has the necessary knowledge, training, or credentials to accurately assess the treatment need that is the focus of the program.
- I. **Recidivism Reduction Goal.** Expected reduction in recidivism that the program is designed to effect. It is the goal that each program identified in the grant application.
- J. **Research-Driven Practices.** Methodologies, dosages, and techniques that have been shown through research studies to have a positive impact on recidivism and/or relapse rates.
- K. **Target Population.** A specific population for which the program was designed. It is the population that each program defined in the grant application.

III. PROGRAMMATIC COMPONENTS.

- A. **Applicable Law, Policy, and Procedure.** The Grantee shall comply with all applicable General Grant Requirements, state and federal laws, standards, policies, and procedures as they currently exist or as amended or renumbered and enacted and effective during the term of the DSA program.

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B. Eligibility Requirements. The Grantee shall ensure that each youth enrolled in the DSA funded program:

1. Meets the characteristics of the identified target population;
2. Has a moderate to high risk to reoffend as determined with an approved risk assessment; and/or
3. Has a moderate to high treatment need as assessed by qualified personnel.

C. Performance. Grantee performance under the DSA grant shall be determined using the following measures:

1. Number of juveniles served by the program during the Contract period;
2. Percent of juveniles enrolled in the program who successfully complete the program;
3. Percent of juveniles served who have a high to moderate assessed criminogenic risk level;
4. Achievement of the program's identified outcome measure goals; and
5. Achievement of the program's identified one, two and three year recidivism reduction goals.

D. Programmatic Reporting.

1. **Annual Reports.** No later than October 1 of each fiscal year, the Grantee shall complete an end-of-year report in a format specified by TJJD. The report shall include but is not limited to:
 - a. The number of juveniles served by the program during the previous fiscal year;
 - b. The distribution of risk level for youth served during the previous fiscal year;
 - c. The percentage of achievement toward identified program outcome measure goals; and
 - d. The percentage of achievement toward identified program output measure goals.
2. **Semi-Annual Reports.** No later than April 1 of each fiscal year, the Grantee shall complete a mid-year report in a format specified by TJJD. The report shall include the percentage of achievement toward identified program output goals for the first two quarters of the current fiscal year.
3. **Quarterly Reports.** None.
4. **Monthly Reports.** None.
5. **Other Periodic Reports.** See General Grant Requirements.

E. Programmatic Monitoring.

1. On-site Monitoring Visits. See General Grant Requirements.
2. Unannounced On-site Monitoring Visits. See General Grant Requirements.
3. Desk Audits. See General Grant Requirements.

IV. FINANCIAL COMPONENTS.

A. Expenditure of Funds. See Also General Grant Requirements.

1. Grant funds shall be used for the sole purpose of funding components of the approved DSA program that are authorized under the *State Financial Assistance Contract* and detailed in the grant application and the TJJD-approved grant budget for the current fiscal year.
2. All other expenditures are unallowable.

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3. **Expenditure Exception Requests.** The Grantee may request an exception to the requirements in subsections IV.A.1. and IV.A.2.. The request must be submitted in writing and approved by TJJD prior to the expenditure of funds.

B. Funding Adjustments.

1. **Reduction of Grant Payments.** See General Grant Requirements.
2. **Unexpended Balances.** See General Grant Requirements.
3. **Timely expenditure of funds.** See General Grant Requirements.
4. **Overpayments and Refunds Due.** See General Grant Requirements.

C. Miscellaneous.

1. **Financial Match Requirements.** None.
2. **Audits.** See General Grant Requirements.
3. **Financial Assurances.** See General Grant Requirements.
4. **Service Providers.** See General Grant Requirements.

D. FINANCIAL REPORTING.

1. **Annual Reports.** See General Grant Requirements.
2. **Quarterly Reports.**
 - a. **Financial Expenditure Report.** See General Grant Requirements.
3. **Monthly Reports.** None.
4. **Other Periodic Reports.**
 - a. **Budget Adjustments.** See General Grant Requirements.

E. FINANCIAL MONITORING.

1. **Annual Monitoring.** See General Grant Requirements.
2. **Periodic Monitoring.** See General Grant Requirements.