

# DCF/DJJ Dually Served Children and Young Adults

Report Timeframe:  
July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023  
Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2023-24

Department of Children and Families  
and  
Department of Juvenile Justice

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## Table of Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Introduction .....  | 1 |
| Updates on Strategies to Advance Collaboration and Services for Dually Involved Youth ..... | 2 |
| Cross Agency Collaboration.....   | 2 |
| Placement Array.....  | 2 |
| Evidence-Based Services Implementation.....   | 3 |
| Data Summary and Trend Analysis of Dually Involved Youth.....                               | 5 |
| Quarter 1 Fiscal Year 2023-2024.....  | 5 |
| DCF Youth Served by DJJ .....   | 5 |
| DJJ Youth Served by DCF .....   | 6 |
| Point in Time Data / Dually Served Youth Trend .....  | 6 |
| Attachment 1 .....  | 8 |

# Introduction

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) continue to strengthen its partnership and collaboration to enhance outcomes for dually served youth and their families. Together with our sister agencies, we share expertise and advocacy to address trauma, life skills, work readiness, housing, and other family needs across Florida.

## **Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida (HB 7065) – Reporting Requirements & History of Reports**

During the 2022 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida, creating section 39.0143, Florida Statutes. This legislation requires DCF and DJJ to collaborate on shared strategies to best serve children who are involved in both systems of care, often referred to as dually involved children.

The following Quarterly Reports have been submitted to the Legislature:

- The first report provided historical information on youth served by both agencies since January 2004 and included information for Quarter 4 for state fiscal year 2021-2022.
- The second report included the reporting timeframe of Quarters 1 and 2 for state fiscal year 2022-23.
- The third report included the reporting timeframe of Quarter 3 of state fiscal year 2022-23.
- The fourth report included the reporting timeframe of Quarter 4 for state fiscal year 2022-2023.
- The current report includes the reporting timeframe of Quarter 1 for state fiscal year 2023-2024.

## **Current Standard of Care for Dually Involved Youth**

Dually involved youth is defined as a youth who has ever been involved with, or served by, DCF and DJJ and is not limited to youth served by both Departments at the same time. DCF and DJJ have historically maintained a strong partnership to support this vulnerable population of youth. Both Departments use robust data to inform strategies around preventative approaches, enhanced services development, and increased quality. In 2016, the Departments designated Crossover Champions, individuals assigned in each circuit to strategize effective ways to serve youth, examine and evaluate current resources, and address potential gaps in services. The collaboration continued to grow with the addition of Crossover Champions from each CBC in 2022 and in 2023 the Guardian Ad Litem program identified Crossover Champions for each circuit. Additionally, the teams now have access to Florida Safe Families Network and the Juvenile Justice Information System which assist them in having more comprehensive information about the youth.

## **Data Sharing**

DCF and DJJ share data monthly via secure file transfers and identify youth served by both agencies using matching protocols that include name, date of birth, and when available, social security number. This permits historical analysis of youth served by both agencies as well as recent time periods.

# Updates on Strategies to Advance Collaboration and Services for Dually Involved Youth

## Cross Agency Collaboration

Throughout the year, DCF and DJJ host cross agency opportunities for dually served statewide collaboration, in addition to ongoing local cross agency dually served collaborative efforts. Local efforts include local review teams that bring families, agencies, and providers together to provide multi-disciplinary support to connect services. These efforts are intended to prevent the need for out-of-home care and crisis care or can result in connection to needed crisis care. Additionally, monthly cross agency meetings occur where all sister agency dually served representatives and lead agency Champions meet to review local systems of care, provide updates, collaborate on system strategy action items for improvement, and update resource libraries and contact information to keep partners informed. Agency Champions also participate in multiple councils and outreach opportunities to collaborate on local strategies to improve how their communities serve dually involved youth.

## Florida Children and Families Summit

The 2023 Florida Children and Families Summit (Summit), held in September 2023 in Orlando, provided several opportunities for participants to attend workshops related to dually served youth. The following are related workshop descriptions from the Summit:

- **Delinquency Court: It Isn't a D.I.Y (Do it Yourself):** Working with youth in child welfare is hard enough but add in even a pinch of criminal charges and it can become a recipe for disaster if you are trying to do it yourself. This workshop transforms working with Dually Involved Youth from simply making court appearances to working in collaboration for life changing outcomes. Broaden your understanding of the juvenile justice system and how to successfully navigate delinquency court as you learn significant roles, critical junctures, and most common mistakes.
- **Nowhere to Turn: Solutions for Responding to Children Experiencing Significant Behavioral Issues:** One of the most challenging aspects of the dependency and delinquency systems is addressing the placement and service needs of a child where seldom there are easy solutions to these complex situations. The workshop will be a high interactive presentation where the presenters from the dependency and delinquency systems and the workshop participants will work together to determine best practices, processes, placements, and services for a child who is experiencing significant behavior issues and who has no apparent placement alternatives.
- **High-Risk CSE: Promising Practices for Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, and Law Enforcement Agencies:** This workshop will illustrate promising practices to strengthen collaboration among juvenile justice, child welfare and law enforcement agencies for better early identification, prevention, and intervention for commercially sexually exploited youth.

## Monthly Interagency Collaboration Trainings

During Quarter 1, the Statewide Dually Served Team hosted three Monthly Interagency Collaboration Trainings. Participants included Crossover Champions and representatives from Local and State Review

Teams, community partners, and other child serving agencies. The following trainings were provided during Quarter 1:

- July 2023: *Representing Florida's Abused, Abandoned and Neglected Children in Court and in the Community* presented by the Florida Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office
- August 2023: *Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder and CARD Services* presented by the University of Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
- September 2023: *Going Forward with the FASD Movement; Expansion of FASD Throughout Florida* presented by the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Clinic

## **Placement Array**

The following statewide collaborative strategies continue to be developed for overall system of care enhancements and improvements:

- To help ensure an appropriate placement array with sufficient capacity, DCF shared the following approaches:
  - Collaboration with Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Programs (SIPP), Department of Children and Families, Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), and lead agencies to increase capacity and programming. This work includes not only SIPP, but the therapeutic continuum of care for children (therapeutic group care, foster care, short term residential services, crisis care, and respite).
    - a. Citrus Health in Miami has opened the first child short-term residential care program to serve children leaving Baker Acts who meet established criteria for this level of care. Short-Term Residential was identified by the SIPP collaboration group as one of the highest priority items to develop in Florida.
    - b. SIPP collaborative meetings are held monthly; next steps include adding the Managing Entities to participate, exploring the ability to implement a capacity reporting mechanism for statewide bed capacity, and ongoing strategy development around increasing capacity of current programs to meet the needs of children in Florida.
  - Continued enhancement of the DCF's placement array that includes specialization to better meet the needs of children dually served such as human trafficking safe houses and safe foster homes, at-risk homes for sex trafficking, and Behavioral Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (B-QRTP). The B-QRTP allows for specialization within the homes such as for children needing behavioral management coupled with developmental disabilities, aggressive behaviors, sexual behaviors, and specialized medical needs.
    - a. Expansion of the Citrus CHANCE model per funding allocation in the 2023 Legislative Session. This expansion will focus on developing safe foster homes as well as the CHANCE outreach program in two high priority areas of the state, then further expansion into other areas of the state dependent on funding availability.

- b. B-QRTP is in the Rule promulgation process to begin offering this licensing option and build specialized placements focused on behavioral needs of children.
- o In the 2022 Legislative Session, DCF received funding for fatherhood grants. The grants were used to fund mentorship programs for at-risk male students and to address the needs of fathers. DCF begun offering mentorship services to at-risk male youth this year, and the initiative is expected to benefit dually served male youth.

## **Evidence-Based Programs Implementation**

DJJ has extended the availability for dually served youth to participate in the evidence-based programs of Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and HomeBuilders. FFT is a strength-focused family counseling model designed for at-risk youth. It assists youth and families with overcoming behavior problems, conduct disorder, substance abuse, and delinquency from a family-based perspective. CBT is focused on helping youth and families replace maladaptive coping skills, thinking, emotions and behaviors with more adaptive ones by challenging an individual's way of thinking and their reaction to habits and behaviors. CBT challenges patterns and beliefs and replaces negative thinking with more realistic thoughts, which decreases emotional distress and self-defeating behavior. HomeBuilders provides intensive, in-home crisis intervention, counseling, and life-skills education for families who have imminent risk of out-of-home placement.

DCF has extended the availability of FFT as well as Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) through the implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). There are currently 10 Community Based Care Lead Agencies across the state in various stages of implementing FFT to enhance their service array.

The Families First Transition Act (FFTA) funding is used to support training and certification to implement four evidence-based services including MST. Currently there are three new MST teams in the implementation stages and several more under consideration during 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Sunshine Health partnered with DCF to support the implementation of BSFT through their reinvestment grant for Community Based Care Lead Agencies and are supporting four programs across the state.

In addition, DCF's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program supported funding for six evidence-based services through Managing Entity contracts. These services are designed for children identified through the community and DCF's Office of Child and Family Well-Being who require the following level of service:

- MST provided by Circuit 7 (Volusia County) and Circuit 13 (Hillsborough County)
- FFT provided by Circuits 3 and 8 (Alachua County and surrounding areas) and Circuit 10 (Polk County)
- HomeBuilders provided by Circuit 5 (Hernando County) and Circuit 6 (Pinellas County)

DCF continues to provide training support for Trust Based Relational Interventions (TBRI), an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors, as well as CORE Teen training. This is an innovative training solution provided to foster parents to promote stability and permanency for adolescents in the foster care system.

## Data Summary and Trend Analysis of Dually Involved Youth Quarter 1 Fiscal Year 2023-2024

### DCF Youth Served by DJJ

Children who had DCF contact and received DJJ services from July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023:

- **41,108** children were the subject of a DCF investigation that closed with a finding of “No Indicator.” Of those youth, 37,917 (92.3%) had no past or current DJJ involvement.
- **11,796** children received in-home care. Of those youth, 10,825 (91.8%) had no past or current DJJ involvement.
- **25,543** children received out-of-home care. Of those youth, 22,508 (88.1%) had no past or current DJJ involvement.

Table 1 displays percentages based on the DCF youth population in relation to level of DJJ involvement.

The high levels of “No DJJ Involvement” in each “DCF Served” group is a function of DCF’s child population. Most children involved with DCF are ages 5 or below. This age group does not display behavior, emergent or otherwise, associated with DJJ involvement. As DCF service intensity increases, so does the likelihood of prior DJJ contract.

**Table 1:** Percentages of Youth Served by DCF with DJJ involvement During Quarter 1

| DCF Served           | No DJJ Involvement | Prevention | Civil Citation | Intake | Diversion | Probation | Commitment | Aftercare | Adult Jail | Total  |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|--------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| <b>Investigation</b> | 92.3%              | 2.9%       | 1.0%           | 1.3%   | 1.3%      | 1.0%      | 0.2%       | 0.0%      | 0.1%       | 100.0% |
| <b>In Home</b>       | 91.8%              | 2.6%       | 0.8%           | 0.9%   | 1.6%      | 1.7%      | 0.4%       | 0.0%      | 0.2%       | 100.0% |
| <b>Out of Home</b>   | 88.1%              | 2.9%       | 1.0%           | 2.1%   | 2.5%      | 2.4%      | 0.9%       | 0.0%      | 0.3%       | 100.0% |
| <b>Total</b>         | 90.7%              | 2.8%       | 0.9%           | 1.4%   | 1.8%      | 1.7%      | 0.5%       | 0.0%      | 0.2%       | 100.0% |

### DJJ Youth Served By DCF

Youth served by DJJ during July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023:

- **22,184** had no past or current DCF involvement.
- **14,005** had a history of at least one DCF investigation with a finding of No Indicator.
- **2,426** had past or current DCF in home care.
- **5,125** had past or current DCF out-of-home care.

Table 2 displays percentages based on the DJJ youth population. Rates of “no prior or current contact” with DCF for youth served in the juvenile justice system during the quarter ranged from 63.0% for prevention youth to 26.4% for commitment youth. Notably, as the level of involvement in the DJJ system increases, the likelihood of prior or current DCF contact generally increases. For example, over 22% of youth served in commitment and aftercare during the quarter had a history of DCF out-of-home placement, compared to just 10.5% of youth served in diversion. Similarly, over 9% of youth served in commitment and aftercare had a history of in-home DCF services, compared to 3.8% of prevention and

4.2% of civil citation youth served by DJJ during Quarter 1 who have received in-home services. Among youth served in DJJ commitment during the quarter, 23% had past or current DCF out-of-home care.

**Table 2:** Percentages of Youth Served by DJJ with DCF involvement During Quarter 1

| <b>DCF Involvement</b> | <b>Prevention</b> | <b>Civil Citation</b> | <b>Intake</b> | <b>Diversion</b> | <b>Probation</b> | <b>Commitment</b> | <b>Aftercare</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>No DCF</b>          | 63.0%             | 61.8%                 | 42.6%         | 51.7%            | 39.6%            | 26.4%             | 27.3%            |
| <b>Investigation</b>   | 26.2%             | 27.1%                 | 35.1%         | 32.4%            | 37.9%            | 41.0%             | 40.8%            |
| <b>In Home</b>         | 3.8%              | 4.2%                  | 6.6%          | 5.4%             | 6.7%             | 9.5%              | 9.7%             |
| <b>Out of Home</b>     | 7.0%              | 6.9%                  | 15.7%         | 10.5%            | 15.7%            | 23.0%             | 22.1%            |
| <b>Total</b>           | 100.0%            | 100.0%                | 100.0%        | 100.0%           | 100.0%           | 100.0%            | 100.0%           |

### Lockout Youth in DCF Licensed Care

Between July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, there were 533 dually served youth in a DJJ detention or residential program. Among youth released from a DJJ facility during the quarter, 37 entered DCF licensed care within 0-10 days of being released from DJJ, 32 of those 37 youth, entered a DCF program on the same day of their DJJ exit.

**Table 3:** DJJ Residential or Detention Exit to DCF Licensed Care Entry

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>DCF and DJJ Residential and Detention Youth</b>                               | <b>533</b> |
| <b>Lock-Out Youth (0-10 Days Between Beginning of DCF Services and DJJ Exit)</b> | <b>37</b>  |
| <b>DCF Service Began on Date of DJJ Exit</b>                                     | <b>32</b>  |

### Point in Time Data / Dually Served Youth Trend

The number of children being dually served within the active DCF service environment (open to either in-home or out-of-home case management services) was 1,057 in July of 2018, compared to 947 in Oct 2023 (Chart 1).

**Chart 1:** Youth Receiving DCF Case Management Services Who Are Also Served by DJJ



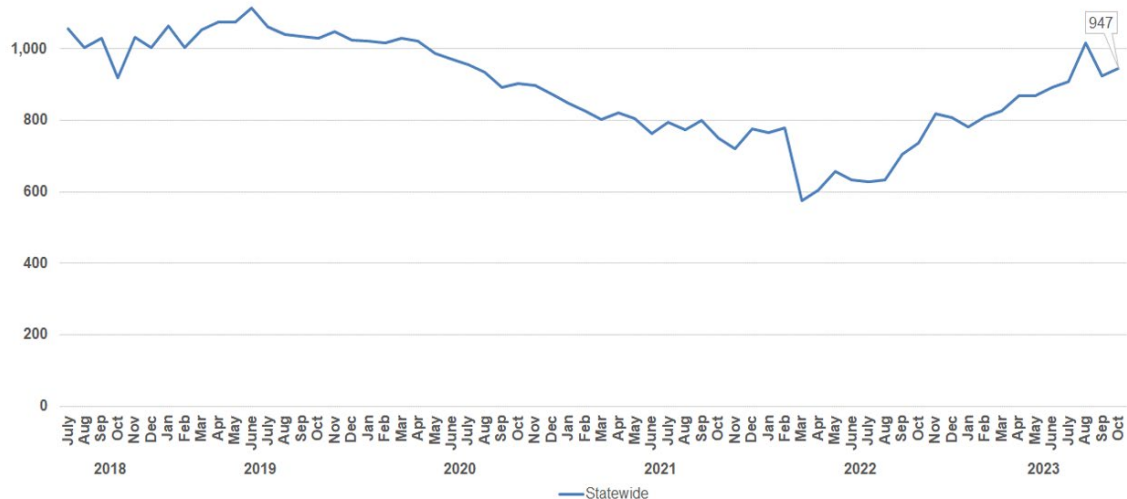
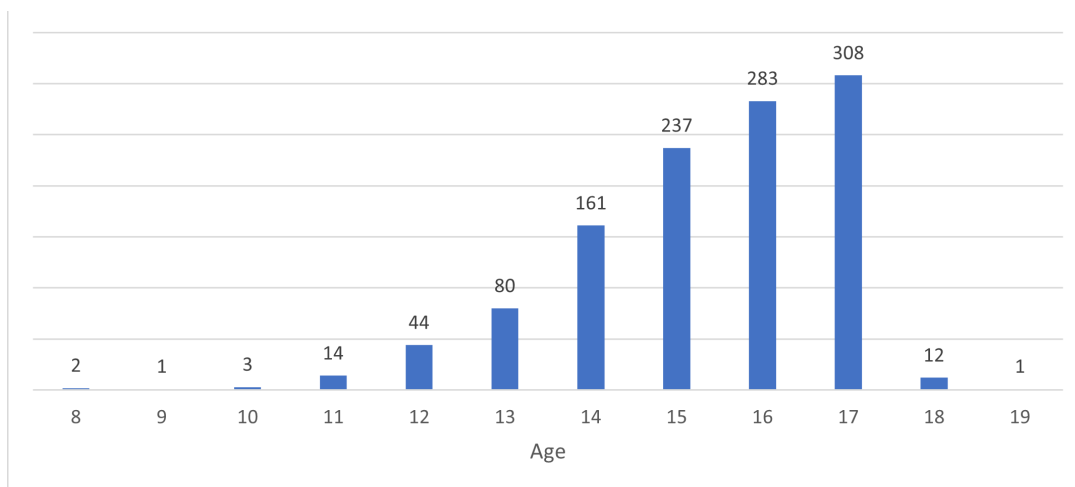


Chart 2 shows most youth currently dually involved with DJJ are ages 14 to 17. The largest single age group is 17-year-olds at 26.88% of the total dually served population. Younger children (less than age 13) receiving dual services account for 5.58% of the total dually served population. This population represents active dually served DCF youth during the entire quarter as opposed to point-in-time data for October 2023 shown on Chart 1.

**Chart 2:** Quarter 1 DCF/DJJ Active Crossover Youth



## Attachment 1

### *Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida, Implementation Action Plan January 2024 Updates*

#### **CATEGORY 1 – Collaboration Regarding Dually Involved Youth:**

- Create local service maps and resource sheets to disseminate to partners in the judiciary, legal network, community provider network, sister agencies, and others.
  - **UPDATE:** In process; reported monthly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions.
- Increase dually involved youth local awareness and participation in collaboration with the Judiciary.
  - **UPDATE:** In process; reported monthly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions.
- Develop and deliver cross-system circuit training.
  - **UPDATE:** In process; reported monthly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions.
- Issue policy formalizing best practices for interagency collaboration to address comprehensive needs of dually involved youth with accompanying checklist. (PCI-22-005, Dually Involved Youth - Collaboration with Department of Children and Families).
  - **UPDATE:** In process.
- Implement child welfare specific caseloads for DJJ JPOs.
  - **UPDATE:** DJJ implemented specialized caseloads in July 2022.
- Identify a Crossover Champion for each CBC entity.
  - **UPDATE:** Completed November 2022.
- Coordinate Crossover Champion meetings and co-host a Statewide Dually Served Crossover Training.
  - **UPDATE:** Crossover Champion meetings continue to take place, and a statewide interagency dually involved youth collaborative forum was held in June 2023. Participants included leadership from DJJ and DCF, Judiciary and other legal representation, Crossover Champions from both Departments and the CBC Lead Agencies, CBC Lead Agency leadership, and other partners. The training brought together agencies and community partners who work with dually served youth to share ideas and best practices and to ensure a full and robust implementation of Bill 7065. A subsequent statewide meeting is being planned for 2024, and it is anticipated that this will be an annual event.
- Determine feasibility of consolidating dependency and delinquency court for dually involved youth.
  - **UPDATE:** Some judicial circuits are working toward a unified court for dually involved youth.
- Convene quality improvement teams to conduct case studies in the dually involved youth population.
  - **UPDATE:** Completed May 2023.
- Determine if FFT can be expanded statewide for dually involved youth.
  - **UPDATE:** Completed February 2023. There are ten Community Based Care Lead Agencies with DCF who are implementing FFT teams in partnership with the provider networks. There will be ongoing efforts to connect local areas to available FFT teams that are in place

through DCF and DJJ as well as continue to explore additional opportunities for funding this service.

- Determine if DCF Crossover Champions can be granted access to JJIS and if DJJ Crossover Champions can be granted access to FSFN.
  - **UPDATE:** Completed January 2023.
- Explore a joint Legislative Budget Request (LBR) to address specific service needs for dually involved youth.
  - **UPDATE:** Continue to collaborate.
- Explore the ability to expand the Stop Now and Plan (SNAP). SNAP is now available in the following circuits: 15, 14, 5, 2, 8, 10, 11, 19, 16, 20, 6, 9, 17, 18, and 4.
  - **UPDATE:** DCF is reviewing all prevention funding sources for possible options and sharing the service across the provider network.
- Maintain a dashboard report for ongoing analysis of data regarding dually involved youth.
  - **UPDATE:** DJJ and DCF continue to collaboratively produce the youth-level dashboard to assist staff in the field in identifying and appropriately serving these youth. A draft public-facing dashboard has been developed and is being reviewed by both agencies prior to posting online.
- Continue interagency partnership as part of the HOPE Florida Navigators rollout.
  - **UPDATE:** Update on the partnership was provided to participants at the June 2023 Crossover Champion Training. DJJ currently has 41 Navigators across the state who served over 250 families in 2023. The DJJ Navigators work with families to help them reach goals developed together, not only to connect to resources, but also to begin to develop solid circles of support in the areas in which they reside.

#### **CATEGORY 2 – Multidisciplinary Team Staffings Regarding Dually Involved Youth:**

- Issue policy reinforcing requirements for DJJ staff to attend, participate, and support DCF in all local, regional, and state DCF multidisciplinary team staffings, as well as inviting DCF to any staffing scheduled by DJJ for a dually involved youth. (PCI-22-005, Dually Involved Youth - Collaboration with Department of Children and Families)
  - **UPDATE:** Completed 2022.
- Ensure youth and families have an opportunity to provide input in all DJJ multidisciplinary staffings.
  - **UPDATE:** Youth, parents, and guardians are invited to MDT staffings and are given time to provide input on the youth and their family's needs.

#### **CATEGORY 3 – Quarterly Reporting to Legislature Regarding Dually Involved Youth:**

- Analyze data to determine the number of dually involved youth and number of youth placed in licensed care after leaving the custody of DJJ; identify methods to track youth who are or become dually involved.
  - **UPDATE:** Ongoing.
- Track and summarize actions taken by both DJJ and DCF to better serve dually involved youth.
  - **UPDATE:** HB 7065 Action Plan is reviewed and updated by DCF/DJJ leadership biweekly.

#### **CATEGORY 4 – Fatherhood Initiatives:**

- Identify grant opportunities that will help expand fatherhood initiatives.
  - **UPDATE:** DCF awards from round 1 are in process of execution. A new RFA (round 2) is currently advertised. The due date to submit applications is February 27, 2024.
- Host Bridging the G.A.A.P. (Gaining Appreciation by Adjusting Perspectives) conversations between fathers, sons, and law enforcement in prevention programs, gender-specific programs, and detention facilities.
  - **UPDATE:** DJJ facilitates G.A.A.P conversations throughout the state on an ongoing basis.
- Conduct a series of Community Outreach of Resources and Education (C.O.R.E.) events focused on recognizing fathers, the importance of their roles, and importance they play in our society.
  - **UPDATE:** DJJ routinely conducts Community Outreach of Resources and Education.
- Engage fathers in the Restoring Hope Community Network Fathers Initiative to serve as mentors to youth who do not have the support of biological fathers.
  - **UPDATE:** Ongoing.
- Partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters to enhance services offered to incarcerated parents of youth.
  - **UPDATE:** Ongoing.
- Host a series of “Barbershop Talks” to bring fathers and sons together in a neutral setting to discuss and discover solutions to local issues affecting youth, such as bullying, drug use, and human trafficking.
  - **UPDATE:** Ongoing.
- Submit Requests for Application (RFAs) to fund a mentorship program for at-risk male students and a program to address the needs of fathers; issue Requests for Proposal (RFPs) to provide technical assistance to grantees.
  - **UPDATE:** DCF contracts have been executed.
- Issue an RFP for development and implementation of a statewide Responsible Fatherhood campaign.
  - **UPDATE:** DCF awarded contract to Family First on March 6, 2023.
- Identify a Statewide Fatherhood Engagement Program Lead (DCF) and amend CBC contracts to include Fatherhood Engagement Specialists.
  - **UPDATE:** The CBC contracts have been amended to include Fatherhood Engagement Specialists. Additional funding has been identified to help support the Fatherhood Engagement Program.

#### **CATEGORY 5 – Postsecondary Education Support:**

- Identify youth in DJJ residential programs or on probation/aftercare who graduated from high school and are interested in college/technical school; contract with Tallahassee Community College to assist with enrollment.
  - **UPDATE:** This has been implemented during the transition phase of the youth during their residential placement.
- Revise DCF Rule 65C-28.009, Florida Administrative Code (Transition to Adulthood), to include the Road to Independence Program; communicate with and train staff regarding revisions.

- **UPDATE:** Training plan completed in early 2023. Training was provided to staff during CBC site visits in 2023, as well as during bimonthly statewide Independent Living calls and during the May-June Independent Living Conference in Orlando.

**CATEGORY 6 – Quarterly Leadership Meetings:**

- Establish quarterly leadership meetings between DJJ, DCF, and CBCs.
  - **UPDATE:** Ongoing - participants have been identified and meetings will take place quarterly with leadership from DCF, DJJ and CBCs with an anticipated start date in Q4 of 23-24.