

Youth Assessment and Crisis Centers



INTENT

The Idaho Behavioral Health Council (IBHC) was established in 2020 through a partnership between the three branches of Idaho state government. Upon the implementation of the Council's strategic plan, investments for behavioral health that aligned with the mission of the Council were recommended to Governor Little. The Idaho Legislature approved the proposals for increased resources, as recommended by the IBHC, and Governor Little signed them into law. The Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections will manage the following two priorities:

- A supplemental of one-time funding of \$6.5 million in FY 2023 will allow IDJC to partner with city and county providers, non-profit organizations, law enforcement, and courts through a grantor/grantee partnership to establish youth assessment centers to connect youth and families with long term community-based resources within their area, thus avoiding further entrance into the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.
- A supplemental of one-time funding of \$4.4 million in FY 2023 will allow IDJC to partner with city and county providers, non-profit organizations, law enforcement, and courts through a grantor/grantee partnership to establish youth crisis centers located across the state for youth safety, stabilization, and immediate case management services.

ASSESSMENT CENTERS

Assessment Centers aim to prevent and divert youth from juvenile justice and child welfare systems through a single point of contact which identifies underlying issues contributing to concerning behavior and partners with youth and families to access individualized services and/or resources. This occurs by means of intervention in schools, at point of or after arrest, at the request of parents/caregivers, or through partnerships with other community stakeholders. Through in-depth interviews and validated screening and assessment tools, centers work to understand the barriers youth and families are experiencing at home, school, or in the community. Following assessment, Centers partner with the youth and family to access individualized resources and services to help overcome barriers and, ultimately, create a stable environment where they can thrive. When appropriate, centers coordinate with educational, social service, and justice agencies to provide a holistic view of the family's and youth's strengths and needs. *

The Assessment Center Framework is grounded in research and best practice. The Framework and Assessment Center Model Guiding Principles can be found at <https://www.nacassociation.org/the-assessment-center-framework>.

The grant solicitation is available now. Grant guidance and applications for state funding to establish safe teen assessment centers can be found at <http://www.idjc.idaho.gov/>. (Community Operations/COPS Division)

*National Assessment Center Association, <https://www.nacassociation.org/>

CRISIS CENTERS

Similar to the adult models in Idaho, youth crisis centers will provide a short-term placement (23 hrs. 59 mins.) option for youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis (actively self-harming, psychosis, etc.) that prevents them from remaining safely in their home. Youth crisis centers have been shown to reduce hospitalization, criminal charges, domestic violence, child abuse, and the need for residential treatment.

Youth crisis centers have four primary functions:

1. Divert youth experiencing a crisis away from unnecessary hospitalization
2. A safe facility youth placement to prevent escalation of family conflict or violence in their home
3. Reduce the need for incarceration of youth because of behavioral health crises
4. Access to de-escalation services while setting up treatment options and referrals for youth and their families

The youth crisis center's framework is still being established in collaboration with the Department of Health and Welfare.

Grant solicitation is pending with an anticipated grant announcement mid-May 2022 or when completed.

- Grantee's (counties, cities, providers, etc.) will develop local partnerships to operate and support centers.
- Ongoing operational funding will be essential. Centers across the nation use multiple approaches.
- Youth Empowerment Services (YES) framework will be required.