# Why We Support JDAI in Nebraska

Juvenile Justice Reform in Nebraska has prepared the way for us to make meaningful and positive changes in our system for the betterment of our youth. We can make a difference and drastically impact each and every child's life and future when they are provided with detention alternatives. What options would you want for your child?

## Contact Us

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For more JDAI information:
http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org/

For more Annie E. Casey Foundation information:
http://www.aecf.org/

## JDAI Core Strategies

The JDAI model is built around the following eight core strategies:

1. Promoting collaboration between juvenile court officials, probation agencies, prosecutors, defense attorneys, schools, community organizations and advocates;
2. Using rigorous data collection and analysis to guide decision making;
3. Utilizing objective admissions criteria and risk-assessment instruments to replace subjective decision-making processes to determine whether youth should be placed into secure detention facilities;
4. Implementing new or expanded alternatives to detention programs – such as day and evening reporting centers, home confinement and shelter care – that can be used in lieu of locked detention;
5. Instituting case processing reforms to expedite the flow of cases through the system;
6. Reducing the number of youth detained for probation rule violations or failing to appear in court, and the number held in detention awaiting transfer to a residential facility;
7. Combatting racial and ethnic disparities by examining data to identify policies and practices that may disadvantage youth of color at various stages of the process, and pursuing strategies to ensure a more level playing field for youth regardless of race or ethnicity;
8. Monitoring and improving conditions of confinement in detention facilities.

# Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)

Information for Stakeholders in Juvenile Justice and JDAI in Nebraska.

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Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative - Nebraska

# JDAI: Offering Better Choices for Youth

JDAI began two decades ago as a pilot project to reduce reliance on local confinement of court-involved youth. The JDAI change model is now operating in nearly 300 counties nationwide, dramatically reducing detention facility populations and facilitating significant systems change.

## Nebraska's Statewide Collaborative

Nebraska's Statewide Collaborative is comprised of a variety of juvenile justice stakeholders that include: legislators, judges, Nebraska Crime Commission, Inspector General, youth advocacy groups, public defenders, law enforcement, probation administration, researchers, Department of Health and Human Services, detention center and state run facility directors, county commissioners, and county attorneys.

Nebraska's Office of Probation Administration is the lead entity for the Statewide Collaborative. Probation Administration acts as a liaison between the foundation and the State Collaborative, provides leadership for statewide expansion and local site technical assistance.

## Statewide Collaborative Success

- RAI Evaluation
  - ⇒ 6.1 % Failure to appear
  - ⇒ 91.1 % No New Law Violation
- RAI Pilot on Violations of Probation
- Probation Statewide Alternatives to Detention with Electronic Monitoring and Tracker
- Statewide JDAI expansion methodology

The collaborative nature of the Statewide stakeholders has fostered cross system leadership. Key personnel are working together to improve the opportunities that youth have access to instead of unnecessary detention. Breaking down obstacles between entities has reduce redundancy and maximized the effectiveness of limited resources.

# Our Vision:

Youth involved in the juvenile justice system will have opportunities to develop into healthy adults.

# JDAI's Purpose:

To demonstrate that jurisdictions can establish more effective and efficient systems to accomplish the purpose of juvenile detention.

# JDAI Objectives:

1. Eliminate inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention.
2. Minimize failures to appear and incidents of delinquent behavior.
3. Redirect public finances to successful reform strategies.
4. Improve conditions in secure detention.
5. Reduce racial, ethnic & gender disparities.

Longitudinal studies begun in the 1950s show most juvenile offenders age out of criminal behavior.

Youth who are detained are more than three times as likely to be found guilty and incarcerated than similarly situated peers.

# Douglas County Site

Douglas County's JDAI Site has been operational since 2011. The site has documentation of multiple success after investing in JDAI including:

- **Decrease in Detention Populations**
  - ⇒ 3/17/2014 (Secure): 84
  - ⇒ 3/16/2015 (Secure): 64
  - ⇒ 3/17/2014 (Staff Secure): 13
  - ⇒ 3/16/2015 (Staff Secure): 7

- **Decrease in Length of Stay**

| | 2014 Q1 | 2015 Q1 |
|---|---|---|
| Average: | 37.4 | 36.2 |
| Median: | 28.5 | 26.5 |

- **Decrease in Average Daily Population**

| | 2014 Q1 | 2015 Q1 |
|---|---|---|
| Number: | 75.6 | 70.7 |

# Sarpy County Site

Sarpy County has been a JDAI site since 2012. After implementing JDAI principles, the county has realized the following successes:

- **Decrease in total admissions year after year**
  - ⇒ 2011: 430 admissions
  - ⇒ 2012: 336 admissions
  - ⇒ 2013: 244 admissions
  - ⇒ 2014: 178 admissions
- **Decrease total detention population for technical offenses**
  - ⇒ 2011: 352 youth
  - ⇒ 2012: 266 youth
  - ⇒ 2013: 164 youth
  - ⇒ 2014: 94 youth