

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER (JAC)



The Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) is dedicated to improving the lives of juveniles by helping to strengthen and support children and families who are involved or at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. The Juvenile Assessment Center believes each juvenile should be supported based on individual risks and needs.

PURPOSE OF THE JAC

The Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) provides the cornerstone of evidence-based practices for juvenile justice youth service: screening and assessment.

The JAC serves as the focal point for comprehensive assessment of youth who come to the attention of the Douglas County Attorney's Office (DCAO).

The JAC provides recommendations to the DCAO for the most efficient and effective interventions and supervision levels for each youth.

Recommendations are based on youth and family input and recognized risks and needs.

The JAC utilizes evidence-based principles such as the risk/ need/ responsivity model by making targeted referrals to meet individual youth and family needs, based on validated screening and assessment tools, and referring youth to appropriate community service providers.

The JAC strives to divert all eligible youth from formal processing, while recommending interventions and supports to prevent further law violations and enhance productive growth of young citizens.



TOTAL ASSESSMENT REFERRALS

1222 Delinquency Referrals	5 Specialists
1294 Truancy Referrals*	2 Specialists
193 Dual-involved Referrals	1 Specialist
112 Parent Referrals	1 Specialist
2018 TOTAL	
* 2017-2018 School Year	

VALUE OF THE JAC

Eligible youth are offered the opportunity to avoid formal court processing, while being held accountable for their actions and provided appropriate supports and interventions.

Mental and behavioral health needs of youth are recognized and addressed through individualized plans and referrals to community-based services.

The Juvenile Justice System saves approximately \$1.3 million in court-related costs each year as a result of youth being diverted through the JAC.

DIVERSION CASE PLAN COMPONENT OPTIONS

(ALL SERVICES ADMINISTERED THROUGH
COMMUNITY-BASED AID PROVIDERS)

After School Programming, Anger Management, Apology Letters, Chemical Dependency Evaluations, Chemical Dependency Treatment, Community Coaching, Community Service, Counseling, Culture Specific Programming, Day Reporting, Decision Making Classes, Driving Related Classes, Drug and Alcohol Classes, Drug and Alcohol Testing, Education Supports (Credit Recovery, GED, Etc.), Essay Assignments, Emergency Crisis Response, Emergency Respite, Evening Reporting, Fire Starter Programming, Gang Intervention, Gender Specific Programming, Grief & Loss Programming, Intensive Family Preservation, Mediation (Victim Youth Conferencing), Mentoring, Monitoring, Parenting Classes, Psychological Evaluations, Recreational Activities, Restorative Practices Programs, School Activities, Skill-Based Programming, Therapy, Tracker, Tutoring, Victim Empathy Classes, Wrap-Around Service

JAC ROLE IN JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

The JAC plays an integral role regarding juvenile services and communication in the Omaha Metro/Douglas County area. The JAC actively utilizes the opportunity as a unique agency to provide links between the systems and private service providers.

The JAC also provides important information and data to other agencies in order to increase opportunities and services for youth in the area.

The JAC activities and collaborations work to improve the functioning and efficiency of the juvenile justice system.

The JAC actively participates in the Operation Youth Success (OYS) Collective Impact Juvenile Justice System Reform efforts and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI).

* KEY TAKEAWAYS *

The JAC excels in assessing risks and needs of youth and putting appropriate interventions and services in place to help youth succeed.

Youth diverted from formal court processing leads to approximately **1.3 Million** in court cost savings annually.

FAQs

Q: *Is participation mandatory?*

A: *All participation is voluntary.*

Q: *How are diversion eligibility and case plan requirements decided?*

A: *An individual personal interview with the youth and with the guardians, collateral information, and risk and needs assessment are all considered in the recommendations made to the DCAO.*

Q: *Do youth and families have a say in the process?*

A: *Yes. Youth and family are asked throughout the process for their input and opinions.*

Q: *Can a youth be referred to the JAC for assessment and be recommended for diversion more than once?*

A: *Yes. All referrals are at the discretion of the DCAO.*

Q: *Who makes the decisions for diversion eligibility and completion?*

A: *All decisions are made by the DCAO, per state statute, with recommendations from the JAC.*

Q: *If a youth receives a warning letter or successfully completes diversion, then what happens?*

A: *The record is sealed, and there is no further legal action.*