

Specialized courts

Juvenile drug courts

Juvenile drug courts focus either on substance-abusing youth in juvenile justice cases or substance abusing family members in child protection cases. The Illinois Juvenile Drug Court Act recognizes the need to create specialized drug courts with the flexibility to address the drug problems of Illinois youth (705 *ILCS* 410/1). The goals of juvenile drug courts are to offer immediate intervention in the lives of youth using drugs or those exposed to substance abuse addiction, and to provide structure for youth through the ongoing, active oversight and involvement of the drug court and judge. Research has shown that juvenile drug courts contribute to substantial reductions in recidivism and reduced drug use.¹

Four juvenile drug courts are active or in the planning stages in Cook, Peoria, Kane, and Will counties. The Cook County Juvenile Drug Court Program was implemented in 1996, and reported that in 2004 it served 331 youth ages 12 to 16.

Juvenile justice councils

When the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998 were enacted, they included a recommendation that counties or groups of counties create **juvenile justice councils**. Juvenile justice councils are collaborative groups of practitioners and community representatives who come together to address youth crime in their communities. The duties and responsibilities of juvenile justice councils include developing a plan for addressing youth crime, and developing a local resource guide listing services available for minors. Juvenile justice councils also serve as a mechanism for involving the community in the juvenile justice system and as a vehicle for promoting balanced and restorative justice as the philosophy guiding their local juvenile justice system.

In 2001, the Authority published the *Juvenile Justice Council Guidebook and Evaluation Manual* to guide counties and **judicial circuits** in implementing juvenile justice councils. The document summarizes the six duties and responsibilities of juvenile justice councils as set forth by the legislation, and provides guidance on how these duties might be accomplished [705 *ILCS* 405/6-12 (3) (a-f)]. These duties and responsibilities are:

- Develop a juvenile justice plan.
- Enter into an interagency agreement specifying contributions of each agency to the council.
- Apply for and receive grants to administer portions of the juvenile justice plan.
- Provide a forum for presentation of recommendations and resolutions of disputes over the interagency agreement.
- Assist local efforts to provide services and programs for youth.
- Develop and distribute a juvenile justice resource guide.

Data summary

In 2001, the Authority conducted an evaluation of the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998 that included an assessment of which counties in Illinois had convened juvenile justice councils. Researchers found that 29 of 102 counties in Illinois had convened juvenile justice councils, 28 percent of all counties. The majority of these councils had not yet developed a juvenile justice plan or local resource guide for their county.

In 2003, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) conducted additional research on the number and activities of juvenile justice councils. AOIC found that 50 counties had convened councils of their own or were participating on circuit-wide juvenile justice councils. Of them, 19 counties and two circuits had formed a juvenile justice plan and five counties and one circuit had developed local resource guides (*Table 19*).

Table 19
Juvenile justice council duties completed in Illinois, FY03

Circuit or county	Plan	Agreement	Grants	Forum	Assist locals	Guide
Second Circuit						
Fourth Circuit						
Fifteenth Circuit	✓		✓			
Twenty-First Circuit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adams						✓
Bureau	✓				✓	
Cook						
DeKalb						
DuPage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ford	✓			✓	✓	
Franklin						
Grundy	✓				✓	
Jefferson	✓		✓	✓		
Jo Daviess	✓		✓			
Kane	✓		✓			
Kendall	✓		✓			
Knox	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lake						
LaSalle	✓		✓		✓	
Lawrence						
Lee	✓		✓			
Livingston			✓		✓	
Madison	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
McHenry				✓		✓
McLean	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ogle	✓		✓			
Peoria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
St. Clair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stephenson	✓		✓			
Vermilion				✓		
Will	✓				✓	✓
Winnebago	✓		✓			
Woodford						

Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Notes

¹ OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Juvenile Drug Court Activity Update*, Washington, DC: American University, School of Public Affairs, OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, 2001: 25-26.