



Office of Children
and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Acting Commissioner

August 10, 2015

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

Thank you for submitting Rensselaer Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. Your plan has been reviewed by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and I am pleased to inform you that your county's STSJP plan has been approved.

Rensselaer is eligible to receive 62% State reimbursement for STSJP expenditures up to the capped STSJP allocation amount. Your municipality will continue to receive 49% State reimbursement for eligible detention services expenditures up to the capped allocation amount. If your municipality shifts a portion of its detention allocation into its STSJP plan, your municipality will receive 62% State reimbursement if such shifted funds are spent on STSJP eligible expenditures. Rensselaer may make an initial detention allocation shift or increase the amount of the detention allocation shift until December 31, 2015. If Rensselaer plans to shift its detention allocation for STSJP eligible expenses, please submit a request on official letterhead to Cara Korn and email it to stsjp@ocfs.ny.gov outlining the amount that will be shifted and the type of programming or services the re-purpose detention funds will be used for under STSJP. An amend STSJP plan will also need to be submitted, if (Rensselaer) shifts its detention allocation for STSJP eligible expenses

All STSJP claims must be submitted electronically via the Juvenile Detention Automated System (JDAS) for the service period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Questions on all aspects of claiming process should be directed to Daniel Hulihan at (518) 473-4511 or at Daniel.Hulihan@ocfs.ny.gov.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we reform the juvenile justice practices in New York State by safely engaging youth and their family through innovating alternative to placement and detention programs.

If you have any questions, please email us at stsjp@ocfs.ny.gov and write "STSJP Plan Questions" in the subject line so that we may best assist you in a timely manner. You can direct all STSJP inquiries to Cara Korn at (518) 408-3999 or Cara.Korn@ocfs.ny.gov and Shawn Chin-Chance at (212) 961-4110 or Shawn.Chin-Chance@ocfs.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Mancini".

Joseph Mancini
Associate Commissioner
DJJOY Office of Community Partnerships

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
SUPERVISION AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR JUVENILE PROGRAM (STSJP)
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016 ANNUAL PLAN

STSJP Plans are due to the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) by / /

Plans should be submitted to: ocfs.sm.stsjp@ocfs.ny.gov

Please ensure that the title “Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Plan” and your municipality name are in the subject field to facilitate the timely review of your STSJP Plan. Note: Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 replaces the term State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015-16 and FY 2015 replaces the term SFY 2014-15.

Please direct any STSJP Plan questions to either:

Shawn.Chin-Chance@ocfs.ny.gov PH. 212-961-4110

Cara.Korn@OCFS.ny.gov PH. 518-408-3999

SECTION ONE- Municipal Information	
NAME OF MUNICIPALITY: Rensselaer County	
STSJP LEAD AGENCY: Rensselaer County Department of Social Services	STSJP LEAD PERSON: Theresa Beaudoin
STSJP LEAD PHONE NUMBER: 518-833-6123	STSJP LEAD E-MAIL: theresa.beaudoin@dfa.state.ny.us

SECTION TWO – List of Programs and Services to be Funded			
In this section, list the exact name of each program who have received STSJP funds, along with the projected amount of STSJP funds to be used for each. If this is a rollover program, please answer questions that are relevant to the funded program:			
Program One-Name	Berkshire Farm's Stepping Stones Program	Type of Program	ATD/ATP
Total Program Expenses	\$ 97309.00	Rollover Funded Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
1. Please indicate specific zip codes that your plan targets:	12180		
2. How will the program reduce the number of youth who are detained or in residential placement?			
a.) Provide intensive services for 30-60 days and extend services if necessary.			
b.) Provide immediate crisis intervention (24/7).			
c.) Provide up to five (5) contacts per week with child/family. (At least two(2), face to face)			
d.) Family Specialist will continue working on a flexible work schedule in order to provide services when needed.			
3. How will the program be family focused?			
The Family Specialist engages children, families and other community members in order to produce an individualized family focused, child centered service plan. The family is supported so that any unmet family needs can be provided in order to help:			
a.) the youth succeed at home			
b.) the youth succeed in school			
c.) to improve the overall stability of the home environment			
d.) and to prevent out of home placement.			
4. Can the program be replicated across multiple locations?			
The Stepping Stones program is home-based which allows it to be replicated across multiple locations. The Family Specialist also attends family court appearances, school meetings, mental health appointments with the youth and family, as well as help with transportation when needed.			

5. What is the projected number of youth that are served by this STSJP funded program?

d.) Stepping Stones can service six (6) youth and their family at a given time. The average length of time the family is involved with services: 30-60 days. Due to the combined efforts of the Berkshire Farm Stepping Stones Team and Rensselaer County DSS in keeping with the fidelity of the 30-60 day model, more families were served in 2014. The projected number of youth to be served was seventy (70) annually; however in 2014, eighty-four (84) were served. This number includes siblings of the identified child that are at risk of a detention remand or an out of home placement

6. If program is being used as an Alternative to Detention (ATD) and an Alternative to Placement (ATP), how will it serve both populations of youth?

The Stepping Stones Program serves as both an ATD and an ATP by working with families, youth and county personnel to reduce the number of PINS petitions filed and to reduce the number of PINS placed out of the home. Intensive services are provided to families including immediate assessments and recommendations. This serves both populations preventing both placement and remands to detention and instead providing home-based services for families and youth.

7. If the program was used during FY 2015, please assess whether the service or program achieved the projected reductions in detention utilization and/or residential placements and other performance outcomes.

The Stepping Stones Program achieved the projected reductions in detention, when a case was referred to them for services. However, Judges and Probation Officers continue pursuing remands to detention when a youth is not a flight risk or has not committed a criminal offense. The Probation Officers, in particular are still using detention as a consequence. Truancy has been causing an increase in detention remands. At times, Rensselaer County youth are still entering detention without notice to the Stepping Stones Program and therefore no intervention has been explored.

8. What were the barriers if not met? A barrier continues to be that once a youth gets referred for placement, the probation officers, assistant county attorney and family court judges are reluctant to changes their minds. There are also times when the Stepping Stones staff is not given enough time to engage the youth and family in services.

Did the program receive STSJP funds for FY 2015? Yes No If Yes, answer the questions below:

1. When did the program start using FY 2015 STSJP Funds? January 2015

2. What was the average length of stay for youth in program or service? 30-60 days

3. How many youth received services in the program during FY 2015? 84

Program Two -Name	Type of Program	
Total Program Expenses	\$	Rollover Funded Program <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1. Please indicate specific zip codes that your plan targets:		
[REDACTED]		
2. How will the program reduce the number of youth who are detained or in residential placement?		
3. How will the program be family focused?		

4. Can the program be replicated across multiple locations?

5. If the program was used during FY 2015, were the performance outcomes met and describe the outcomes?

6. What were the barriers if not met?

7. If program was used as an ATD and an ATP, how was it used to serve both populations of youth?

8. What is the projected number of youth that will be served by this STSJP – funded program? _____

Did the program receive STSJP funds for FY 2015? Yes No If Yes, answer the questions below:

1. When did the program start using FY 2015 STSJP Funds? _____

2. What was the average length of stay for youth in program or service? _____

3. How many youth received services in the program during FY 2015? _____

Program Three -Name		Type of Program	
Total Program Expenses	\$	Rollover Funded Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1. Please indicate specific zip codes that your plan targets:			
2. How will the program reduce the number of youth who are detained or in residential placement?			

3. How will the program be family focused?

4. Can the program be replicated across multiple locations?

5. If the program was used during FY 2015, were the performance outcomes met and describe the outcomes?

6. What were the barriers if not met?

7. If program was used as an ATD and an ATP, how was it used to serve both populations of youth?

8. What is the projected number of youth that will be served by this STSJP – funded program? _____

Did the program receive STSJP funds for FY 2015? Yes No If Yes, answer the questions below:

1. When did the program start using FY 2015 STSJP Funds? _____

2. What was the average length of stay for youth in program or service? _____

3. How many youth received services in the program during FY 2015? _____

SECTION THREE – Analysis of Communities

Provide an analysis that identifies the neighborhoods or communities from which the greatest number of juvenile delinquents, juvenile offenders and persons in need of supervision (PINS) are remanded to detention or residentially placed. Are these the communities and neighborhoods served in the previous years' approved plan, if not, what has changed?

Rensselaer County is in the eastern part of New York State. The eastern boundary of Rensselaer County runs along the New York-Vermont and New York-Massachusetts borders. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates Rensselaer County's population at 159,774 for 2014. In 2013 the racial make up of the county was 87.9% White, 7.2% Black or African-American, 0.3 % Native American, 2.3% Asian, and 2.3% from other races. Between 2009 and 2013, the median income for a household in the county was \$59,432. The county is served by sixteen school districts.

Troy is a city located in Rensselaer County with a population of 49,974. The racial makeup of the city is 72.9% White, 16.4% Black or African-American, .3% Native American, 3.4% Asian, and 4.1% from other races.

Approximately 28.3% of the population in Troy was below the poverty level in 2013.

Crimes in Troy are concentrated in the western side of the city and are particularly dense north of Hoosick Street. This is the area where the largest number of youth on probation or placed residentially live with their families.

The largest number of youth placed in detention and out of home placements continues to be in the City of Troy. In 2014, thirty-five (35) youth were placed residentially from the City of Troy, whereas in the rest of the county one (1) youth was residentially placed. There were thirty-three (33) youth placed in detention from Troy in 2014, with seven (7) detention remands from the rest of the county.

SECTION FOUR – Disparity

In this section, please provide information indicating whether the use of detention or residential placement in your service area exhibits a significant racial or ethnic disparity or disproportionality. Please note that when looking for disparity, highlight, with the use of accurate data, youth who given comparable levels of need, do not receive equal utilization of services. Seek out all decision points to illustrate usage. When looking for disproportionality, identify any population groups who are underrepresented in a larger population and then overrepresented in a subset population. For example, population group A represents 15 percent of the general population but represents 75 percent of the detention population. If you currently do not measure these variables, please include your plan for data collection for Racial and Ethnic Disparities across your system. If no disparities or disproportionalities exist in your system simply state that in the space below.

A total of thirty-three (33) families with eighty-four (84) youth, including siblings, were served while in the Stepping Stones Program in 2014. There were fifteen (15) Caucasian families, two (2) Hispanic families, nine (9) Bi-Racial families, and seven (7) African-American families. Youths ages ranged from 0-17. Fifty-eight (58) percent of the youth served were between the ages of 13-17 years old.

Ethnicity Breakdown of the households served by Stepping Stones:

2014: Caucasian: 45% Hispanic-Latino: 7% Bi-Racial: 27% African-American: 21%

Percentage Distribution of Detention Admissions: Non-Secure

2013: White: 48% Black: 38% Hispanic: 12%

2014: White: 53% Black: 34% Hispanic: 6%

Percentage Distribution of Detention Admissions : Secure

2013: White: 17% Black: 71% Hispanic: 12%

2014: White 14% Black: 74% Hispanic: 11%

If such disproportionality exists, describe how the service/program proposed for funding will address this disparity.

The Family Specialist has an excellent understanding of the family dynamics, as well as any cultural differences, in order to assist the family in forming plans to resolve identified issues. The Stepping Stones Family Specialist works with every family that is referred to them for services and is able to break down any cultural barriers in order to get a successful outcome.

The Family Specialist and Program Coordinator ensured translation services through All Language Translations. Interpreters from this agency were utilized for weekly home visit family meetings in order to successfully conduct assessments and engage the family in treatment planning and interventions.

SECTION FIVE – Strategy

Justification and Overall Strategy – The purpose of STSJP funds is to establish supports and services for youth who, absent these services, are likely to be detained or placed. Funds should therefore be clearly targeted to meet the needs of the types of youth who in the past have been admitted to detention or residential placement. With this specific purpose in mind, describe the strategy devised by your collaborative partners (list your collaborative partners) to address the STSJP Funding objective through the programs chosen in Section Two.

Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth is committed to providing the highest quality services to our families in Rensselaer County. By providing an evidenced based and trauma informed approach with families, as well as their employees within the agency, Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth has shifted the organization's culture to one of collaboration and learning.

Since 2010, Rensselaer County has contracted with Berkshire Farm's Stepping Stones Program to reduce the county's need to place youth in detention or other out of home placements. The staff from Stepping Stones have partnered with probation and social services in order to best plan and provide the necessary services to meet the needs of the youth and their family. The Family

Specialist at Berkshire meets with DSS and probation weekly in an effort to keep the children in the program safe at home while addressing at risk behaviors.

The Stepping Stones Family Specialist carries a daily caseload of six families and provides a minimum of two face-to-face contacts per week. Additionally, the Family Specialist maintains regular contacts with collateral agencies, school officials, and other service providers. The Family Specialist works closely with local community resources and providers to ensure that the families served build a sound support network and have their wide ranging needs met.

While a family is receiving services, the Stepping Stone's Family Specialist works diligently to address school, community, and home related issues. This translates into strategies that are individualized and flexible based on the needs of each family; these are solution focused and address interpersonal and/or systemic factors. Strategies can include: Cognitive behavioral counseling, consultation, crisis intervention, parent training, family skill building, group counseling, career development and social skill/self esteem development. The Family Specialist works to build the therapeutic relationship with all members of the household, and help them identify personal strengths and resources.

Berkshire Farm continues to successfully utilize the Sanctuary Model to improve the organization's ability to facilitate healing from psychological and social traumatic experiences and extended exposure to adversity more effectively. The Sanctuary Model is a trauma-informed, evidence supported whole culture approach to healing.

The Family Specialist is trained in the Sanctuary Model and has been implementing the evidence-based therapeutic strategies. The Family Specialist emphasizes trauma –informed care practices and psycho-education in her work with families.

Berkshire Farm also continues to embrace the Professional Learning Communities (PLC). The PLC is an evidence based, culturally competent approach designed to shift the organization's culture to one of collaboration and learning. All staff is trained on this model and each program has a PLC team and SMART goals. The focus is on learning in a collaborative context with a clear emphasis on results.

The Clinical Director of Berkshire Farm has worked to develop a new Comprehensive Assessment for the agency that will encompass three evidence based screening tools. The screening tools will help to identify strengths and needs for family members and address the level of trauma for youth and parent.

The Director facilitates Restorative Justice Trainings for all Berkshire Community Service programs. Trainings are ongoing within Berkshire including safety at work, plus COA standards and regulations.

Berkshire treats youth and families as partners in all phases of service delivery and works in collaboration with school and community providers. Each family identifies specific, individualized outcomes and in partnership with Berkshire and the community, is provided with the skills, knowledge and resources they need to be successful. Similarly, at the organizational level, all services and departments focus on specific results, and strategies are developed and implemented to continuously improve performance

Median length of stay: Non-Secure Detention

2012: 14 days

2013: 14 days

2014: 13 days

Average length of stay: Non-Secure Detention

2012: 13.48 days

2013: 16 days

2014: 12.7 days

Average Daily Population: Non-Secure Detention

2012: 1.97

2013: 1.90

2014: 2

Detention Remands: Secure

2012: 34

2013: 42

2014: 36

Median length of stay: Secure

2012: 13.5 days

2013: 14.0days

2014: 13 days

Average length of stay: Secure

2012: 17.27 days

2013: 21.37 days

2014: 16.4 days

Average Daily Population: Secure

2012: 1.60

2013: 2.25

2014: 1

SECTION SIX – Outcomes

Performance Outcomes – For FY 2016, provide the projected performance outcomes for your proposed services and programs, being sure to include: An estimate of the anticipated reductions in detention utilization and residential placements.

OUTCOME 1:

YOUTH AND FAMILIES WILL BE SERVED IN A COST EFFECTIVE MANNER.

Performance Target: 85% of the youth will avoid remand to detention.

2013 Performance: Thirty-three (33) out of thirty-seven (37) youth or eighty-nine (89%) of identified averted non-secure detention placement

2014 Performance: Twenty-nine (29) out of thirty-three (33) youth or eighty-eight percent (88%) of identified youth avoided a remand to detention.

OUTCOME 2:

THE STEPPING STONES PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE INTERVENTIONS FOCUSED ON INCREASING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Performance Target: 90% of the parents will increase their involvement in the school system, health services, community resources and Stepping Stones activities.

2014 Performance: Twenty-nine (29) out of thirty-three (33) or eighty-eight percent (88%) of parents increased their involvement in the school system, mental health services, community resources and Stepping Stones activities as reflected in progress notes and treatment plans.

OUTCOME 3:

YOUTH AND FAMILIES WILL BE SERVED IN A COST EFFECTIVE MANNER

Performance Target: 90 % of youth will avert residential placement.

2013 Performance: Thirty-two (32) out of thirty-seven (37) or eighty-six percent (86%) of the identified youth from the Rensselaer County Stepping Stones Prevention Program averted residential placement.

Ninety-one (91%) out of ninety-six (96) or Ninety-five percent (95%) total youth averted residential placement in 2013.

2014 Performance: Thirty-two (32) out of thirty-three (33) or ninety-seven percent (97%) of the identified youth from the Rensselaer County Stepping Stones Prevention Program averted residential placement.

Other projected positive outcomes for youth who participate in the services and programs:

Are there any changes in allocations or practices planned for FY 2016 based on experiences in FY 2015, please list those changes:

No

SECTION SEVEN – Comments

SECTION EIGHT– Plan Amounts

Instructions:

- A. Enter all program expenses in Program Services tab.
- B. Specify State Reimbursements for this plan (lines 6-9)

Expenses

1. Program Expenses (from Program Services)	97309.00	
2. State Reimbursement (Line 1* 0.62)		60331.58

Available Reimbursements

3. STSJP Allocation	75430.00
4. Detention Allocation	661695.00
5. JDAI	0

Reimbursements for this Plan

6. STSJP Allocation	60331.58
7. Detention Allocation being shifted to STSJP (if applicable)	0
8. JDAI (if applicable)	0
9. FY 2015 Rollover (if applicable)	0
10. Total Reimbursements (Lines 6-9)	60331.58

State and Local Totals

11. State Share Amount (Line 10)	60331.58
12. Local Share Amount (Subtract Line 11 from 10)	36977.42

SECTION NINE– Approval

Approval of the Chief Executive Officer

As STSJP Lead for Rensselaer County Municipality, I certify that the CEO
 Kathleen Jimino has reviewed and approved the 2015-2016 plan.

Date: 06 / 26 / 2015 STSJP Lead 38b085 STSJP Lead Theresa Beaudoin
 User ID: _____ Printed Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

Instructions for properly processing an STSJP plan.

- a. Once you have opened a copy of the OCFS-2121 form, please immediately use the "Save As" function in Microsoft Word to save a copy of the document on your computer.
- b. Please save your STSJP plan using the following format; (Municipality Name 2015-2016 STSJP Plan)
- c. Work from the "saved" plan document using it to record all of your municipality's information. Please use the document OCFS- 2121A to document additional STSJP programs.
- d. Once you have satisfactorily completed entering the required data, save the document.
- e. Section Nine must be completed prior to OCFS review of STSJP Plan.
- f. Upload completed plan and send it to OCFS via the STSJP email address at ocfs.sm.stsjp@ocfs.ny.gov

Approval of the OCFS STSJP Program Lead

As OCFS STSJP reviewer, I certify that I approve of this Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles
 Program Plan for Rensselaer Municipality and 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Date: 8/7/15 User ID: MJ0687 Printed Name: Shawn Chin-Chance