

# Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act

## History

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The Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (“VJCCCA”) was established in 1995 by the General Assembly and involved a restructuring of state funding so localities could implement programs and services to meet the needs of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. In order to secure this state funding, all localities are required to first provide and expend an amount designated as a Maintenance of Effort. In FY02/03, the state dramatically reduced their portion of VJCCCA funds by approximately 51%, and significant reductions continue to occur in the state revenue received annually.

The legislative intent of VJCCCA is to provide “a community based system of progressive intensive sanctions and services that correspond to the severity of offense and treatment needs.” The focus is on holding youth accountable, reducing recidivism and emphasizing parental responsibility. VJCCCA programs provide a cost effective means for youth to be held accountable for their behavior, and an opportunity to receive services in order to reduce continued delinquent behavior and provide well supervised alternatives to secure detention. Based on FY13/14 data, 87% of the youth receiving VJCCCA services were detention eligible. Of note is that all youth receiving services through VJCCCA require parental participation and cooperation.

The needs of families coming before the court are often great and Henrico VJCCCA funds provide an array of services in order to address the many needs of families involved with juvenile justice. Current services consist of: Anger Management groups, Parenting groups, Project Fresh Start groups, on site substance abuse and mental health evaluations, lab verified substance abuse screenings, intensive home based services, detention outreach, GPS monitoring, Larceny Reduction Program Groups (Tier 1 and 2), a VJCCCA Case Manager position and the Service through Opportunity Program (“STOP”). A great deal of collaboration occurs with our local police department as well as members of our judiciary. In spite of the continued reduction in state revenue, VJCCCA funding provided 1,335 services to 866 families in FY12/13 and 1,303 services to 751 families in FY13/14. Generally the population served with VJCCCA funds is 72% minority with 67% between the ages of 15 and 17. An annual evaluation is completed on every VJCCCA program and results continue to support positive results. The success rate for youth and families referred to VJCCCA programs is an average of 82.99% and 89.1% specifically for group programs. The recidivism rates continue to reflect very positive outcomes in terms of program effectiveness with

excellent results for those who successfully complete. (i.e. 5.8% for anger management, 8% for Project Fresh Start, 0% for LRP-1 and 0% for home based services)

In addition, a substantial part of VJCCCA programs requires youth to “give back” to Henrico County for the crimes committed within our locality. In FY13/14, VJCCCA youth completed 3,454 hours of supervised community service hours at \$73,811 in volunteer hour value. *(This figure based on 2013 Virginia average hourly value time rate of \$21.37)* All of these hours were completed in Henrico County and often in collaboration with other County agencies. Examples of community service projects completed are: weeding, mulching and beautification of Henrico parks, pillowcases/cards to children in the pediatric unit at St. Mary’s, and fleece blankets for Caritas and an assisted living home with low-income elderly residents.