

Date

RECIPIENT NAME  
RECIPIENT ADDRESS  
New Hampshire

Dear RECIPIENT NAME:

I write to request your help with an initiative aimed at creating alternatives to pre-adjudicatory detention for juveniles in delinquency cases.

In recent months, with the support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a team of District Court judges, public defenders, and the Division for Juvenile Justice Services staff has been working to identify alternatives to pre-adjudicatory detention and to limit the incidence of unnecessary juvenile detention. I write in an effort to identify what services your organization may be able to provide to assist with the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI).

At the beginning of a juvenile case, juveniles are sometimes detained pending arraignment and/or adjudication. Detained juveniles are typically placed at the Youth Detention Services Unit in Concord. Many times the placements are entirely appropriate. At other times, the detention may be inappropriate or unnecessary. We are working to reduce the reliance on detention and instead to return youth to their homes with community based services and support in place. We seek to minimize the unnecessary detention of youth by seeking alternatives to detention.

I am writing community-based organizations in Hillsborough County to determine what services they can offer in our effort to reduce detention rates. Please share with us whatever services you think may support a juvenile. Examples include counseling, family support services, after-school programs, mentoring programs, sports activities, etc.

We look forward to collaborating with you on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Please let us know what services your organization can provide by contacting me at [khsmith@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:khsmith@dhhs.state.nh.us) or by letter to the above address. Of course, feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin H. Smith  
Manager of Community Programming  
NH DJJS