Nevada Center for Juvenile Justice Innovation
Evidence Based Quality Assurance Tool

Introduction:
Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 62B.615 requires the use of evidence-based programs and practices across Nevada's juvenile justice systems. Specifically, juvenile justice programs supported by state funding through DCFS are required to be evidence-based, research-based, or evidence-informed" as described in the Evidence-based Practices Definition Matrix, This tool was developed to meet two goals: 1) to help local juvenile services departments determine where their programs fit within the Matrix and thus if they qualify for state funding and 2) to develop a directory of evidence-based, research-based, or evidence-informed programs in Nevada.

Who should use this tool?
This tool is designed to be completed by those most familiar with the program's design, implementation, and target population. If the program is administered by the probation department or court, this would likely be probation or court staff. If the program is administered by a community service provider (i.e., contracted), probation staff may need input from the service provider or perhaps have service provider personnel complete the tool for their program. The tool consists of 13 questions and should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

What is a program?
This question may seem rhetorical, but it is important to define given the variety of interventions that youth participate in as a result of their system involvement. Additionally, the often-interchangeable use of the terms evidence-based program and evidence-based practices underscores the need to define what a program is. The Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) defines a program as "A planned, coordinated group of activities and processes designed to achieve a specific purpose. A program should have specified procedures (e.g., a defined curriculum, an explicit number of treatment or service hours, and an optimal length of treatment) to ensure the program is implemented with fidelity to its model. It may have, but does not necessarily need, a "brand" name, such as Aggression Replacement Training or Family Functional Therapy and may be implemented at single or multiple locations.

For which programs should the tool be completed?
NRS 62.630 requires departments of juvenile services whose population is less than 100,000 be evaluated for compliance with evidence-based programs and services as described in the Evidence-based Practices Definition Matrix. In order to satisfy requirements of NRS 62B.630, this tool is required to be completed for any programs that are supported by Nevada State or Block Grant Funding. For local programs not supported by these funds, the tool is still helpful to determine the program's evidence of effectiveness and will help create a registry of evidence-based programming in accordance with NRS 62B.635. Programming administered within a DCFS placement are not subject to this process.

If you have questions at any time while completing this form, please contact ncjji@ncjfcj.org.

Program Contact Information (Primary person completing the form)

Name(s): **Date:**

Title(s): **Organization:**

Business Address:

Phone Number: **Email:**

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Name:

1. **Is the program supported by Nevada State or Block Grant Funding?**
   ◯ YES ◯ NO
2. **Is this program locally developed or a proprietary program that was purchased?**
   ◯ Locally developed program ◯ Purchased proprietary program
3. **Is the program currently listed on one of these existing evidence-based practice registries as EFFECTIVE or PROMISING?**
   ◯ YES, Model Programs Guide (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)
   ◯ YES, Crime Solutions (Office of Justice Programs)
   ◯ NO
4. **Is the program included on the Nevada Center for Juvenile Justice Innovation's list of Evidence-based Programs and Practices?**
   ◯ YES ◯ NO
5. **In the box below, please describe the program's target population, goal(s), activities, and intended outcomes.** This information may be found in the program manual or implementation guide. Another source could be a logic model if one was developed for the program.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Program Effect
A program's effect refers to its ability to produce a desired outcome such as reducing substance use, increasing pro-social skills, or reducing physical aggression. A program's effect is determined through a program evaluation or by comparing the program's characteristics to characteristics of effective programs.

6. Has the program been evaluated previously to determine its effectiveness?

◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ I DON'T KNOW

If yes, please provide more information: (link or citation to the evaluation or date of evaluation, outcomes studied, name of evaluator and contact information)

A review of effective juvenile justice programs has identified characteristics or components that these programs share. Does the program use any of the following characteristics that are known to produce positive outcomes?

7. Does the program serve high or very high-risk youth as determined by the Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLS)?

◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ I DON'T KNOW

Programs that use external control techniques to change youth behavior such as those rooted in deterrence or surveillance philosophies have been found to be less effective than those programs that are anchored in therapeutic techniques such as those that develop improved skills, relationships, or insight.

8. Does the program use any of the following therapeutic techniques (check all that apply):

◯ Restorative practices such as victim-offender mediation or restitution

◯ Skill building (e.g. cognitive behavioral techniques, social skills, academic, or vocational skills)

◯ Counseling (individual, group, or family) or mentoring

◯ Case management or service brokering

9. Do you have any data that reflects the program's performance?

YES NO I DON'T KNOW

10. Does the program have any written implementation guidance such as a written program manual or curriculum?

◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ I DON'T KNOW

1. **Does the program provider use a detailed written protocol or manual to deliver this program?**
   ◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ I DON'T KNOW

2. **Does the program provider monitor adherence to the protocol or manual on a routine basis?**
   There is a written training manual and research press books to implement, and the consultants will work with the site for up to 1 year to assure model adherence.
   ◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ I DON'T KNOW

3. **Has this program been replicated in any other jurisdictions?**
   ◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ I DON'T KNOW

Thank you for your time in completing this tool. Staff from the NCJJI will reach out to the program contact as needed to clarify information contained in this tool to determine the program's effectiveness rating.

For NCJJI Staff to Complete

Indicate results program analysis and indicate which category the program aligns with.

NEVADA CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE INNOVATION

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES DEFINITION MATRIX

	Eligible for Purpose of State Funding			Excluded From State Funding	
	Evidence-Based Practices	Research-Based Practices	Evidence-Informed Practices (to qualify, meets 1 of the bullets in each row below)	Ineffective Program	Harmful Program
Effect	Found to be effective		• Some evidence of effectiveness • Experimental evaluations show that there are contradictory findings • Effects are short in duration • Programs that include elements of approach known to be effective (eg., Cognitive behavioral programming, problem solving, skill training, etc.)	Experimental evaluations failed to show significant differences between the treatment and the control group OR Based on statistical analysis or well-established theory of change, no potential to meet evidence- or research-based effect/criteria	Experimental evaluations show that the control group scored higher on targeted outcomes that did the treatment group Practice constitutes a risk or harm
Internal Validity	True experimental design	Quasi-experimental design	• Non-experimental design, but statistically significant positive effects • True experimental design, but inconsistent inference of causality • Delivers positive results, especially related to JJOC-required performance measures, but no research	True or quasi-experimental design	N/A
Type of Evidence or Research Design	Randomized controlled experimental design	Quasi-experimental design	• Locally developed programming with pre/post outcome measures • Includes programs or practices with elements of researched based programs • Single group design • Program matches the dimensions of a successful meta-analysis practice • 1 large, multi-site, randomized/or statistically controlled experimental study	1 randomized and/or statistically controlled evaluation OR 2 quasi-experiments and 1 randomized controlled evaluation not conducted by an independent investigator	Any design with any results indicating negative effect
Independent Replication	Program replication with evaluation replication		At least 1 replication without evaluation	At least 1 replication without evaluation	Either replicated or not; with or without evaluation
Implementation Guidance	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Partial	Partial or comprehensive	Possible applied studies under similar or different settings
Extended Validity	Applied studies: different settings (2+)	Applied studies: similar settings (2+)	Real-world informed. Somewhat evidence informed	Applied study(s): different or similar settings	Applied study(s): different or similar settings (2+)

The NCJJI is managed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. All report inquiries can be directed to Hunter Hurst, National Center for Juvenile Justice Director, at ncjji@ncjfcj.org