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Maryland's FFY 2025 Title II Formula Grants Program Proposal Narrative

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The focus of the Maryland State Advisory Group's [Three-Year Plan: 2024 – 2026](#) (the Plan) was and remains to maintain an effective State Advisory Group and provide subawards to support community-based programs designed as alternatives to incarceration with positive youth development components. The Plan will also continue the focus on restorative justice practices through aftercare and reentry programs.

As a result of a determination of noncompliance by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Maryland is submitting this amended narrative to 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11) as an update to the previously approved [Three-Year Plan: 2024 – 2026](#).

Program and Budget Area 5 of 5: 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11) - Compliance

Maryland does not have instances of non-compliance with (Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders) 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11)(A), and does not anticipate a change in state law or other administrative process that would allow for youth charged with status offenses to be held in residential areas. The monitor will continue to ensure that law enforcement is aware of the

potential hazards from detaining and confining youth held on status offenses in any secure residential areas. More information can be found on page 30 of [Maryland's Compliance Monitoring Manual](#).

Maryland has submitted a plan for the 223(a)(11)(B) requirement to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In addition, a court order has been created with the language of JJDPa for the 223(a)(11)(B) requirement. The Compliance Monitor will utilize the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Flow Chart for investigating instances of non-compliance with the 223(a)(11)(B) requirement to determine if a 223(a)(11)(B) requirement violation has occurred.

Starting on December 21, 2021, the monitor began review of the state's Compliance Monitor Database Collection System's Jail and Detention Center's holding logs for all youth charged as adults and held in an adult jail or lockup, and validated all self-reported logs by phone, fax, email, or on-site audit to ensure every youth has received a 223(a)(11)(B) order. This applied to all youth still detained in the adult jails prior to December 21, 2021.

Beginning January 1, 2024, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (the Office) updated the States Compliance Monitoring Database Collection System to better capture data more efficiently on section 223(a)(11)(b). The Compliance Monitor will review the logs for the date and time in the facility to ensure that any child charged as an adult and held past six hours, and past 30 days and each subsequent 30 days up to 180 days, receives a 223(a)(11)(B) requirement order. The Compliance Monitor will review and validate the "good cause" order for any youth detained in the adult jail for 180 days. The monitor will resume monitoring for the 223(a)(11)(B) requirement at 30 days past the 180-day order if the child is still being held in the facility.

Monitoring for the data collection of section 223(a)(11)(b) is only one component to ensure compliance with the Act. State law currently allows for youth prosecuted as adults to be placed in an adult jail. The Office recognizes that a legislative change is needed to ensure full compliance with the requirement.

In April 2026, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that reduces the number of crimes that require adult jurisdiction automatically upon charging a youth. The law restores the juvenile court as the default jurisdiction for certain offenses that are often waived down to juvenile court after a transfer hearing. In addition, the legislation requires that, even if charged as an adult, a youth may not be held in an adult facility for more than 6 hours for processing and must be sight and sound separated from adult inmates at all times. A review of recent data obtained directly from the adult jails shows that this law could reduce the number of youth intakes into adult jails by almost 65%. The changes in jurisdiction take effect October 1, 2026 while other portions take effect on October 1, 2029.

Goals: Utilize grant funds for projects that assist in any aspect of preparing for a youth transfer hearing back to juvenile court from adult court, including expert work for court-ordered evaluations. Maryland will also utilize program staff and the State Advisory Group to provide specific and targeted education, outreach, and technical assistance to the stakeholders, including the Maryland Judiciary about Interest of Justice Orders.

Objectives:

1. Fund projects and activities designed to reduce the number of youth charged with offenses that have exclusive adult court jurisdiction.
2. Fund projects or activities that provide alternative placements for youth charged as adults who are currently in an adult jail, or non-capital improvement projects to eliminate sight and sound violations within an adult jail.
3. Increase the knowledge and understanding of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency & Prevention Act for a broad stakeholder group.