

Evaluation Summary: JDAI Deep End Reform

The Urban Institute and Mathematica Policy Research are conducting an independent evaluation of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's deep-end reform efforts.

Who We Are

Urban is a nonprofit, non-partisan research organization based in Washington, D.C. with almost 50 years of experience conducting research and offering evidence-based solutions that improve lives, strengthen communities, and increase the effectiveness of public policy. We pride ourselves on our objectivity and on the high rigor of our research.

Mathematica Policy Research is a non-partisan policy research firm dedicated to improving public well-being by bringing the highest standards of quality, objectivity, and excellence to bear on information collection and analysis for our partners and clients. Mathematica is headquartered in Princeton, NJ, with offices in Ann Arbor, MI, Cambridge, MA, Chicago, IL, Oakland, CA, and Washington, D.C.

Goals

The broad purpose of the evaluation is to provide the Foundation with information about how the deep-end reform is working, how it might be improved or expanded in the future, and to what degree it achieves the Foundation's aims. Because the deep-end work is a relatively new expansion of JDAI, it is in a dynamic process of continual testing and development.

The *process evaluation* is being conducted from a *developmental perspective* and includes regular input from, and feedback to, the Juvenile Justice Strategies Group to evaluate how the Foundation is administering the deep end work and how it can be improved for the communities pursuing deep end reforms. It attempts to a) understand how the deep-end work is being organized, implemented, and developed, b) identify key challenges and strengths in each community's implementation, and c) track how each community's activities relate to the goals and outcomes of the deep-end work.

The *outcome evaluation* will assess the degree to which the deep-end work successfully affects important quantitative and qualitative outcomes, including reduced commitments and other out-of-home placement and reduced racial and ethnic disparities.

Key Activities

Key activities in which juvenile justice practitioners from JDAI/Deep End sites may anticipate interacting with the evaluation team could include:

- Site visit (2 days, to be scheduled in consultation with the site and the Foundation)
- Periodic phone calls with site coordinators
- Web-based surveys of probation staff and other stakeholders
- Attendance at key meetings and conferences

Evaluation Team Members

The evaluation team currently includes the following members:

Staff

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