



*Governor's Office for  
Children and Families*



**Georgia's Juvenile Reform  
Efforts and Impact on  
Disproportionate Minority  
Contact (DMC)**

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# GOCF OVERVIEW



## **Governor's Office for Children and Families** **Executive Director- Katie Jo Ballard**

Mission: To reach, support, and empower communities to serve Georgia's children and families

Organized into four divisions: Family Violence, Justice, Prevention and Family Support, and Youth Development

# GOCF SERVICE



By providing -

- community funding,
- educational opportunities,
- and technical assistance,

we believe that communities and families will be able to increase their own independence and productivity.

**Families are children's greatest resource**  
**and children are OUR greatest resource**

# GOCF- JUSTICE DIVISION



Juvenile justice research, state and federal law, and best-practice all support the premise that:

**youth are fundamentally different than adults, in both their level of responsibility as well as their potential for rehabilitation.**

# A Separate System



The State of Georgia has established a juvenile justice system that is *distinct* from the adult criminal justice system and provides procedures that are *unique* to the treatment of juveniles.

# JUSTICE DIVISION



- **Provides funding for programs** that demonstrate a clear commitment to the accountability principles of restorative justice for youth;
- **Strategizes to ensure that local communities** are able to meet the needs of Georgia's youth and families; and
- **Provides technical expertise** to ensure compliance with federal and state laws concerning juvenile detention and confinement in order to secure funding for the state's juvenile crime reduction efforts.

# STATE PLAN FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE



- To be eligible for funds under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 2002, a State must submit a comprehensive plan applicable to a 3-year period embodying the purposes of the Act
- Georgia's current 3 year plan runs from January 1, 2012-December 31, 2014

# State Priority Areas for Juvenile Funding



Under the leadership of First Lady Sandra Deal, the Planning Committee of Georgia's State Advisory Group, approved the following-

*In keeping with Governor Deal's stated goal of increasing public safety through a more effective corrections system, the Planning Committee recommends a **two-pronged approach** in the funding of local juvenile justice grant projects for 2012-2014.*

- **Diversion**
- **Aftercare/Re-entry**



# DIVERSION



## Diversion

“Provide grant funding for programs designed to divert juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system.”

# AFTERCARE/RE-ENTRY



## Aftercare/Re-entry

“Provide grant funding for programs to prepare incarcerated juvenile offenders for successful return to their communities. For the purposes of this plan; incarcerated shall be defined as any juvenile serving a period of secure confinement in a juvenile correctional facility or other secure institution.”

# Juvenile Reinvestment Grants



With the new Children's Code passage (HB 242), state and federal funds have been focused on evidence-based interventions shown to be *effective* with a juvenile population.

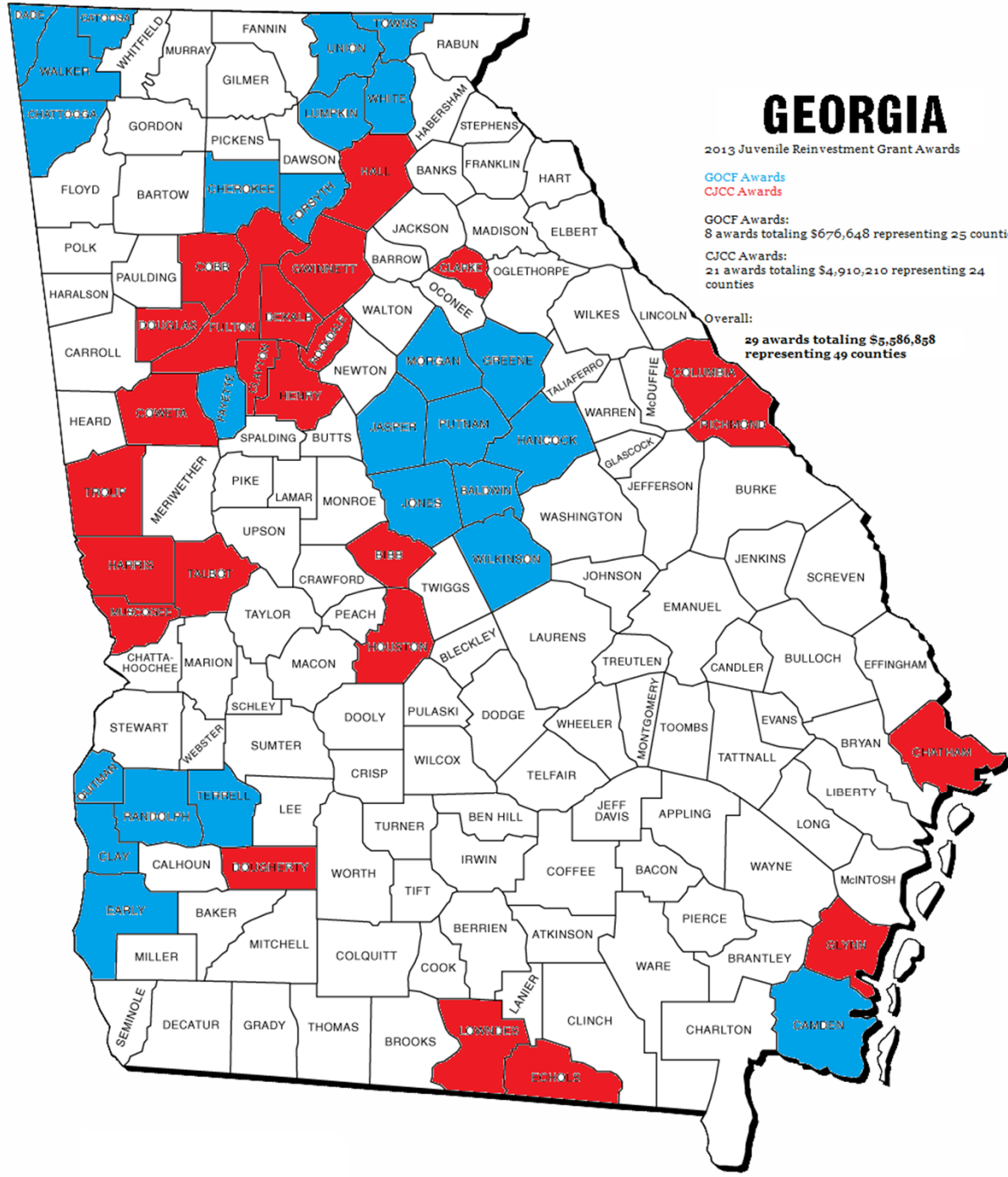
Research has shown the programs listed below to be effective interventions with this population-

- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Thinking For A Change (T4C)
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Seven Challenges (7C)

# 2013 Juvenile Reform Grant Overview



- 35 applications were received representing 61 counties, requesting \$10.4M
- This resulted in 29 local awards serving 49 counties totaling \$5.6M.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Awards run from August 1, 2013- June 30, 2014
- These 49 counties represent 69.49% of Georgia's at-risk population (1,632,180 out of Georgia's total at-risk population of 2,348,774)



# Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)



- As a recipient of federal juvenile justice funds GOCF is charged with monitoring and addressing DMC in the juvenile justice system
- GOCF's Board has a DMC Subcommittee of juvenile court practitioners that meet quarterly to explore ways to address this issue
- Most recently, GOCF, (along with DJJ and DOE), hosted a statewide Forum to discuss DMC in Georgia and provided recipients with information about the issue
- A Regional DMC Forum has been requested and will be presented to the Coweta Juvenile Judicial Circuit in La Grange on January 29, 2014

# Statewide DMC Assessment



- Commissioned Carl Vinson Institute of Government to complete a statewide Assessment of DMC in Georgia in 2012
- Copy can be found on our website-  
[children.georgia.gov](http://children.georgia.gov)
- Findings:  
**Mobility Effects & Differential Offending**  
are contributing causes to DMC rates

# DMC Assessment Recommendations



1. Programs directed at crimes that have been found to have differential offending patterns might be advantageous in helping youth
2. Data review can be critical in reducing DMC across Georgia
3. Availability of adequate data to provide a robust DMC analysis is severely lacking.
4. Important that future studies have complete data sets that allow for a real picture of what is occurring in the juvenile justice system in Georgia



# Juvenile Data



The Governor's Office for Children and Families serves as the administrator of federal juvenile justice funds for the state and is *responsible for ensuring that accurate juvenile crime data is collected and reported* to the U.S. Department of Justice and the Georgia General Assembly.

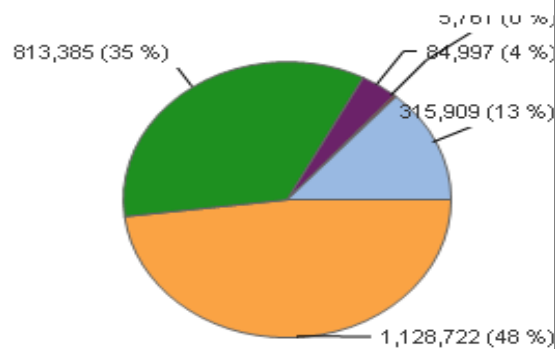
For more information, please visit:

- <http://juveniledata.georgia.gov/>
  - State & county stats for juveniles

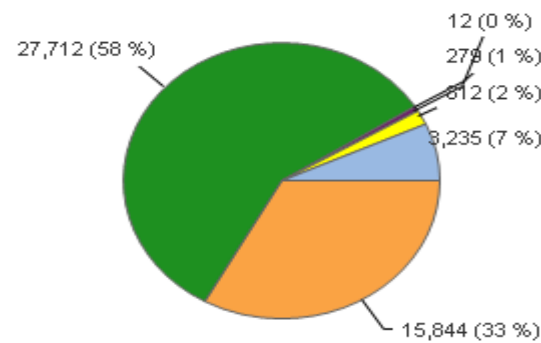
# DMC Dashboard- 2011 GA



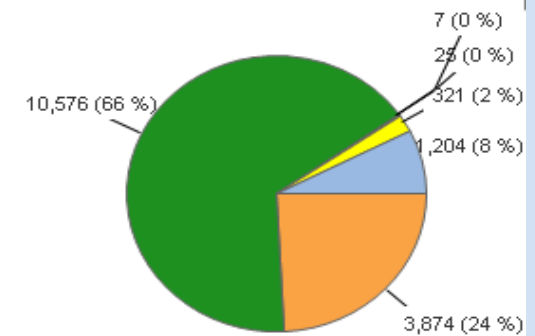
### Population



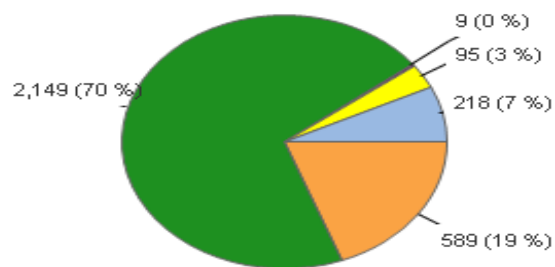
### Referrals



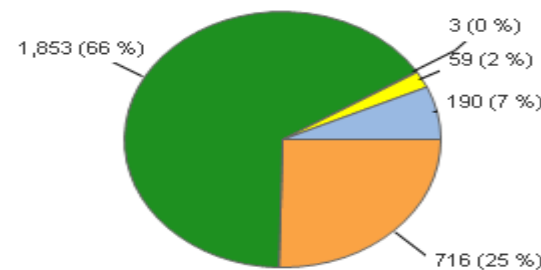
### Detentions



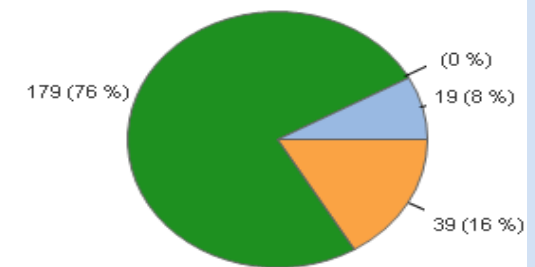
### Commitments to DJJ



### Confinements



### Sentenced to Superior Court



# OUR NEW CHARGE



## **CHARGE OF NEW CHILDREN'S CODE, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014**

In keeping with the new provisions of the Children's Code (O.C.G.A. 15-11-1), *the intent is to preserve and strengthen family relationships in order to allow each child to live in safety and security.*

# Our Contact Information



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