

DMC ACTION NETWORK

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- 1. What is the DMC Action Network?** The Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Action Network is a national platform designed to expand the work of state and local jurisdictions in their efforts to achieve sustainable reductions in racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. The Network offers a communications infrastructure for sites working to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, to share ideas, and to problem-solve and collaborate on DMC strategies. It also provides technical support in the development and implementation of DMC strategic innovations that can serve as best practices in reducing racial and ethnic disparities. Network members will also benefit from peer-to-peer support in navigating systemic barriers, stakeholder resistance, and attitudes of indifference by system and community leaders.
- 2. Who will be involved in the DMC Action Network?** The Network will include eight local jurisdictions that are currently receiving technical assistance from the MacArthur Foundation on DMC reduction in the *Models for Change* states (Pennsylvania, Illinois, Louisiana, and Washington). It will also involve four additional local jurisdictions or states selected through an application process conducted by the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP). Applications are due by July 31, 2007, and the new sites or states will be selected by September.
- 3. Who may apply for Network membership?** Local jurisdictions or states that are not participating in *Models for Change* are required to apply for Network membership. The term "local jurisdictions" refers to cities, counties or community agencies. Ideal applicants are jurisdictions that have implemented strategies to reduce DMC and can demonstrate measurable success to date. The eight local jurisdictions currently working on DMC reduction as part of *Models for Change* are automatically included as members of the Network.
- 4. What is the purpose of DMC strategic innovations? Strategic innovations are actions that have proven effective in reducing DMC. They include** innovations in the collection and utilization of data, creation of objective screening and detention admissions instruments, development of alternative programs and services, and process mapping to identify problematic decision points in the juvenile justice system. All DMC Network members will be expected to implement one or more new strategic innovations. At the first annual DMC Action Network conference in October, 2007, the Network members will select the strategic innovations on which they will work. CCLP staff will provide technical support on each site's development and implementation of strategic innovations.

1701 K Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006

tel: 202.637.0377
fax: 202.379.1603

www.cclp.org

5. **What can we expect to receive as technical support?** Local jurisdictions or states that are not participating in *Models for Change* will benefit from technical support through the Network to address system barriers, challenges, and coordination needs to develop and successfully implement strategic innovations. Technical support may include teleconferences, development of peer support, one-on-one assistance at annual Network meetings, and referral to experts in the field (e.g., on development of a detention Risk Assessment Instrument). The local jurisdictions already working on DMC reduction as part of *Models for Change* will continue to receive site-based technical assistance from CCLP staff.
6. **What amount of funding is available for sites selected to participate in the Network?** New sites or states selected will receive up to \$100,000 per year for a period of up to three years to support their Network participation. Local sites already working on DMC reduction in the *Models for Change* states will receive additional funding up to \$30,000 per year for Network membership.
7. **What type of activities can Network funding support?** Funding can be utilized to expand resources dedicated to the DMC work. Funds can be used, for example, to hire staff to coordinate DMC activities; to work with experts to provide on-site consultation; and to visit other jurisdictions that have model programs (e.g., Evening Reporting Centers).
8. **How will sites be selected as Network members?** Sites will be selected as Network members through an application process. Applications will require the following information:
 - Availability of DMC data in the site;
 - Evidence of racial/ethnic disparities at one or more key decision-points in the system;
 - Effectiveness of current efforts to reduce DMC;
 - Availability of committed leadership by public officials and community leaders toward reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the site;
 - Capacity of key stakeholders to make necessary changes to reduce DMC;
 - Evidence of state-level support for the work, and interest in its expansion, if successful;
 - Value of site's experience to other Network members, and to the field;
 - Value of participation in the Network for the site;
 - Capacity to monitor progress;
 - Sustainability of reforms; and
 - Geographic diversity of the sites.
9. **We receive funding from other public and private sources for DMC. Can we still apply for Network membership?** Yes. Funding through Network membership is independent of current resources provided by state, local, private/foundation or other resources.
10. **How can we apply for membership in the DMC Action Network?** You should contact Lisa Garry with the Center for Children's Law and Policy at (202) 637-0377, ext. 103 or lgarry@cclp.org to request an application.