



**Valencia County**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**RESOLUTION No 2018 - 40**

**A RESOLUTION**

**AUTHORIZING VALENCIA COUNTY TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JUVENILE ADJUDICATION PROGRAM.**

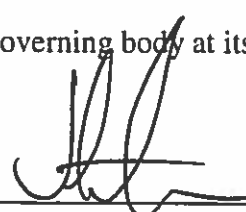
**WHEREAS**, the Legislature enacted Section 34-16-1 NMSA 1978 establishing a juvenile adjudication fund grant program to fund programs providing alternative procedures of adjudication for juveniles charged with traffic offenses and other misdemeanors.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature enacted Section 66-8-116.3 NMSA 1978 as amended, creating the juvenile adjudication fund by assessing fees levied and collected; and

**WHEREAS**, Valencia County along with Youth Development Inc., is making application to the Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division for supplemental program funding.

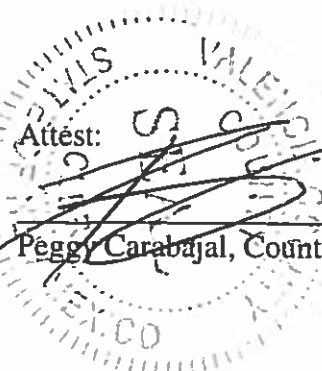
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Governing Body of Valencia County, State of New Mexico hereby authorizes the submission of the FY19 application for the Juvenile Adjudication Fund under the regulations established by the Local Government Division.

**APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED** by the governing body at its meeting of June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jhonathan Aragon  
Chairman, District V

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Carabajal, County Clerk (SEAL)



**Juvenile Adjudication Fund Grant Program  
Application Cover Sheet  
Local Government Division - DFA**

Date of Application: 23-May-18

Application Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(DFA use only)

**Contact Person or Program Director:**

Contact Name: Jack Siamu  
 Name of agency or organization: Youth Development Inc.  
 Address: 428 Los Lentes SE  
 City, State, Zip: Los Lunas, NM 87031  
 Telephone: 505-681-0244  
 E-Mail: jsiamu@ydfnm.org  
 Fax: 505-352-3400

**Fiscal Agent:**

Contact Name: Nancy Sanchez  
 Name of Fiscal Agent: Valencia County  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1119  
 City, State, Zip: Los Lunas, NM 87031  
 Telephone: (505) 885-2035  
 E-Mail: nancy.sanchez@co.valencia.nm.us  
 Fax: 505-886-3355

**Application Information****Program Summary (Please give 2-3 sentence summary of request):**

Valencia County is requesting funding for the continuation of the Valencia County - YDI Teen Court Program. The Teen Court Program operates under the best practice model of peer to peer framework. The program provides an alternative to detention and diversion through which young offenders are heard and judged by their peers. Utilizing the peer model allows and provides a setting where young people are more receptive to judgements from their peers. Through partnerships with DFA, CYFD Juvenile Probation, the Courts, Youth Development Inc., community stakeholders, and youth, Valencia County can successfully hold young first time offenders accountable while providing youth with opportunities to understand legal process and procedures. In addition to juvenile accountability and skill development, youth are provided with opportunities for positive neighborhood and community attachment and are recognized for their community service. In order for a young person to participate, they would have already admitted guilt or pled no contest.

Population served: Youth - First Offenders  
 Geographic area(s) served: Valencia County

**Budget**

Dollar amount requested: 25,000.00  
 Match (cash and/or in-kind): 2,500.00  
 Total program budget: 27,500.00

**Authorization**

I authorize the applicant to submit this application for funding from the State of New Mexico. To the best of my knowledge, the information presented in the application is true and correct.

Name of chief official: Danny Monetta, County Manager

Signature and date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of project representative: Nancy Sanchez, Grants Manager

Signature and date: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]* 5/21/18  
*[Signature]* 5-21-18

## **Juvenile Adjudication Fund Grant Proposal Checklist**

- ☒ Application Cover Sheet - Form JAF-1
- ☐ Resolution from County or Municipality (Pending)
- ☒ Information about the Applicant and Teen Court/Alternative Juvenile Adjudication Program Summary
- ☒ Organization Chart
- ☒ Budget Form JAF-2
- ☒ Letter from Teen
- ☒ JPPO Letter
- ☒ Other letters of Support
- ☐ Waiver Request ( If applicable) Form JAF-3

## **Alternative Juvenile Adjudication Program Teen Court**

**INTRODUCTION:** Youth Development Inc., (YDI) is a community based social service organization that was established in 1971 in Albuquerque. YDI's Mission is "*Partnering with Families to solve life's problems*". YDI has a 46-year track record for providing comprehensive and cost effective services. Throughout all of its service components, YDI emphasizes efficiency in the use of staff time and operating resources. Youth Development, Inc. is legally constituted as a 501(c) (3).

Over the past 46 years, YDI has gradually added programs in response to community needs and now serves not only all of Albuquerque and central New Mexico, Valencia, Torrance and Sandoval Counties but also portions of northern New Mexico. Presently, YDI employs over 500 staff and serves more than 10,000 clients annually. Youth Development, Inc. is widely recognized as a respected leader in the area of social service. The success of the YDI philosophy and approach has resulted in numerous local, regional and national awards and recognitions. YDI has a long-standing history of demonstrated accomplishments in the areas of prevention and innovative services. Youth Development, Inc. direct program services are divided into three areas: (1) Education, Employment and Training; (2) Head Start; (3) Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Division.

YDI-Valencia which falls under the Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Division (PIT) has been providing services in Valencia County since 1984 and currently serves over 1,500 clients a year. The proposed program will be housed in our Valencia offices on 428 Los Lentos SE. The primary focus of the YDI-Valencia programs is to provide education, prevention and social services that encourage a healthy and safe living environment for children, youth and families in the County.

These services include but are not limited to: VIDA adult/child food program, child abuse prevention, parenting classes, teen pregnancy prevention, alternative to suspension and financial assistance for extracurricular activities. YDI-Valencia has a strong community presence and collaborates with local law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations, businesses and government entities to ensure that clients have access to the best prevention services in the communities we serve.

YDI is submitting a competitive proposal for the provision of the Teen Court Juvenile Adjudication Fund for fiscal year 2019 in the amount of \$25,000.00. YDI's Mission is "partnering with families to help solve life's problem". The teen court program will be administered by YDI with continued fiscal

management provided by Valencia County. This arrangement has served both agencies well in the fact that YDI continues to provide a sound, efficient and successful Teen Court program and Valencia County saves money and benefits from the reduction of the burden on traditional juvenile justice system. YDI emphasizes efficiency in the use of staff time and operating resources.

Youth Development, Inc. is widely recognized as a respected leader in the area of social service. YDI's values of working with children, youth and their families is based on shared responsibilities between families and public agencies in promoting open communication and collective decision making that will reinforce the family's culture and religion, acknowledgement of the rights and abilities of the family group to make sound decisions for and with their children and the active engagement of the community as a vital support for families.

**1. YDI-VALENCIA Teen Court Description:** The YDI-Valencia Teen Court program is considered an alternative to detention and adjudication program that provides community support and informal disposition for young people who have committed a delinquent act or have been charged with a misdemeanor, and are otherwise eligible for diversion. Youth Development, Inc., (YDI) is not part of a local government. YDI is contracted to operate the Valencia County Teen Court program as part of Valencia County's overall strategic plans to minimize costs. YDI has operated and managed the Teen Court program since 2012 in Valencia County.

The Teen Court program provides a client and family centered approach that builds on a positive youth development framework that will help youth at risk achieve their goals, build youth protective factors and strengthen coping skills. In addition, the program subscribes to the community services model of "giving back" to allow youth the opportunity to become responsible members of the community. Furthermore, Teen Court fit Valencia County's mission of establishing programs that would assist youth in being accountable to themselves, their families and their community, cost effective and resolving misdemeanor offenses that would otherwise be resolved in a traditional juvenile justice system.

The YDI-Valencia Teen Court program continues to be a part of the Valencia County Juvenile Justice Continuum. Primary funding for the program is through the established Juvenile Adjudication Fund (JAF) from the New Mexico Legislature and administered by the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA).

YDI-Valencia Teen Court currently receives \$22,000.00 from JAF to operate the program. Funds are utilized to pay 25% of YDI's staff coordinating activities and 7% of the Director managing the program. The remainder of the funds supports allowable program operations and 5% for administrative costs for Valencia County. All other operation costs associated with Teen Court Program are In- Kind donations from the Valencia County, YDI and District Court. YDI continues to research potential funding to supplement the current funding for the teen court program.

**REFERRALS:** YDI-Valencia Teen Court works closely with the JPO supervisor and staff and local schools to identify appropriate cases for teen court services. All of the Teen court program referrals are generated from the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Probation office. The program can have as many as twenty (20) new referrals by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, which gives time for YDI-Valencia Teen Court staff to contact and meet with the clients and guardians to conduct intake interviews and set up court appearances for clients and their families.

The YDI Teen Court program is immensely successful in meeting the needs of young people and their families who have been referred to the program. The program has created collaborations with local community providers to assist youth with community service projects, anger management classes and other services projects. Teen Court has successfully assisted youth and their families in the past seven (7) years. The program has served 100 youth (2016 – 61 youth; 2017 – 39 youth) in the past two year. In the two year period, only six (6) youth were remanded back to the JPO unsuccessfully. 94 youth completed the program with 94% remain trouble free and has not re-offend. Currently, the program has served 24 youth. It is anticipated that the program will serve a total of 30 youth by the end of the 2018 Fiscal Year. A total of sixteen (16) cases have successfully completed the program. None of the cases have been remanded back to the Probation office.

Youth participate in numerous YDI Valencia initiatives to include the teen outreach project, teen socialization clubs, health fairs and other activities offered thru YDI Valencia. Numerous youth continue to participate in the program long after their required sentencing has been completed. The teen court program continues to be an asset and benefit to Valencia County. The teen court program continues to be a cost saving program yielding good returns in dollars saved for the county and also the state. It is estimated by the program that Valencia County has saved over \$28,500.00 in the past two (2) years.

Valencia County authorities estimate an average of \$285.00 per day to house a juvenile in the Bernalillo County detention center. Valencia County does not have a detention center; therefore any and all youth arrested in the Valencia County will be transported to Bernalillo County detention center. By diverting these youth through the Teen Court program, Valencia County is able to utilize these resources in other county projects. Therefore, the teen court program has become an integral part of an overall strategy for an alternative to detention program for Valencia County.

**PROCEEDINGS:** Teen Court is held on the first Thursday of every month at the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District complex in Valencia County. The program truly believes that providing a steady and consistent schedule will help youth and their families with their schedules and provides continuity for all involved. YDI-Valencia Teen Court is unique in the fact that it utilizes the adult judge model to resolve cases in the court setting. By utilizing a real judge or special master including the Valencia County Warden denotes the realities and seriousness of the type of proceedings in the court room. The program also has a total of eight (8) teen attorneys and a jury pool that is strictly youth peers.

The YDI-Valencia Teen Court sentencing grid consists of jury duty, community service, letters of apology, essay, and/or attendance in one of the following activities: Restorative Justice, TNT Boxing Program, and Empathy Circle. The clients are also encouraged to participate in healthy and educational extra-curricular activities. The sentences are designed to allow youth to have the maximum participation in the program and giving back to the community by doing meaningful community services. Other aspects of the program provides youth with the opportunity to work on anger issues and or behavioral and mental health issues. Furthermore, the program works closely with each family to identify any needs they may have and assist or refer them to the proper community provider to assist them with their needs. The misdemeanor offenses YDI-Valencia Teen Court accepts are divided into three classes:

- Class 1: Failure to yield; Illegal turn; Improper Lane Change; No Tail Lights; Speeding 1-10 miles Over the limit; No Seat Belts; Red Light/Stop sign; No helmet; Littering; Parking Violation
- Class 2: Following too Close; Larceny/Shoplifting less than \$100; Disorderly conduct; Simple Assault; Runaway; Domestic Dispute; Battery; No Insurance; No Passing zone; Impeding traffic; careless Driving; Speeding 11-25 Miles over; No License; Failure to Yield; Limitations on Backing; Unlawful Riding; Driver inattention; Basic speed rule; Tobacco use; Truancy after 10.

- Class 3: Larceny/Shoplifting greater than \$100 and less than \$250; Possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia; resisting/obstructing an Officer; Criminal trespass; Reckless Driving; Speeding 26+ Over limit; Speeding in School Zone; Leaving Scene of Accident; Immediate Notice of Accident; Property Damage <\$1000; Open Container; Minor Under Influence; Riding with DWI; parking in Handicap.

**ATTRIBUTES/CHARACTERISTICS/OPERATIONS:** As mentioned before, the YDI-Valencia Teen court is a juvenile diversion program for first time offenders of misdemeanor offenses. The program adheres to a best practiced model for the Teen Court program. The youth offender must admit guilt to the offense to be a participant in teen court. Youth attorneys are trained to prosecute and/or defend youth offenders. A panel of their peers serving as the jury then decides a fair sentence based on the sanction grid. The sanction grid provides the jury with guidelines for youth sanctions. When youth offenders successfully complete the sanction, their sentence is then deferred from their criminal record. All of these proceeding are held in the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District court house presided over by a judge, warden or special master gives weighted value and allow these youth to see and participate in their cases.

Staff creates a file for each referral which includes an indication of the charge class and all required documentation for intake screening. Youth and parents are contacted for an interview. Every effort is made to ensure that the program reaches any and all referrals. Should there be difficulties, staff will reach out to the Probation office and the referring officer for assistance before the referral is reverted back to the probation office. All referrals will have an intake for the purposes of gathering all pertinent information for the program. At the intake interview the client and his or her guardian are advised of the YDI-Valencia Teen Court process and requirements. If the client and guardian agree to the terms, they are scheduled for the next YDI-Valencia Teen Court. The youth and their parents and or guardians are informed that should the youth fail to complete the program, they are then referred back to the probation office and they will determine if the youth will then be charge with the original charges and go through the juvenile justice proceedings that will include a probationary period.

The program enjoys a good relationship with local attorneys who volunteer to train our teen attorneys. The trainings are intensive to ensure that the youth are prepared to execute their roles during court proceedings. The program currently has eight (8) youth attorneys who meet twice a

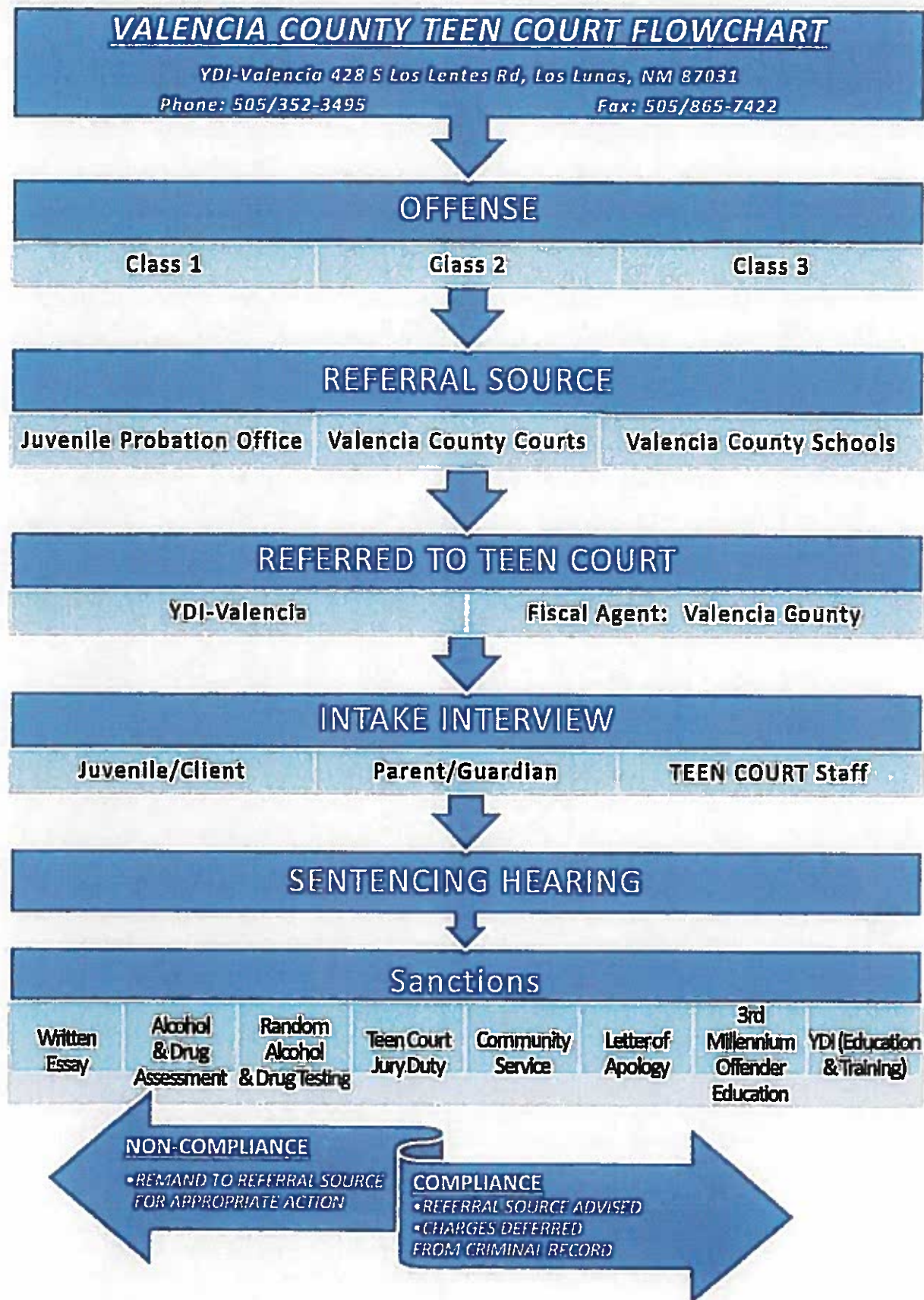


month for attorney trainings and also look at cases being presented on the docket for each month. Youth attorneys also serve in the jury role when needed. The program is dependent on youth who have gone through the teen court process for jury duty and are using the jury service as part of their sentence. The program has been successful in maintaining a large pool of youth that were in the program to serve as jurors.

Youth are required to meet with a compliance monitor (YDI staff) to ensure that they and their guardians understand the sentence and explain that they are allowed 90 days to complete the sentence and answer any questions the families may have. In addition, the compliance monitor (YDI staff) assists the client in finding appropriate community service opportunities when needed and checks in with the client and his/her family on a monthly basis to ensure they have the resources. Youth are also required to check in with the staff by phone or in person on a weekly basis to ensure they are meeting their obligations. Staff also makes every effort to visit the youth at the school or meet with them at their home to ensure compliance and also offer assistance to their family.

Staff are always recruiting youth who show interest in the law and criminal justice system overall to be court attorneys. Recruitment is conducted throughout all the local high schools. Teen court staff meets twice a week to coordinate the program and activities to ensure success and continuity. Staffs also meet with JPO on a regular basis to coordinate program activities and discuss any concerns, facilitate solutions to concerns and ensure accountability for all partners. YDI-Valencia recruits local judges to be the adult judge for each teen court proceeding. The program is very fortunate that two magistrate judges, one district court judge and the Warden volunteer their time to serve in the teen court process.

## 2. PROCESS CHART



**3. STAFFING:** The staff for Teen Court includes one part time position and supervisory staff.

**Cruz Munoz:** Mr. Munoz has been an employee of YDI a little over a year. Cruz has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Mr. Munoz is retired from the banking world. Mr. Munoz has years of experience working with children, youth and families through YAFL, by being a substitute teacher in Valencia County and volunteering for various organizations. He brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of youth issues. Munoz is the primary staff working with the teen court program to ensure that all program functions are carried forward in a cohesive manner in conjunction with Juvenile Probation, Valencia County, judges and clients and their families. Cruz is being paid out of this grant at 25% and the remainder of his salary is paid from other funding sources.

**Jack Siamu:** Mr. Siamu holds a Master's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. He is currently the Senior Associate Director for YDI-Valencia. He is responsible for the overall success of the program and all fiduciary matters. Mr. Siamu is also a Licensed Clinician and is always available to the Teen Court program for any clinical and programmatic consultation. The program is also supported by other YDI Valencia staff through assisting Mr. Munoz with teen court and community service projects.

**ROLES OF AJAP STAFF/FISCAL AGENT:** The teen court program is overseen by Youth Development Inc., in Valencia County. The Valencia County Government is the fiscal manager for the Teen Court program. YDI is responsible for implementing and execution of the teen court program as described in the previous sections. Staff will continue to work closely with Valencia County and other collaborative partners to ensure that the program operated accordingly with agreed upon scope of service. All required quarterly reports will be submitted to the County and DFA. Overall management oversight of the teen court programs falls to AJAP staff and Valencia County.

**4. CHALLENGES IN EXPENDING JAF FUNDS:** YDI is not experiencing any issues programmatically or challenges in expending and managing grant funds. YDI work closely with Valencia County Administrator to ensure reports and invoices are submitted in a timely fashion. YDI did not request funding with LDWI.

**5. Measureable Objectives:** The YDI Teen Court program has identified the following Goals/objectives and measurable outcomes for the program.

**OBJECTIVE 1:** All teen court participants will complete their obligations resulting from sentencing

**Performance Measure:** Number of Juveniles completing their obligations.

**Performance Goal:** 95% will successfully complete their obligations.

**Rationale:** Currently, the program has a success rate of 84%. It is anticipated that more youth will successfully complete the program. Staff will monitor and provide assistance to ensure youth are successful in completing their sentencing obligations.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** The YDI Valencia Teen Court program will reduce the Juvenile Adjudication cost to the Valencia community.

**Performance Measure:** Number of referrals and completions by first (1<sup>st</sup>) offenders.

**Performance Goal:** The program will serve 97% of the first (1<sup>st</sup>) offenders to avoid being referred back to the JPPO for non-compliance.

**Rationale:** Teen Court staff will engage youth and their families at the onset of the referral process. Families will be an integral and vital component to the success of the young people involved in the program. The staff will continue to monitor youth to ensure successful completion of the program.

**6. Community Involvement:** The YDI-Valencia Teen Court program is an essential component of the Valencia County Juvenile Justice continuum. Furthermore, the program is most beneficial to the community to help youth at risk who are first time offenders. The teen court program was reformed in 2012 and the Juvenile Justice Board approached YDI-Valencia to run the teen court program in Valencia County. Numerous community agencies are collaborative partners of the teen court program. They provide individual and family counseling for youthful offenders; open their businesses to allow youth to complete their community services. Other partners offer boxing, exercise and dance classes to assist youth with anger issues and provide positive activities for them to participate in.

**JPPO INVOLVEMENT AND REDUCING BURDEN OF JJS:** The Valencia Juvenile Probation office is a great partner and supporter of the Teen Court program. All referrals are generated from their offices. Referrals are either faxed or staff will pick them up from the JPO offices. Probation has provided the Letter of Support that obligates his department to refer to the program. The collaboration with the juvenile probation has provided for the opportunity to lessen their caseloads, allow for misdemeanor offenders to be handled through the teen court ultimately diverting resources for serious cases. This process reduces stigma on young people and provides for prevention opportunities to ensure that the young people do not re-offend. The teen court program anticipates the same goals and objectives to be continued into fiscal year 2017.

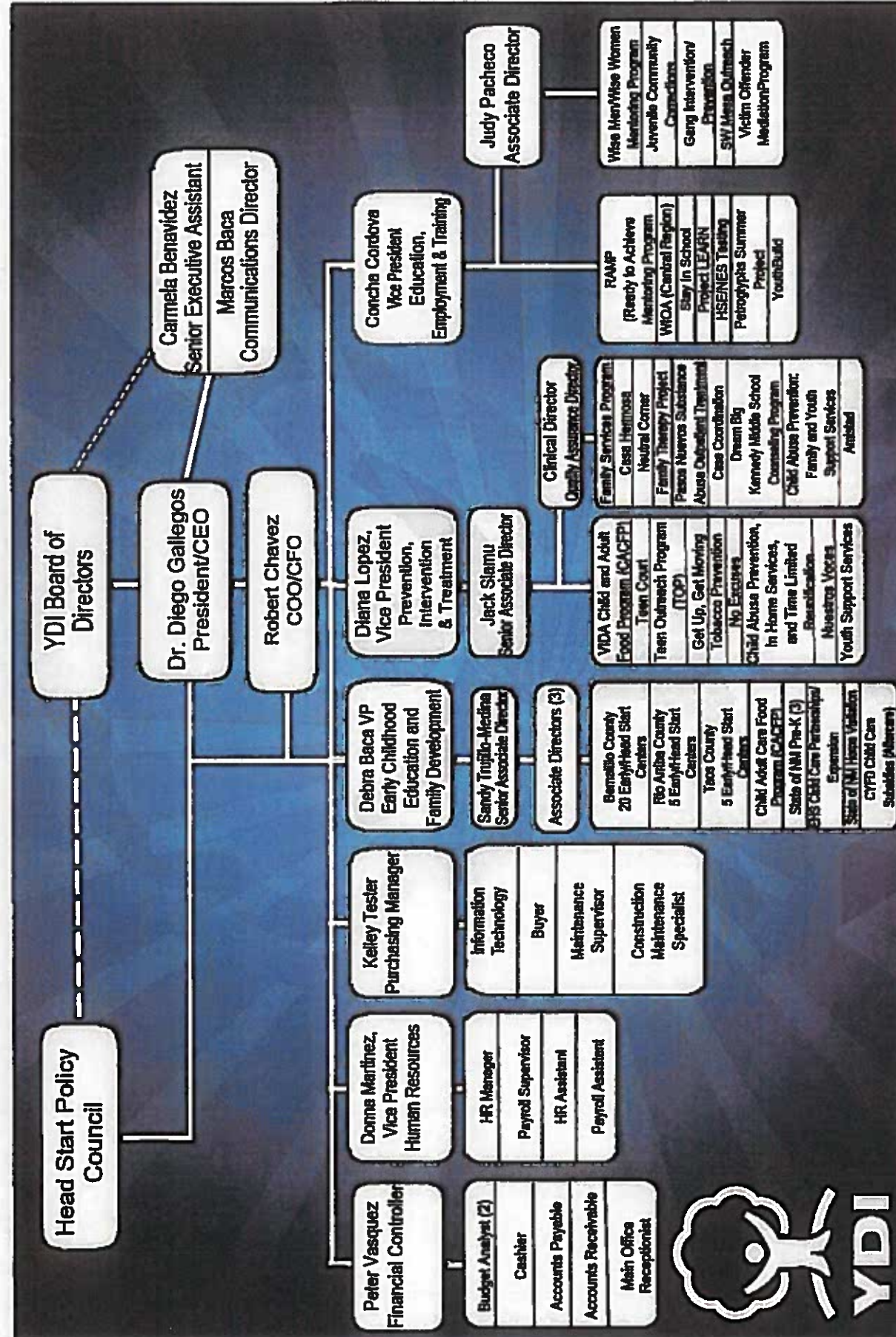
The YDI staff and JPO's meet monthly to discuss ways to assist youth and families who are referred to the program. Families are offered supportive services to include assistance with rent, food, utilities and other identified needs.

**7. Past Performance and Overall Success:** The YDI-Valencia Teen Court is in its fifth year of operation. The program has successfully implemented operations, anticipates serving a total of 80 referrals this fiscal year. The program anticipates meeting and exceeding the proposed scope of work. The Teen Court Program collectively has a success rate of 89% in the past four (4) years. The program continues to improve, make necessary changes, and implement best practices that allow for gradual success in the past years.

**Letter from teen who successfully completed the program.** Please refer to the letter attached.

**Other Information:** The YDI-Valencia Teen Court program is well received in Valencia County. It is important to note that the commitment from Valencia County and also YDI is a testament to the success of this program in its short life. We look forward to continued collaborations with all of our partners.





# YDI ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Revised 1/2017

# **JUVENILE ADJUDICATION FUND PROGRAM REVENUE/EXPENDITURE SUMMARY**

Applicant/Grantee

Valencia County - YDI Teen Court

Grant Number:

Grant Funding

25,000.00

REVENUES BY SOURCE	EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY	GRANT EXPENDITURES	IN-KIND/MATCH FUNDS	TOTAL BUDGET
JAF Program Grant	INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE*			
\$ 25,000.00	Personnel Costs (Salary and Benefits)	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
	Other	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
	Subtotal			
Local Match (Cash or In-Kind)	PROGRAM			
Program Generated Fees	Personnel Salaries, Benefits, Background Checks			\$ -
County	Travel (In-State)			\$ -
City	Supplies			\$ -
Judicial/Courts	Employee and Volunteer Training			\$ -
Other:	Contractual Services	\$ 23,750.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 26,250.00
	Operating Costs**			\$ -
	Travel (Out-of-State)**			\$ -
	Minor Equipment**			\$ -
	Capital Outlay**			\$ -
	Subtotal	\$ 23,750.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 26,250.00
	TOTALS:	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	
TOTAL REVENUES \$ 25,000.00		TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$		27,500.00

\* Administrative is limited to 5% = \$ 1,250.00

\*\* Out-of-state Travel, Operating Costs, Minor Equipment, And Capital Outlay are not eligible for grant funding, but can be counted towards match requirements



# TEEN COURT CLOSING LETTER

TEEN COURT HELPED ME IN MANY WAYS.

IT TAUGHT ME HOW IMPORTANT THESE SUBSTANCES ARE TO ME PERSONALLY AND REAL THE CONSEQUENCES ARE. THEY WILL BE MUCH WORSE ONCE I AM OLDER THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE. IT HELPED ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY TO SUBSTANCES ONLY MAKE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH WORSE. I'VE REALIZED THE HAPPIEST AND BEST LIFE IS A SIMPLE ONE; DRUGS ONLY OVERCOMPLICATE LIFE OVERALL.

SINCERELY,  
NICOLE COOKE  
*Nicole Cooke*



**State of New Mexico**  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT**

**SUSANA MARTINEZ**  
GOVERNOR

**JOHN SANCHEZ**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



**MONIQUE JACOBSON**  
CABINET SECRETARY

**JENNIFER SAAVEDRA**  
DEPUTY CABINET SECRETARY

May 4, 2018

Re: Teen Court, Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

The Valencia County Juvenile Probation Office continues to be dedicated to working collaboratively with the Valencia County Teen Court Program. We are delighted to express our continued support for FY2019. Valencia County Teen Court has consistently served at-risk youth, and has proven to be an invaluable program within our community.

Juvenile Probation staff will continue to work with this program by referring appropriate youth, offering support and direction when needed, routinely collaborating to discuss case statuses, etc.

Valencia County Teen Court continues to play an integral part in providing early interventions to at-risk youth in our very rural community. Teen Court continues to offer support and guidance through appropriate programming and structure. We look forward to continued collaboration with the program and are excited for the upcoming fiscal year.

Best regards,

Estevan E. Gallegos, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor  
(505) 350-8077

[EstevanE.Gallegos@state.nm.us](mailto:EstevanE.Gallegos@state.nm.us)  
Children, Youth & Families Department  
Juvenile Justice Services

JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES  
475 COURTHOUSE RD, SUITE A • LOS LUNAS, NM • 87031  
PHONE: (505) 565-3380 • FAX: (505) 565-2408



**State of New Mexico**  
**Belen Magistrate Court, Division II**  
**801 W Castillo**  
**Belen, NM 87002**  
**505-864-7509**  
**John R. Chavez**  
**Magistrate Judge, Division II**

**May 3, 2018**

**RE: Teen Court, Letter of Recommendation for Funding**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support on behalf of the YDI Teen Court Program in Valencia County. I have served as a judge in the program while I have sat on the bench and continue to be amazed at the efficiency of the program, the commitment of the volunteers and the quality of organization. Many lives are changed through this court and its continued funding should be a primary concern for the betterment of our community. There are few other means by which we can gauge the future success of our community other than the way in which we address criminal offenses. While it is an easy thing to dole out punishment as befits a crime it often does little to remedy the core issue behind why crimes are committed. Teen Court has demonstrated to me the efficacy of restorative justice by bringing families together to deal with crime instead of only the accused.

Thank you for considering future funding for Valencia County YDI Teen Court. These return on the investment into our youth cannot be quantified as mere dollars as our potential to impact future generations in positive ways has a greater value. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact my office at 505-864-7509.

Sincerely,

  
Honorable John R. Chavez  
Magistrate Judge, Division II  
Belen Magistrate Court



**State of New Mexico**  
Belen Magistrate Court, Division II  
901 W Castillo  
Belen, NM 87002  
505-864-7509

**Alonzo Garcia**  
Court Manager II

**Stephanie Trujeque**  
Lead Worker

**May 3, 2018**

**RE: Teen Court, Letter of Recommendation for Funding**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support on behalf of the YDI Teen Court Program in Valencia County. I have volunteered with the teen court program for 7 years and know it to be a great success in the lives of the young men and women who appear as both respondents and attorneys. Teen Court's primary success is by means of restorative justice, an effort to bring an individual back to right standing within the community. Punitive justice is the normal function of the American judicial system and is in some ways limited in that it only offers punishment and little effort placed on restoration. Teen Court's ideal blend of both restorative and punitive justice makes an effective means of engaging one's peers in the judicial process.

The totality of Teen Court's impact in the community can be seen in the lives of the participants who serve as teen attorneys. These young men and women are afforded an opportunity to work both sides of the judicial process as both defense and prosecutorial attorneys. I humbly ask that the reader sincerely consider this request for continued funding for the YDI Teen Court program in Valencia County. For every life we impact positively through Teen Court we have the potential to save a generation within that family from the horrors of the jail and prison systems. Together we are agents of change able to do the greatest good if we focus on restoration now rather than rehabilitation later. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 505-864-7509, extension 100.

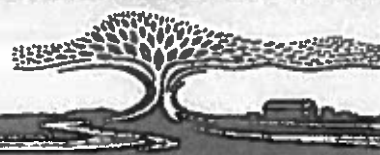
Please consider funding for the Valencia County YDI Teen Court. Let's make a difference today and impact generations to come.

Best regards,

  
**Alonzo Garcia**  
Court Manager II  
Belen Magistrate Court



Small Community • Big Possibilities



ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

**May 11, 2018**

**RE: Teen Court, Letter of Recommendation for Funding**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

The Village of Los Lunas supports the YDI Teen Court Program in Valencia County. This is a great program that enables model students in our community exert a positive force in helping troubled peers take responsibility for their actions by providing alternate sentencing and helping them to make better decisions. Peer pressure in a teen court setting will have a more immediate and meaningful effect upon the individual than the more traditional juvenile justice approach. The message given by a peer jury will be remembered by those seeking to fit within a group and be accepted.

Please continue to provide funding for this valuable program in Valencia County. It is an investment in our youth and helps promote feelings of self-esteem, motivation for self-improvement and a healthy attitude toward authority.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Clarke".

**Monica Clarke**  
**Finance Officer**

**CHARLES GRIEGO**  
**MAYOR**

**GINO ROMERO**  
**COUNCILMAN**

**PAULETTE SANCHEZ-MONTOYA**  
**COUNCILWOMAN**

**GERARD SAIZ**  
**COUNCILMAN**

**CHRISTOPHER S. ORTIZ**  
**COUNCILMAN**

**GREGORY D. MARTIN**  
**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

## Magistrate Courts

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

REFER REPLY TO:

DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

May 10, 2018

RE: Teen Court, Letter of Recommendation for Funding

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that we offer our support for the YDI Teen Court Program in Valencia County. We are familiar with the continued success of this program. Teen Court's Primary success is by means of restorative justice, an effort to bring an individual back to right standing within the community. Punitive justice is the normal function of the American judicial system and is in some ways limited in that it only offers punishment and little effort placed on restoration. Teen Court's ideal blend of both restorative and punitive justice makes an effective means of engaging one's peers in the judicial process.

It is very heartwarming to see the young men and women that dedicate their time to the judicial process as both defense and prosecutorial attorneys. The totality of Teen Court's impact in the community can be seen in the lives of the participants who serve as teen attorneys as well as teens who are seeking fair, unbiased sentences for their actions. For every life that this program positively impacts has the potential to save a generation within that family from the horrors of the jail and prison systems. Together we are agents of change able to do the greatest good if we focus on restoration now rather than rehabilitation later.

Please consider funding for the Valencia County YDI Teen Court. Let's make a difference today and impact generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Griego".

Kathleen Griego  
Court Manager II  
Los Lunas Magistrate Court



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Garcia", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Tina Garcia

Presiding Magistrate Judge

Los Lunas Magistrate Court

received  
11/24/17

Gregson  
Everheart  
11-15-17

What did I Take Away?

This state program called Teen Court gives children a opportunity to see how real life works in a very generous matter. I really appreciate the concept, even thinking about volunteering to encourage the problem. Besides my positive opinion I learned you can always better a mistake, you never can let your mistakes define you! Also it helps reassure ~~that~~ kids that they aren't the only ones that make mistakes. Personally it helped me become more secure. I have ~~to be~~ more motivation to chase my goals. Thank you all for allowing this program to exist and giving me the opportunity to be in it.

5/11/2018

Youth Development, Inc. Mail - (no subject)



Cruz Munoz <cmunoz@ydlm.org>

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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candy linares <candylinares13764@gmail.com>

To: cmunoz@ydlm.org

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 10:02 AM

YDI has helped me change into a better person , in choosing better decisions . It has helped me change my attitude towards people . I've realized how much weed/marijuana can affect me , how many problems it can cause me and my family , the people around me . It simply changed the person I was into better !