



## Core Values of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice

*The discussion of issues, goals, and recommendations in this Annual Report are all predicated on the following Core Values, which the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) has adopted as guiding principles:<sup>1</sup>*

1. Every community and each youth in the juvenile justice system is entitled to a juvenile justice system that provides public safety, accountability, and rehabilitation in a balanced and restorative manner.
2. Each youth in the juvenile justice system is entitled to services provided by culturally competent, appropriately trained professionals who are committed to the treatment and rehabilitation of youth and competitively compensated for the services they provide.
3. Each youth in the juvenile justice system is entitled to a full continuum of culturally appropriate, integrated services, which includes prevention, community alternatives, secure confinement provided in the least necessary restrictive environment, reentry, and aftercare.
4. Each youth in the juvenile justice system is entitled to services based on an objective assessment of risk and protective factors, equally accessible across all classes, cultures, jurisdictions, and linguistic and ethnic groups, which are individualized, gender specific, and developmentally appropriate.
5. Each youth in the juvenile justice system is entitled to a safe place to live, sustained subsistence, emotional and spiritual nurturing, relevant and appropriate educational opportunities, and adequate health care including the assessment and treatment of substance abuse and mental health and co-occurring disorders.
6. Each youth in the juvenile justice system is entitled to timely, zealous, and effective legal representation and a fair and just legal process.
7. Communities and youth in the juvenile justice system are entitled to a system in which individuals and entities work in a collaborative manner.
8. No youth in the juvenile justice system shall be subject to involvement or outcome based on race, class, disability, culture, ethnicity, religion or spiritual practice, gender, or sexual orientation.
9. Each youth in the juvenile justice system is entitled to the support of a functional family and services provided with collaborative involvement of the youth's biological and extended family.

<sup>1</sup>FACJJ adopted the original core values in 2006 and amended them in 2009.

10. Each youth in the juvenile justice system must be separated from adult offenders in institutional settings.
11. No youth who is a status offender shall be held, except as provided by statute, in secure juvenile detention or correctional facilities nor shall they be placed or held in adult jails for any length of time.
12. No youth in the juvenile justice system should be placed in secure pretrial detention unless it is determined that the youth poses a risk to public safety or is unlikely to appear in court.