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Invitation to Join the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDai) Request for Responses

The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Massachusetts is a public safety partnership focusing on reducing the unnecessary and harmful use of secure detention for low-risk juveniles. For ten years JDai partners have worked toward our mission to establish a more effective and efficient detention system in Massachusetts, as documented in [*Ten Years of JDai in Massachusetts*](#).

Since 2007, partners from across youth-serving sectors have worked collaboratively to ensure that *the right youth is in the right place for the right reasons*, through implementing JDai Core Strategies as part of on-going juvenile justice system improvement. The tireless work of the youth advocates, public safety partners, justice officials and community partners has resulted in better outcomes for youth, a more developmentally appropriate system, and significantly reduced reliance on detention by 57% in the past ten years. Moreover, JDai has led to a culture change in how we “do business” in supporting young people, engage families and communities that we serve, and working together as a youth-serving system. These results have been achieved through the sustained collaboration of all stakeholders, in the implementation of data-driven reforms and the expansion of alternatives to detention. And yet, we still have work to do to build upon these achievements, and increase fairness for all youth.

On behalf of the JDai Governance Committee, after ten years of progress in Massachusetts, we are inspired to bring further system reforms to improve outcomes for our youth in the Commonwealth. The JDai Governance Committee is seeking to expand JDai to two (2) additional counties by the end of 2018. We seek counties willing to work collaboratively to tackle the challenges faced in reforming juvenile justice.

More information about the process to become a JDai site can be found in the application documents. Site must submit the return the application questions by June 6, 2018, to jdai@state.ma.us.

On behalf of the JDai Governance Committee, we hope many of you will be interested in joining us in this challenging and fulfilling work to build a better future for the children of the Commonwealth.

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