

# E-SJI NEWS

## New Information Card on Unaccompanied Immigrant Children and the State Courts

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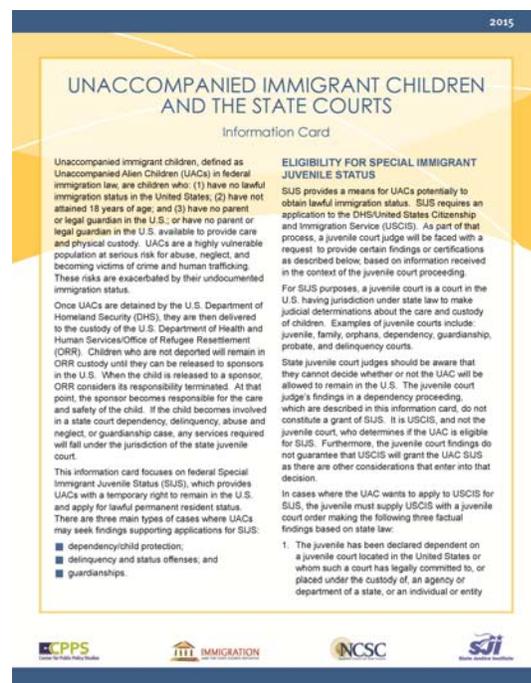
For more content from the recent SJI Board meeting, important national resource announcements, and partner updates, look no further than the SJI [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



The Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), working under an SJI Strategic Initiatives Grant (SJI-13-P-095), recently released an [information card](#).

The card focuses on federal Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), which provides unaccompanied immigrant children, defined as Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs) in federal immigration law, with a temporary right to remain in the U.S. and apply for permanent resident status. In cases where the UAC wants to apply to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) for SIJS, the juvenile must supply USCIS with a state juvenile court order with certain findings.

This information card also provides details on the types of findings required, and the types of cases where these juveniles will most likely end up in state courts.



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## Michigan Juvenile Justice Data Sharing Project

The need for reliable and accessible data is critical and permeates Michigan's juvenile justice system on every level. Although the juvenile courts and stakeholders collect a variety of data and report to multiple state and local entities, due to the courts decentralized nature, current juvenile justice data is disaggregated, inaccurate, inconsistent, difficult to access, and incomplete. In addition, data is increasingly

mandated by funders; required by courts and state agencies to measure program outcomes; and sought by juvenile courts and justice system stakeholders to improve the quality of justice for, and services provided to, Michigan's youth.

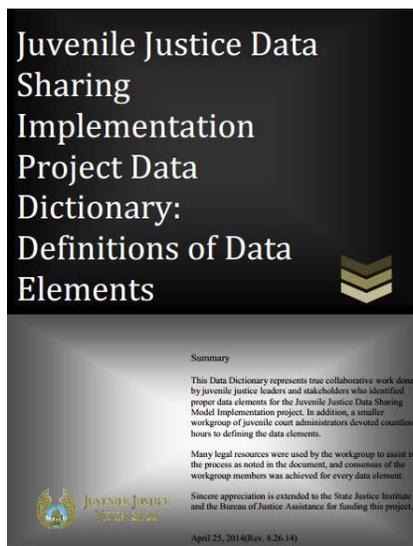
Through an SJI Technical Assistance grant (SJI-13-T-086), a statewide partnership called [Juvenile Justice](#)

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[Vision 20/20](#) was created to improve Michigan's juvenile justice data issues. Juvenile Justice 20/20 includes state and local partners and the 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court/Ottawa County, which provides fiduciary and project management services.

The objectives of the project are: 1) develop and finalize the planning process by analyzing current juvenile justice data sharing system and data sharing needs, and determining next steps; 2) gather input from partners and include them in the development of a multi-jurisdictional juvenile justice data sharing model using tools developed by the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (GLOBAL), and also sharing information with the State of Ohio; 3) develop a Data Dictionary with common data definitions; 4) identify common risk assessment data elements; and, 5) complete and submit a grant application



reflecting the development of a juvenile justice data sharing model to the U.S. Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and complete a final project report.

SJI funding supported the critical analysis and strategic planning efforts at the beginning of the project. SJI also supported the development of a [Juvenile Justice Data Dictionary](#), which provided an opportunity to build consensus within the juvenile justice community around common terms and definitions - the first step to creating a common language among the juvenile courts and the state. This Dictionary was foundational in the development of the Data Sharing Model.

With subsequent support from BJA, the Michigan Multi-jurisdictional Juvenile Justice Data Sharing Model was developed and will be implemented in five pilot juvenile courts strategically chosen for their respective case management systems by March 31, 2015. Additional state funding will provide expansion of this Model to four additional courts. A catalog of the publications produced by the Juvenile Justice 20/20 project can be found [online](#).

## Arkansas Judiciary Develops First Ever Online Court Security Training

In FY 2008, SJI awarded a grant to the AOC to develop training programs for Court Security Officers (CSOs), and create a core group of CSOs to deliver the training to their colleagues (SJI-08-T-147). The AOC has trained more than 1,600 CSOs under the curricula developed with funding from that grant. Based on that success, the AOC requested and received a second grant to develop and deliver online curricula that will ensure interactive delivery and efficient provision of training to more CSOs across the state. The online training is now available nationally to all courts.

[Arkansas Court Security Officer Training](#) (SJI-14-E-014) is a highly interactive course featuring virtual simulations of active shooter events, role-playing and scenario-based interactive assessments allowing users to immedi-



ately put knowledge into action. Because courthouses must be accessible and in centralized locations, they are vulnerable to acts of random violence. Courts must have proper court security procedures, technology, personnel, and architectural features, to not only protect the safety of the people and property within and around the courts, but also the integrity of the judicial process. While there is

no one solution to issues concerning court security, proper planning must involve collaboration with law enforcement offices, emergency agencies, and governing bodies. This course provides the learner with many new skills including: how to respond to an active shooter; best practices in court security; judicial threat management; and body language as a communication tool. The course is available for free, with unlimited access, through the National Center for State Courts/Institute for Court Management.

## NCSC Announces 2014 State of State Courts Poll Results



The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) recently published the results from its comprehensive public opinion survey of 1,000 registered voters. The survey was conducted by telephone November 12 - 16, 2014.

Key findings of the survey include:

- Courts remain the most trusted branch of government;
- Court users express confidence in fairness of proceedings, but have doubts about customer service and job performance;
- There is a strong demand for greater availability of online services; and,
- The public worries that politics undermines the impartiality of the court system

A [summary of poll results](#) provided by the firm, GBA Strategies, and the [presentation](#) are available for viewing.

### E-SJI News Submissions

SJI is always accepting submissions from its grantees for the E-SJI News. Articles of 500 words or less from projects that are either: a) ongoing, with information to share; or, b) have recently completed and could be beneficial to a larger state court audience, are of greatest interest. SJI reserves the right to edit all submissions for any reason.

Submissions, including all article content in Microsoft Word, images or logos, and any links, should be sent to us electronically at [kathryn.tuck@sjj.gov](mailto:kathryn.tuck@sjj.gov) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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The State Justice Institute is a federally-funded, non-profit corporation established by federal law in 1984 to improve the quality of justice in the state courts.

