

OJJDP Gang Assessment Model Overview

Five Strategies of the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model

- **Community mobilization:** Involvement of local citizens, including former gang youth, community groups and agencies, and the coordination of programs and staff functions within and across agencies.
- **Opportunities provision:** The development of a variety of specific education, training, and employment programs targeted at gang-involved youth.
- **Social intervention:** Youth-serving agencies, schools, grassroots groups, faith-based organizations, police agencies, and other criminal justice organizations reaching out and acting as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and the conventional world and needed services.
- **Suppression:** Formal and informal social control procedures, including close supervision or monitoring of gang youth by agencies of the criminal justice system and by community-based agencies, schools, and grassroots groups.
- **Organizational change and development:** Development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address the gang problem.

The assessment process consists of three general steps:

1. Laying the groundwork: Assembling those individuals who will oversee the entire process and providing direction for data collection efforts
2. Collecting and interpreting the data: Collecting and interpreting data on a range of indicators in multiple domains
3. Preparing an assessment report: Preparing findings and the final report

Assessment Structure

- The Steering Committee will:
 - Provide overall leadership for the entire effort.
 - Create the Assessment Work Group and oversee its work.
 - Develop gang-related definitions.
 - Develop an assessment plan.
 - Publicize the effort.

The Assessment Work Group will:

- Design a data-collection plan.
- Conduct the assessment.
- Provide periodic briefings to the Steering Committee on preliminary findings from the data.
- Prepare a final report for the Steering Committee.

The Research Partner, as part of the Assessment Work Group, will:

- Assist the Assessment Work Group in all phases of data collection.

- Assist the Assessment Work Group in analysis and interpretation of data.
- Assist the Assessment Work Group in preparation of the data as a final report.

During the assessment, the Project Director will:

- Manage the day-to-day administration of the project.
- Maintain appropriate records.
- Arrange Steering Committee meetings; prepare appropriate minutes for each meeting and other required/requested reports.
- Coordinate and monitor all data collection by the Assessment Work Group.
- Serve as liaison among the Steering Committee, Assessment Work Group, and Research Partner, updating personnel on progress and challenges and arranging joint meetings as necessary.

Assessment Components

In summary, the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model espouses an approach that includes several essential elements:

1. The gang project is overseen by a steering committee of policy or decision makers from agencies and organizations that have an interest in or responsibility for addressing the community's gang problem. These representatives should not only set policy and oversee the overall direction of the gang project, but they should take responsibility for spearheading efforts in their own organizations to remove barriers to services, and to social and economic opportunities; develop effective criminal justice, school, and social agency procedures; and promote policies that will further the goals of the gang strategy. The steering committee will also provide general direction to the agencies collaborating in conducting a gang problem assessment.
2. Initial and continuous problem assessment using qualitative and quantitative data. Those with responsibility for addressing the problem—representatives of police agencies, schools, probation, youth agencies, grassroots organizations, government, and others—participate in identifying the gang problem's nature and causes. The assessment results in an understanding of who is involved in gang crime and where in the community it is concentrated. This, in conjunction with other data and information, enables targeting of a community/neighborhood where gang crime most often occurs and the target populations.
3. Once the problem is described, an implementation plan is developed for coordinating efforts of and sharing appropriate information among those who work with gang youth on a daily basis. Goals and objectives based on the assessment findings should be developed for each of the five core strategies. Rationales for services, tactics, and policies and procedures that involve each of the key agencies should be articulated and then implemented for each of the five strategies. These activities must be closely coordinated and integrated to ensure that the work of collaborating agencies is complementary.
4. An intervention team is a primary component of the Model. The goal of the intervention team is to share information that presents opportunities for all members of the team to engage gang youth and work together to determine appropriate services for the youth. Agencies represented on the team should include police, juvenile and adult probation, street outreach staff, school personnel, social service agency staff, job/employment development representatives, and

others who may provide intervention services to youth.

5. Community capacity building for sustainability should be considered and built into the implementation plan at the start of the project. Capacity-building for both short- and long-term issues should be considered, including support from the business community and federal and state funds to develop anti-gang strategies.
6. Ongoing data collection and analysis to inform the process and evaluate its impact. Data about the progress of the project also helps leverage funds and resources and identifies needed changes in the implementation plan.

