



The Peace Alliance



STUDENT PEACE ALLIANCE

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Youth PROMISE Act (H.R. 1064/S. 435)

“Youth Prison Reduction Through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education Act”

Introduced by Rep. Robert “Bobby” Scott (D-VA) and Rep. Michael Castle (R-DE)
Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA) and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)

This Legislation would implement and fund evidence-based or promising programs for juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention.

KEY ELEMENTS:

- 1) Local Oversight and Control of Money- 85% of entire budget is to be spent on programs.
- 2) Must be driven by metric success: proven intervention and prevention of programs set funding.
- 3) Local Leadership will make the decisions
- 4) Custom tailored plan for each community.

PROMISE Advisory Panel: Organization of state advisory group representatives that aid the selection of grantees and will develop standards of evaluation for Intervention/prevention programs. The Advisory Panel will collect data for designated geographic areas to assess needs and existing resources for prevention/intervention.

PROMISE Coordinating Councils (PCC): Community based council which includes representatives from community and faith-based organizations, schools and education community, health and mental health providers, social services, the judiciary, the defense bar and law enforcement to address the strengths and needs of the local community and develop a comprehensive plan for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies.

PROMISE Plan: Using established research and proven intervention/prevention programming, along with promising possibilities, PCCs will develop a custom-tailored PROMISE plan for their community that will be evaluated for performance standards by the Advisory Panel.

National Research Center: Established for Proven Juvenile Justice practices which will be disseminated to PCC's while also working to increase public knowledge about effective juvenile justice practices.

PROMISE Implementation Grants: The Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is authorized to award grants to units of local government to assist PCC's in with planning, assessing and implementing PROMISE Plans.

Area's of Support: A PROMISE Plan may include evidence-based or promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention in the following categories:

1. **Youth and adolescent development services**, including job training and apprenticeship programs, job placement and retention training, education and after school programs (such as school programs with shared governance by students, teachers, and parents, and activities for youth between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 in the afternoon), **mentoring programs, conflict resolution skills training**, sports, arts, **life skills**, employment and recreation programs, summer jobs, and summer recreation programs, and alternative school resources for youth who have dropped out of school or demonstrate chronic truancy.
2. **Early childhood development services** (such as pre-natal and neo-natal health services), early childhood prevention, voluntary home visiting programs, nurse-family partnership programs, parenting and healthy relationship skills training, child abuse prevention programs, Early Head Start, and Head Start.
3. **Child protection and safety services** (such as foster care and adoption assistance programs), family stabilization programs, child welfare services, and family violence intervention programs.
4. **Health and mental health services**, including cognitive behavioral therapy, play therapy, and peer mentoring and counseling.
5. **Substance abuse counseling** and treatment services, including harm-reduction strategies.
6. **Emergency, transitional, and permanent housing assistance** (such as safe shelter and housing for runaway and homeless youth).
7. **Targeted gang prevention, intervention, and exit services** such as tattoo removal, successful models of anti-gang crime outreach programs (such as 'street worker' programs), and other criminal street gang truce or peacemaking activities.
8. **Training and education programs for pregnant teens** and teen parents.
9. **Alternatives to detention and confinement programs** (such as mandated participation in community service, restitution, counseling, and intensive individual and family therapeutic approaches). Could include **restorative justice** programs.
10. **Pre-release, post-release, and reentry services** to assist detained and incarcerated youth with transitioning back into and reentering the community.