



# Ohio Youth Assessment System Training

The Ohio Department of Youth Services is pleased to announce the creation of a new, Ohio-specific juvenile justice assessment system. This new system was initially born out of the RECLAIM study published in 2005. Based on the final report, it was clear that Ohio was in need of a risk/needs assessment that provided the juvenile justice system with a standardized process in evaluating the risk and criminogenic needs of the youth it served. Thus, ODYS commissioned the University of Cincinnati (UC) to research and develop an assessment process, and sought and received a \$300,000 grant from OJJDP to assist in funding the project. In order to develop the tools, UC worked collaboratively with ODYS, juvenile courts, community corrections facilities, and community programs through the development of a pilot team that supplied insight and support to the project.

Over 2,500 youth were interviewed. Follow-up data was collected and based on the results of these data the assessment tools were developed.

The training will address all five assessment tools:

**Diversion:** This tool is designed to assist juvenile courts to identify youth who can be safely diverted from further contact in the juvenile justice system. This tool can be completed from a file review or interview in a short period of time.

**Detention:** This instrument is geared for use with youth being considered for detention. It will allow for low-risk youth to be diverted from detention prior to a court hearing. This instrument is completed through a brief face-to-face interview.

**Disposition:** For those youth adjudicated by the court, this comprehensive tool will assess the risk of reoffending and identify important criminogenic needs as well as barriers to treatment. This tool covers eight domains, including criminal history, family, education/employment, mental health/personality, pro-social skill sets, substance abuse, peers, and antisocial attitudes.

**Residential:** This tool provides residential programs (greater than 90 days) the ability to accurately assess youth's level of risk and areas of criminogenic needs. Similar to the Disposition tool, the Residential tool includes seven domain areas.

**Reentry:** The Reentry tool provides programs an opportunity to reassess youth after being in a residential program for an extended period of time. The Reentry tool is based on the same domains as the Disposition and Residential tools but is scored based on the youth's progress in the program. The Reentry tool will be used in conjunction with post-program supervision to ensure successful transition to the community.

The Comprehensive Assessment Training is a two-day training. The training will be from 8:30am-5:00pm both days. All five tools will be available at the training.

Registration for the OYAS Training is online at [www.dys.ohio.gov](http://www.dys.ohio.gov). Click on Ohio Youth Assessment System Registration under the Featured Links Section. From there click on "To access the OYAS Registration page click here," select the training date/location, fill out the registration form in its entirety. You will receive a confirmation email. Please click on "OYAS Training Locations" for training location details.

If you have any questions please contact Hannah Thomas, in the Bureau of Parole at 614-466-7512 or [Hannah.Thomas@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:Hannah.Thomas@dys.ohio.gov).

The OYAS training is approved for 14.5 CEU's, no partial credit will be awarded.,

Participants must attend both, full days of training and pass a test in order to be certified to use the OYAS instruments.