

ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

The Alternative Accountability Program (AAP) was designed in 2014 as a two-fold program aimed at improving diversion policies and practices within the juvenile justice system as a Juvenile Diversion Certificate Program Capstone Project. The development of AAP is a direct result of a collaboration between the Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Public Schools, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice and the Northern Virginia Mediation Services.

- A law was changed in July 2016 to allow police reports to be shared for the purpose of juvenile diversion.
- Referrals can be made by any Fairfax County patrol officer or School Resource Officer but must meet the eligibility requirements for the program.
- Only first-time offenders are eligible for the program and offenses may include destruction of property, disorderly conduct or larceny
- A “Make it Right” contract is drafted with conditions and set deadlines to optimize the restorative justice aspect of the program and outline timeline for any community service and/or restitution.

In September, this multi-system collaboration was awarded Capstone of the Year by the Center for Juvenile Justice and Reform at the Georgetown University School of Public Policy for the efforts and success. The program reduced the use of formal processing and incarceration, improved public safety, avoided wasteful spending and limited the collateral consequences of youth who find themselves in the criminal justice system by using a data-driven approach to reduce racial and ethnic disparities at the point of system referral.

Alternative Accountability Program Statistics

Number of Youth Referred	298	Number of Youth Completing AAP (conference and agreement)	148
Number of Cases Referred	212		
Number of Conferences	112	Number of FCPD Referrals	108

Agreements produced through AAP include outcomes determined by the victim, youth, youth's parents, and community stakeholders including FCPD



The goals for AAP are:

- to reduce the number of youth who are court-involved and have criminal records;
 - to hold youth accountable for their actions without exposing them to risk factors associated with having a criminal record;
 - to create appropriate, incident-specific responses for each case;
 - to reduce recurrence of criminal acts by youth;
 - to provide support for victims to participate in identifying how their harm is addressed.
- www.nvms.us/fairfax-rj

Demographics of referrals

White	171
Hispanic	19
Black	82
Asian	15
Multi-race	3
Other	2