

For the delinquent and potentially delinquent youth, we must offer a New Start. We must insure that the special resources and skills essential for their treatment and rehabilitation are available. Because many of these young men and women live in broken families, burdened with financial and psychological problems, a successful rehabilitation program must include family counseling, vocational guidance, education and health services. It must strengthen the family and the schools. It must offer courts an alternative to placing young delinquents in penal institutions.

*I recommend the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act of 1967.*

This act would be administered by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It would provide—

*Ninety percent Federal matching grants to assist States and local communities to develop plans to improve their juvenile courts and correction systems.*

*Fifty percent Federal matching grants for the construction of short-term detention and treatment facilities for youthful offenders in or near their communities.*

*Flexible Federal matching grants to assist local communities to operate special diagnostic and treatment programs for juvenile delinquents and potential delinquents.*

*Federal support for research and experimental projects in juvenile delinquency.*

The problems of troubled youth do not yield to easy solution. They must be pursued on a broad front. Thus, States and communities must be encouraged to develop comprehensive strategies for coping with these problems.

The facilities they build should be modern and innovative, like the "halfway" houses already proven successful in practice. These facilities should provide a wide range of community-based treatment and rehabilitation services for youthful offenders.

New methods of rehabilitation—establishing new ties between the correctional institution, the job market, and the supporting services a delinquent youth needs when he returns to the community—should be tested.

Local agencies, public and private, should be assisted in providing special diagnostic and treatment services for youth with serious behavioral problems. Other Federal programs for medical care, education, and manpower training should be supplemented to provide the intensive services needed to assist delinquent and potentially delinquent youth to become productive citizens. These efforts must first be concentrated in poor neighborhoods where the risk of delinquency is highest.

These steps must be taken now. But at the same time we must continue and expand our research effort. We must learn why so many young people get into trouble and how best to help them avoid it. To do this, we will look to universities and individuals, State and local agencies, and other institutions capable of adding to our knowledge and improving our methods and practices in this vital area.