



Todos Juntos
ALL TOGETHER

Working together we influence the development of whole communities.

To whom it may concern:

As you and other elected officials consider ways to align government spending with emerging realities, I believe that I have some encouraging news, at least concerning continuation of funding of programs through the Oregon Education Investment Boards' Early Learning Council and Youth Development Council funding streams. Although I am executive director of a nonprofit organization called Todos Juntos that currently provides services to over 1,600 youth and families, I am today writing as representative of several groups of public and private agencies in rural communities of Clackamas County. Since I started Todos Juntos in 1994, the planning and implementation of our programs has been done through a system of care called PreventNet.

PreventNet is a proven model in which community-based organizations work with local schools to provide a base of delivery for preventions and interventions that target youth identified as high risk as well as academic enrichment, recreation and other after school programs open for all youth to participate. These standard school-based services are delivered at ten PreventNet sites, are provided at no cost to over 12,000 program participants—parents as well as youth—countywide, and are strategically placed to serve gang affected youth and those children at-risk of academic failure. The PreventNet model calls for local, school-based oversight committees to lead in convening Todos Juntos and other community-based service providers toward a collaborative plan and implementation of integrated programs. PreventNet services are provided to youth by building on their strengths and competencies, *and by incorporating the strengths and competencies* of Todos Juntos and our partners. The PreventNet model is based on research described in a comprehensive 2002 study of the Extended Service Schools Initiative, which supported the creation of 60 afterschool programs in 20 communities around the country. Students who participated in the ESS Initiative experienced positive change in four key areas: (1) staying out of trouble, (2) improving school attitudes and behavior, (3) strengthening social networks, and (4) learning new skills, seeing new possibilities, and improving self-confidence.

Todos Juntos has experienced these same outcomes in 80 percent of the youth who participate in our PreventNet programs for at least one school year. Our adoption of best practices in all of our programming is certainly a factor in these results, but the key to effectiveness—both in terms of cost and impact—is the employment of community coalitions, which foster broad support and collaborative partnerships that are crucial to the success and sustainability of our own efforts and the efforts of the organizations work with. These partnerships allow for critical information-sharing across disciplines, more effective problem solving, and the efficient use of community resources.

So, the good news is that the PreventNet model of integrated service-delivery has been used in Clackamas County for years...and that it produces results for youth at a fraction of the cost of programs that operate in "silos," without a built-in collaborative function. I know that I speak on behalf of the three nonprofit organizations (NW Family Services, Metropolitan Family Services, and Volunteers of America) and two county agencies (Departments of Behavioral Health, and Children, Youth & Families) who are our partners when I strongly urge that you continue to allocate funds for the resources and supports that benefit youth and their families across our county. [Many of our programs currently serve middle and elementary schools and can easily be modified to address any new legislation regarding early learning or high school graduation rates. Defunding these programs will not result in equivalent savings; it will in fact have the effect of adding extra costs to the county: A recent Clackamas County Juvenile Department report (*Chronic Offenders and Cost Avoidance Analysis within Clackamas County Juvenile Department*, April 2012) estimates that each crime committed by a juvenile in the county costs \$10,505, based on "a) an average cost to victims established by a national study; b) costs to the juvenile justice system including personnel, programs, utilities, training, supplies, etc.; c) costs to law enforcement including making arrests and processing of juvenile crimes; and d) prosecution, defense, and court costs. The conservative Clackamas County figure utilized in this report is **\$10,505 per crime.**"

My request is that we, the partners who support at-risk youth and families on their way to academic and social achievement, be allowed to continue in these important endeavors. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Johnston
Executive Director, Todos Juntos

Clackamas County PreventNet System

Intervention Model and Outcomes

PreventNet is modeled after the Extended–Service Schools Initiative, a promising practice endorsed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Components of the model include after-school activities, academic skills enhancement, community awareness and mobilization, conflict resolution and interpersonal skill development, leadership and positive youth development, and mentoring. While the model is designed to operate in school buildings, program funding is managed through a partnering organization. A national evaluation of the ESS methodology demonstrated positive outcomes for youth in four key areas: staying out of trouble, improving school attitudes and behavior, strengthening social networks, and improving self-efficacy and self-esteem.

PreventNet History

The Children, Youth & Families Division created the PreventNet System in 2001 as a community/school-based service system designed to improve outcomes for children and their families by creating a web of support among schools, non-profit agencies, community members, local businesses, and local government. This support includes evidence-based prevention and early intervention services provided in the school setting aimed at improving protective factors (building nurturing relationships with positive role models, improving attachment to school, building leadership and problem-solving skills, and participation in extra-curricular activities), and reducing risk behaviors (poor school performance, truancy, family management problems, alcohol and other drug use, poverty/homelessness, and negative peer association). ***Under the PreventNet model, services are provided both during school hours as well as after-school.***

PreventNet Sites

There are currently 10 PreventNet sites in Clackamas County, 9 of which are fully funded by the county through the Children, Youth & Families Division (CYF). The sites fully funded by CYF include 2 elementary school sites (Lot Whitcomb Elementary in Milwaukie and Sandy Grade School in Sandy), 6 middle school sites (Alder Creek MS in Milwaukie, Cedar Ridge MS in Sandy, Estacada Jr. High in Estacada, Gardiner MS in Oregon City, Kraxberger MS in Gladstone, Molalla River MS in Molalla), and 1 high school site (Rex Putnam HS in Milwaukie). CYF funds drug and alcohol prevention specialist services at a site in Canby that currently receives private funding. Each site is the result of collaboration between CYF, the school, and a local non-profit agency.

Populations Served

Under the current model, priority intensive services are planned for “core” youth, while “universal” youth receive basic services. At every PreventNet site, a Site Coordinator manages a caseload of 25 “core” youth (average daily population), who receive intensive services related to academic and behavioral issues based on a case management model as well as organizes academic skill building and enrichment activities and events for a minimum of 100 “universal” youth [See PreventNet Programming Structure – see table below].

At all middle and high school sites, a Prevention Specialist organizes drug and alcohol prevention services, curricula, and events for a minimum of 100 “universal” youth, and intensive case management to 15 “core” youth (average daily population) at high risk of drug/alcohol abuse [See PreventNet Programming Structure – see table below].

PreventNet Outcomes

During fiscal year 2011/2012, the PreventNet services were provided to a total of 247 “core” youth (averaging 27 children/youth at each site), with a success rate of 90% as measured by improvement on academic, behavioral, peer issues, etc. Prevention Specialists at the middle and high school sites served a total of 128 “core” youth (averaging 16 youth at each site), with an 89% success rate in terms of reduction of drug and alcohol risk factors and use.

Together, the 2 positions at the 10 sites served over 12,000 participants with “universal” services and activities (these are likely duplicated numbers, as youth participate in multiple activities and events at each site. Family members are also counted in this total, as they participate in many of the events).

PreventNet Budget

CYF currently allocates a total of **\$434,206** in State General Funds to contract for PreventNet services at 7 middle and 1 high school sites. Clackamas County provides another **\$100,000** to fund early learning services at 2 elementary school sites. The averaging funding per site is **\$55,500**.

PreventNet Programming Structure			
Clackamas County Children, Youth & Families Division System development and oversight, fidelity to ESS model			
Local Non-Profit Agencies: Metropolitan Family Services, Northwest Family Services, Todos Juntos Program management			
PreventNet Site Coordinator and Prevention Specialist			
CORE		UNIVERSAL	
PreventNet Services	Prevention Specialist Services	PreventNet Services	Prevention Specialist Services
25 ADP “Core” eligibility determined by having 1 or more academic, behavioral, socioeconomic, negative peer association risk factors One-on-one weekly (minimum) check-in with each youth to develop a case plan and set goals for improvement Referral to services and assistance related to academic and/or behavioral risk factors and needs and regular follow-up Participation in universal services and activities	15 ADP “Core” eligibility determined by having 1 or more drug/alcohol risk factors One-on-one weekly (minimum) check-in with each youth to develop a case plan and set goals for improvement Referral to services and assistance related to drug/alcohol risk factors and needs and regular follow-up Participation in universal services and activities	100 served (minimum) No assessment or eligibility necessary – attendance measured by sign in sheets or attendance Typical activities include: Tutoring, homework club, Lego Robotics, sports, art, recreation, family events, school assembly events, cooking classes, girl’s groups, boy’s groups, etc.	100 served (minimum) No assessment or eligibility necessary – attendance measured by sign in sheets or attendance Typical activities include: Family Day, Red Ribbon Week events, Prevention Awareness Day, Health Fairs, Awareness walks, anti-stigma campaigns, Above the Influence, PhotoVoice