



Department of Community Justice
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
Juvenile Services Division

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TO: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

From: Christina McMahan, Juvenile Services Division Director

RE: HB 5050

Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ) urges your support of the Governor's Recommended Budget for the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA). Multnomah County depends on the Gang Transition Services, East Multnomah Gang Enforcement Team, Basic, and Diversion funding that is passed through the OYA budget to provide critical services in its Juvenile Services Division, and to improve public safety in Multnomah County.

Gang Transition Services and East Multnomah Gang Enforcement Team Funding

Gang Transition Services (GTS) funds are dollars located in the Oregon Youth Authority budget that support programs and services implemented by Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Juvenile Services Division and the coordinated response of law enforcement through the East Multnomah Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET).

Multnomah County GTS is a juvenile criminal justice funding program focused on youth of color on probation, which utilizes a multi-pronged response to the problems of high-risk gang-involved youth. The goals of GTS funds are to reduce juvenile crime, keep youth connected to their communities and provide opportunities for reformation, while reducing the over-representation of minority youth from Multnomah County committed to OYA facilities. Partnership between DCJ and community-based organizations is a core GTS strategy. Nearly 50% of GTS funding goes to community-based organizations to provide culturally specific services aimed at meeting the needs of high-risk youth in their own communities.

GTS Services provided include:

- **Resource Intervention Services to Empower (RISE) Unit:** RISE provides probation supervision to high-risk, gang-involved offenders using strategies that are tailored to each youth's issues, strengths, needs, culture and environmental influences. RISE utilizes Functional Family Probation Services (FFPS), an evidence-based case management model that has proven results in reducing recidivism and promoting accountability among juvenile offenders.
- **Community Healing Initiative (CHI):** CHI is a family and community-centered collaboration designed to stop youth and gang violence in Multnomah County by addressing its root causes. This collaborative paradigm between the County's Department of Community Justice (DCJ), Department of County Human Services (DCHS), and community based providers is a joint system responsibility that entails shared financial resources and investments. CHI provides culturally specific services to medium and high risk African American and Latino youth and their families. Each family receives a comprehensive assessment and individualized family service plan. Services are tailored to meet a family's individual needs and integrated in a manner that reduces and prevents gang violence.
- **Shelter and Residential Placements:** Alternatives to detention in the form of short-term shelter and residential placements protect the public by safely supervising identified high risk youth in the community. Many of these youth are Latino and African American juvenile offenders. By placing these youth in culturally appropriate placements (short-term shelter care or treatment foster care), the disproportionate confinement of minority youth drops significantly.

- **Community Detention/Electronic Monitoring:** This program provides supervision and support to assure public safety and the youth's presence for court hearings while reserving the use of costly detention bed spaces for higher risk youth. This program also serves as an immediate sanction for youth who have gone to court and need additional support to assure probation compliance.

GTS-funded services in 2012 have produced successful outcomes for difficult to serve, high-risk gang-involved youth who are on juvenile probation. Of these youth, 81% were assessed to be at high or medium risk to re-offend. The following outcomes have been achieved:

- ✓ 73% of the young people served by GTS programs completed their programs.
- ✓ 89% of youth in GTS programs did not recidivate while in the program.
- ✓ 96% of youth served by GTS programs were not committed to OYA close custody while in the program.

GTS funds important law enforcement activities in East Multnomah County through the East Multnomah Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET)

The EMGET partnership reduces the impact of criminal street gangs on the citizens, schools, businesses and neighborhoods of the Cities of Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village and unincorporated areas of East Multnomah County. EMGET includes a partnership between the City of Gresham Police Department, The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, and other East County law enforcement agencies. EMGET accomplishes five major goals to reduce gang activity:

- ✓ Provides a high level of coordinated law enforcement;
- ✓ Locates and identifies individuals affiliated with criminal street gangs;
- ✓ Gathers and shares intelligence information related to criminal street gang activity;
- ✓ Investigates crimes associated with criminal street gangs;
- ✓ Provides an increased level of police presence in known or suspected ceremonial street gang affected areas.

EMGET activity in 2012 included:

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| • 6,678 Community Contacts | • 101 Cases Referred to the District Attorney |
| • 181 Felony Arrests | • 89 Misdemeanor Arrests |
| • 21 Weapons Seized | • 14 Public Presentations |
| • 86 New Gang Members Documented | • 1,196 Contacts with Suspected Gang Members/ Gang Associates |

Basic and Diversion Funding

The Juvenile Services Division utilizes Basic and Diversion funding to operate its Assessment & Treatment for Youth and Families Program (ATYF), the Female Probation Services Program, and its Residential Alcohol and Drug Program (RAD). All are important programs designed to prevent youth from further penetrating the juvenile or adult justice systems.

- **ATYF** provides community-based mental health and substance abuse assessments, as well as treatment services for approximately 140 youth and their families annually. Research shows that youth with untreated substance abuse issues are nearly ten more times likely to become chronic re-offenders. ATYF keeps at-risk youth from reoffending and penetrating deeper into the justice system by linking them to treatment services that change their delinquent thinking and behaviors.
- **The Female Probation Services Program** provides gender-specific case management and supervision services to approximately 50 young women annually.
- **RAD** is a secure residential treatment program for high risk probation youth with serious drug and alcohol abuse, chronic offending behaviors, and mental health issues. RAD is a "last chance" resource for youth who have been unsuccessful in community-based treatment and are facing commitment to a youth correctional facility.