



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

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OJDDA
609 W. 10th St
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POSITION:

The Oregon Juvenile Department Director's Association strongly opposes HB 4134 in its current form. The OJDDA received the -4 Amendments last evening and appreciates the willingness and efforts of the Speaker and Governor's Office to set forth a process for further conversations about Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Funding. While the OJDDA supports the forming of a work group we still have great concerns about the -4 amendments. This amendment still maintains the changes to the JCP statutes and funding formula, but just postpones them until July 2015. The OJDDA feels that any changes made to these statutes should happen after the workgroup does its work and makes recommendations. As the leader in Juvenile Justice, OJDDA would also like to have further conversations about the workgroup, its membership and scope of work.

BACKGROUND:

Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funding was established in 1998 with two purposes and aspirations: 1) preventing youth at imminent risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system from engaging in delinquency and delinquent youth from continuing to offend and 2) improving the resiliency factors of these youth. Communities were directed to create a collaborative process that collectively engaged community organizations, educational professionals and both public and private agencies to create a unified plan that addressed prevention and intervention services for at-risk youth. Funding was equitably distributed to all counties and tribes based on youth population and minimum grants. The Prevention funding was part of an overall public safety strategy which included Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic and Diversion funding to Counties to support youth safely in the community and reduce commitments to Youth Correctional Facilities.

OUTCOMES:

From the beginning, performance measures and outcomes were developed. Outcomes consistently demonstrate that community aspirations and funding purposes have been achieved and programs are highly effective. Outcomes include:

- 61% (2,562) of youth had no prior criminal referral (prior 12 months) of this group 93% had no criminal referral 12 months after the start of service.
- 39% (1,638) of youth had a least one criminal referral (prior 12 months) of this group 74% had no criminal referral 12 months after the start of service.
- 49% decrease in risk factors for all JCP youth
- 59% decrease in school dropout
- 43% decrease in chronic truancy
- 72% reduction in aggressive behavior at school
- 41% decrease in academic failure
- 83% of youth had no criminal referral 12 months after JCP services.

(JCP Program 2011-13 Evaluation Report conducted by NPC Research December 2013)

JCP funding has leveraged dollars throughout Oregon communities and schools.

Because community organizations collectively identified priorities and strategies, they collaboratively distributed all community funding to address the needs of youth and families along the continuum and minimize gaps in services. From this infrastructure, organizations came together to further enhance services by identifying and leveraging other funding from non-profit agencies, community foundations, educational programs and state and federal grants. It is a collectively made quilt of services that wraps around the entire community.

- Significant funding is leveraged statewide with JCP funds to address local community priorities for at risk youth.

JCP has produced highly effective outcomes

- Between 1998 and 2011 juvenile criminal referrals declined by 49.7%
- The recidivism rate (frequency of re-offense) steadily declined from 36.9% in 1998 to 28.1% in 2010
- At risk youth were diverted from the juvenile justice system, improved their connections and success in school and received appropriate treatment and support
- Validated, reliable assessments occur for all JCP youth served, identifying academic risk and protective factors, which have allowed targeted approaches to improve educational outcomes, in the areas of academic performance, attendance and increased graduation rates.

Investing in youth at risk of imminent involvement with the juvenile justice system through JCP funding is a proven and sound investment and good public policy.

- Yields fewer victims
- Prevents at risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system.
- Improves educational outcomes (school engagement, success).
- JCP funding supports local services and adds capacity to treat at risk youth in the community.
- Current process supports a data driven, outcome based, service delivery system, producing positive results.

OJDDA supports the recommendations produced for the YDC by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee in February, 2013. Most importantly, we recommend the following:

- Support the existing collaborative community process.
- Support existing community partnerships that leverage JCP funding.
- Sustain the comprehensive local strategies that are producing positive outcomes (83% of youth receiving JCP services had no referral within the following 12 months).
- Sustain equitable funding allocations for Counties and tribes (the current funding model guarantees every one of Oregon's 36 counties will have some crime prevention funding available because of the minimum grant).

OJDDA is requesting and welcomes conversation about Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funding. We believe before decisions are made to change any of the funding structure there must be a clear understanding of what JCP funds support. We cannot support any legislation which changes the funding formula or JCP statutes without this conversation first taking place. We are asking that you support JCP funding in our local communities as an integral part of the juvenile justice and public safety continuum.

Thank you for your time and attention and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Torri Lynn
OJDDA President Elect