

HB 2031 – Juvenile Justice Pilot Project *Customized In-Home Treatment Interventions For Justice-Involved Youth*

What is HB 2031?

House Bill 2031 creates a juvenile justice demonstration project that brings intensive in-home services to Marion and Multnomah Counties. The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) will manage the provider contract and conduct an evaluation with an eye to replicating the project statewide. The legislation's focus is on strengthening families, treating mental health issues that often underlie criminal activity, preventing youth from entering custody, reducing disproportionate minority contact, and helping youth in out-of-home placements return home.



Whom does HB 2031 serve?

House Bill 2031's target population is juvenile offenders who have begun juvenile system involvement early, are struggling with mental health issues, and have accumulated more than three criminal referrals within a twelve month period. This population has complex needs that cannot be adequately addressed using existing resources. Intensive interventions will be provided to an estimated fifty-one at-risk juvenile offenders, ages 10-18, assessed as at medium or high risk of committing further delinquent acts and at risk of OYA placement in a residential setting or youth correctional facility.

What need does the project address?

There is a gap in the continuum of juvenile justice services that help troubled youth gain needed skills and characteristics to turn their lives around. At the community level, services range from counseling and skill building to detention. At the state level, youth are placed in secure custody and residential treatment. More services focused on the specific needs of minority youth are needed. Overall minority population, African American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian, rates are 28.3% for Multnomah and 32.5% for Marion ^(2013 Census). Youth of color account for 55% (1,812) and 46% (1,037) of all referrals to Multnomah and Marion County in 2013. In Multnomah County, African Americans are four times more likely to be referred to juvenile court than white youth, and nearly two times more likely to have cases resulting in placement in a secure juvenile correctional facility. Hispanics are 1.5 times more likely than white youth to be involved in a case requiring secure detention in both counties.

Why intensive in-home services?

A holistic, comprehensive, in-home service delivery model is designed to meet high-risk youth and family needs as an alternative to out-of-home placement. A structured, supervised, and supportive environment assists with behavioral stabilization, strengthens individual and family relationships, and uses evidence-based practices and strength-based approaches in dealing with the criminogenic needs of the youth. The services also facilitate youth remaining in the family, addressing culturally-specific needs.

How do we know these types of services are effective?

Models such as *Intercept*, conducted by Youth Villages of Oregon, have demonstrated a high success rate with troubled youth. Of 14,257 youth across the nation engaged in *Intercept* services, 86% were living at home or independently; 89% were in school, had graduated or earned a GED; and 84% had no further involvement with the law. Intensive in-home services divert youth from more expensive OYA custody and change home dynamics. Often when youth are sent to residential programs, they return to the same situation at home which unravels most, if not all, gains made in treatment.

What outcomes will we be measuring?

Successful interventions could have effects across a number of programs and jurisdictions, providing an opportunity to measure outcomes in those areas. Following are potential outcomes for this demonstration project:

1. Reduction in youth committed to OYA.
2. Reduction in new crimes committed by participating youth.
3. Reduction in crimes committed by siblings of participating youth.
4. Reduction in use of the Marion and Multnomah Counties juvenile detention facilities.
5. Reduction in new crimes committed by participants when they are adults.
6. Reduction in out-of-home placements.
7. Increase in youth educational attainment.
8. Living with family or independently at follow up.

What is the fiscal impact?

Estimated startup costs for 51 youth are \$998,700 for 18 months of the 2015-17 biennium. The provider contract is estimated at \$867,000 (\$17,000 per family based on average daily population). OYA evaluation costs (300 hours) are estimated at \$45,000 and program administration costs for the two counties are estimated at 10% of the contract cost. The estimated **value for 51 youth to avoid OYA commitment** is as much as **\$4.9 million**. This figure does not include the additional societal costs from recidivism, lost future earnings, special education, and social services [Sticker Shock: Calculating the Full Price Tag for Youth Incarceration](#) (December 2014).

How will the program be sustained in the future?

House Bill 2031 will help jumpstart the demonstration project during the 2015-17 biennium. Both counties have entered into agreements with the Oregon Department of Human Services to draw down federal Title IV-E funds designed to divert youth from out-of-home placements and are just starting to receive revenues. While IV-E alone will not support the demonstration project, it has the potential to partially sustain the project over time. The counties will also seek funds from philanthropic and other organizations that support youth development.

Who supports HB 2031?

HB 2031 has a growing list of supporters: Rep. Jodi Hack (chief sponsor), Marion County Board of Commissioners and Public Safety Coordinating Council, Multnomah County, and the Association of Oregon Counties. Because of its role as the contracting agency, the Oregon Youth Authority remains neutral on the bill. As noted above, OYA is a full partner in this demonstration project, will manage the provider contract and will conduct an evaluation with an eye to replicating the project statewide.

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