



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

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Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding is Critical for Maintaining a Continuum of Services at the Local Level

Issue Brief on Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding

The Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funding is allocated to Oregon's 36 Counties and Tribes through a population-based and minimum grant funding formula. State and local funding dedicated to address juvenile crime since the implementation of JCP funding in 1998 have produced significant outcomes not only in the reduction of juvenile crime, but also in the reduction of chronic juvenile offenders.

Statement of the Current Situation

In the 2017-2019 Governor's Balanced Budget, the JCP Funding is proposed to receive a 17% or more than \$1 million in reductions.

The Impact of JCP Basic Funding on Local Juvenile Department Services

The Oregon Revised Statutes state that the juvenile justice "system shall provide a continuum of services that emphasize prevention of further criminal activity by the use of early and certain sanctions, reformation and rehabilitation programs and swift and decisive intervention in delinquent behavior" (see ORS 419C.001(1)). Beyond a statutory mandate, there is value in keeping youth connected to their communities of origin, and a balanced continuum of services to address all levels of delinquency is critical. Reduction in the JCP Funds would have a negative impact on the ability of communities to maintain a continuum of services at the local level.

The proposed reduction of JCP funding is concerning for the juvenile justice system as a whole, and would have a negative impact on communities ability to manage higher risk youth locally. Counties have utilized JCP funding to make substantial investments in the array of services that are offered that include teen courts, truancy programs, community diversion panels, emergency shelter care, mentoring, school counselor and runaway youth. Reduction of the JCP funding will significantly destabilize the locally developed continuum of care.

The Juvenile Crime Plan (JCP) Prevention funds have demonstrated positive outcomes. In the last evaluation summary that was completed in 2013-2015:

- A total of 3,387 youth received services and 56% of these youth were medium to high risk
- 55% of youth showed a decrease in risk factors (Antisocial behavior, poor family functioning or support, school failure, substance abuse, and negative peer association)
- 68% of youth did not drop out of school
- 51% decrease in chronic truancy
- 43% decrease in academic failure
- 37% of youth had no criminal referral in 12 months prior to participating in services
- 63% of youth with at least one prior criminal referrals had no additional criminal referral in the 12 months after start of services
- 75% of youth did not have a criminal referral in the 12 months after services

Investing in the juvenile justice system through JCP funding is good business and good public policy.

- Yields fewer victims
- Is an efficient use of resource
- Prevents at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system
- Transforms high-risk youth into productive citizens
- JCP funding supports local services and adds capacity to treat at-risk youth in the community

OJDDA Respectfully Requests the Oregon Legislature Support the full funding of the Juvenile Crime Prevention funding of local programs that are producing positive outcomes.

For Further Information Contact: Please contact Lara Smith at 503-804-9750