

# Oregon Youth Authority

	2013-15 Actual	2015-17 Legislatively Approved*	2017-19 Current Service Level	2017-19 Governor's Budget
General Fund	267,119,142	298,621,615	329,961,808	314,297,631
Other Funds	12,165,807	63,399,605	14,321,252	63,982,253
Federal Funds	27,977,990	36,324,177	49,935,912	37,440,646
Federal Funds (Nonlimited)	-	1	-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$307,262,939</b>	<b>\$398,345,398</b>	<b>\$394,218,972</b>	<b>\$415,720,530</b>
Positions	1,018	1,022	1,016	1,041
FTE	985.67	985.88	984.88	967.93

\* Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2016.

## Program Description

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) serves youth offenders ages 12-24 who have committed crimes prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The agency exercises legal and physical custody of youth offenders committed to OYA by juvenile courts, and exercises physical custody of youth offenders committed to the Oregon Department of Corrections by adult courts and placed with OYA. During 2015-17, the average number of youth under supervision at any given time was 1,500, with approximately 900 youth in community placements and the remainder in close custody. Fourteen percent of youth served by OYA are young women. The agency also provides direct assistance to Oregon counties through juvenile crime prevention, diversion, and gang intervention programs.

## CSL Summary and Issues

Current service level for this agency represents an 11% General Fund increase and 1% all funds decrease from the 2015-17 legislatively approved budget. Adjustments were made for changes in Behavioral Rehabilitation Services rates, for mandated caseload increases in the Community Services programs, and for debt service. The overall current service level decrease reflects capital construction funding phased out for purposes of calculating the base budget; when this is added back, the overall agency budget increase is 11.6%.

## Policy Issues

OYA continues to prioritize its implementation of the Youth Reformation System, its development of a culture of positive human development (shifting from an organizational culture rooted in corrections to one taking a developmental approach to youth reformation), and its ten-year strategic plan for facilities, which includes the closure of Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility at the end of the current

biennium. The agency has been funding some elements of Youth Reformation implementation, a pilot Young Women’s Transition Program, and various other agency initiatives with budgetary savings generated from un- or under-used community-based treatment beds.

OYA shares a network of community-based organizations providing Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) with the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority. BRS services are funded by Medicaid and include counseling, behavioral intervention, and skills training provided in residential treatment centers and/or in therapeutic family foster care settings. This service system has come under increasing stress from both reduced state funding and from the increasing acuity of youth referred for treatment. A recent settlement agreement and resulting comprehensive program review led to service rate increases in the current biennium and proposed for 2017-19, although service providers are still struggling at present from funding shortfalls. Consequently, OYA has had difficulty locating appropriate treatment services for youth in its custody, and in the current biennium is underusing its budgeted community treatment beds by about 39% as of August, 2016, with estimated budget underspending for behavioral rehabilitation services of about \$16 million General Fund.

#### Other Significant Issues and Current Discussions

A budget note in 2013 directed OYA to evaluate and recommend changes to its portfolio of close custody facilities to reflect both declining youth crime rates and associated close custody facility usage, and the agency’s adoption of the Youth Reformation system. The agency developed a 10-Year Strategic Plan for facilities in 2014, and received \$50.7M of bond funding in 2015-17 to begin work on ten projects, including significant construction and remodeling work at the MacLaren facility in anticipation of the closure of Hillcrest by June, 2017. OYA is proposing a \$67.6M bond-funded package in 2017-19 that would continue the work at MacLaren and the effort to expand and install new security technology systems in all OYA facilities, and would address deferred maintenance needs system-wide through 2019.

OYA’s bond proposal comprises about two-thirds of its total 2017-19 Policy Option Package request. General Fund requests totaling \$37 million include continuing the Young Women’s transition program (\$2.5M, and recommended in a February, 2016 Secretary of State audit report), adding 50 discretionary close custody beds (\$7.3M), increasing BRS rates for those rate elements not included in CSL (\$3.3M), and a technology package to fund various IT requirements throughout the agency (\$7.5M). The Governor’s Budget for OYA funds the Young Women’s Transition Project, updates Behavioral Rehabilitation Services rates, funds various positions that support the Youth Reformation System, and provides debt service for bond-funded projects. Reductions in the Governor’s budget include closure of the North Coast Youth Correctional Facility, reduced funding for community treatment beds from the current service level, and 15% less General Fund support to counties for diversion and juvenile crime prevention programs.

#### Audit Findings, Budget Notes, and Budgetary Actions

There was one Secretary of State audit published in February, 2016; and one budget note applicable to the 2015-17 budget. The audit, *“Oregon Youth Authority: Female Youth Offenders Need More Transition Options”* recommended that the agency:

- Seek ongoing funding to operate the Young Women’s Transition Program beyond the pilot period and ensure adequate community services for female youth;

- Consider creating a regular, standalone report to identify and address disparities between transition programming for male and female youth;
- Work with county juvenile departments to delineate what program information should be captured in JJIS and help ensure that program information is entered consistently; and
- Work with county juvenile departments to further identify and resolve existing barriers and restrictions to program data entry and collaborate on finding ways to improve program reporting.

A budget note included in the budget report for SB 5542 (2015) directed the agency to report before February, 2016 on the progress of its Isolation and Reintegration Project. The agency produced the report in December, 2015; it included information on:

- when and how youth may be placed in isolation;
- how OYA will ensure due process rights are met;
- an effective reintegration program/process after isolation;
- resources to support a reintegration program/process so that it is implemented and sustained as designed; and
- related OYA policies and administrative rules.