



## **Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association**

*Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments*

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# **County Juvenile Department Basic and Diversion Funding Must Be Preserved in the Oregon Youth Authority Budget**

## **Background**

County juvenile departments are public safety agencies that work in collaboration and partnership to enhance offender accountability, uphold and promote crime victims' rights, and to improve the effectiveness of delinquency interventions so that our communities are safe. We are responsible for managing 90% of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. These juveniles are committing serious crimes similar to those seen in adult corrections (sex offenses, assaults, robberies and burglaries.) For 18 years, the State has directed funds through OYA to County Juvenile Departments to work with these high risk offenders in the community, with the goal of reducing crime and preventing high risk youth from moving into state correctional facilities. This strategy has been highly effective and is now being duplicated through justice reinvestment efforts in the adult correctional system. It is critical that county juvenile department resources be maintained to the highest extent possible so that there are fewer victims, so that high risk youth receive treatment, and so the public is kept safe from dangerous juvenile offenders that will reoffend without treatment and require secure confinement.

## **County Juvenile Departments Have Had a Significant Impact on Juvenile Crime**

There were over 12,600 youth referred for delinquency in Oregon in the 2016 calendar year. Of those youth, about 90% were managed by county juvenile departments. The county juvenile departments are committed to the utilization of research proven principles to have the greatest impact on juvenile offending and to be the best stewards of the public dollars. Our results show our success:

- Juvenile crime has reduced by 50% since 2010
- Overall 12 month recidivism has decreased by 6% since 2008
- Chronic offending (the population that commits the most crime) has reduced by 4% since 2008
- There has been a steady decline in delinquency and juvenile recidivism over the past 15 years
- Even though the youth population continues to increase, crime rates are NOT going up

## **Loss of Funds will Deplete Important Local Public Safety Services**

County Juvenile Departments develop local plans within their community based on the community resources to utilize funds in the most effective way, maintaining a continuum of public safety, treatment and victim restoration services. These include:

- Detention
- Out of home placement
- Substance abuse treatment
- Sex offender treatment
- Cognitive behavioral interventions
- Mental health and trauma-informed treatment
- Community service and restitution payment programs
- Gender and culturally specific programming

The proposed reduction of funding for county services creates a disproportionate impact at the county level and significantly compromises public safety. The impact will result in:

- A decreased capacity to be effective with youth in the community and inability to prevent them from moving into the Oregon Youth Authority system
- Fewer justice involved youth graduating from high school
- Fewer youth with sexual offenses receiving effective community based treatment
- Fewer opportunities for youth to earn restitution for victims
- Fewer opportunities for youth to engage in community service and rebuilding activities
- Fewer youth receiving effective cognitive behavioral interventions which teach positive social skills
- Fewer trauma-impacted youth receiving appropriate support
- Fewer youth with mental health issues getting the support they need

At this point in history, our state and local systems are smarter, more effective and are working collaboratively to reduce crime with a balanced and effective system. OYA and County Juvenile Departments together use validated instruments to determine the best level of treatment to obtain the greatest impact with each youth and on juvenile crime. We are working with youth and families who have very complicated challenges and traumas that require a wrap-around service network. With the appropriate support and services, we can effectively address childhood trauma and delinquent behaviors at the local level. A reduction in these funds to counties will create an imbalance in our public safety response that will decrease our overall effectiveness and put more pressure on the Oregon Youth Authority services that are also facing reductions. Loss of these resources will likely result in more delinquent acts, more victims and more youth committed to the Oregon Youth Authority system.

### **OJDDA's Request**

Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association respectfully requests that the proposed cuts to County Juvenile Department funding streams not be implemented. These funds have supported highly effective interventions and reductions will have a profound and negative impact on the safety of communities throughout Oregon.

### **For Further Information Contact:**

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