Criminal Justice Commission

	2015-17 Actual	2017-19 Legislatively Adopted	2017-19 Legislatively Approved *	2019-21 Current Service Level	2019-21 Governor's Budget
General Fund	54,221,723	64,926,239	65,021,569	67,538,012	72,371,040
Other Funds	695,077	511,392	2,661,890	4,052,440	4,052,011
Federal Funds	4,209,944	7,170,201	8,224,498	1,211,518	1,211,441
Total Funds	59,126,744	72,607,832	75,907,957	72,801,970	77,634,492
Positions	11	14	17	15	20
FTE	11.00	13.50	14.54	14.13	20.00

^{*} Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2018.

Program Description

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) administers Oregon's felony sentencing guidelines, analyzes crime trends and sentencing policy data, estimates the fiscal and racial/ethnic impact of statewide public safety legislation and initiatives, administers several competitive grant programs, staffs the Asset Forfeiture Oversight Committee and Public Safety Task Force, and guides the implementation of Oregon's Justice Reinvestment Initiative. The agency is overseen by a nine-member body created by the 1995 Legislature to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of state and local criminal justice systems by serving as a centralized and impartial forum for statewide public safety policy development, planning and agency coordination.

CSL Summary and Issues

None for this agency. The General Fund current service level is 3.9% over the 2017-19 legislatively approved budget. An anticipated reduction in federal funds reduces the all-funds current service level to 3.8% below 2017-19. *See below*.

Policy Issues

Though it is a very small agency (fifteen positions), the CJC is increasingly relied upon to implement and administer various justice reform-related grant programs. Over the past three biennia, and in addition to the Specialty Court grant program, the CJC has added the Justice Reinvestment Grant program (HB 3194, 2013), the Justice Reinvestment Supplemental Grant program (HB 3078, 2017), and the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program (SB 1544, 2018). The legislature has added reporting and analysis programs as well: SB 1041 (2017) directed the agency to study the expenditure of public money on alcohol and drug treatment programs; and HB 2355 (2017) created the Statistical Transparency of Policing (STOP) program and required the CJC to manage and analyze the data gathered during traffic and pedestrian stops. SB 1041 sunsets after the CJC's report on September 15, 2019; the STOP Program is anticipated to be ongoing, and the agency has included a policy option package for its operations in the 2019-21 budget request.

Other Significant Issues and Background

In addition to its recently-added grant and research programs, the CJC is in the midst of two information technology projects that are comparatively small, but which are nevertheless challenging to the agency. Ownership of the contract for a new specialty court case management system has been transferred to the Oregon Judicial Department to accommodate that agency's concerns about ownership of court records, but the CJC is financially responsible for the system and its implementation. In October 2018 the Statistical Transparency of Policing (STOP) Program data-collection system was transferred from the Oregon State Police to the CJC, which is now responsible for rolling out the new system to law enforcement agencies in Oregon with fewer than 100 officers, per HB 2355 (2017). While this system is functional as-is, and has been in use by large law enforcement agencies since July 1, improvements have been identified that will improve the functionality of the system for its users, and the CJC will work with the vendor to implement those improvements.

The CJC has included a significant reduction in federal funds in its 2019-21 requested budget, and has requested a corresponding policy option package for \$4.9 million General Fund to backfill the Specialty Courts grant program. Though the CJC is the State Administering Agency for federal Bureau of Justice Assistance grants - including the Byrne Justice Assistance grant and the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act grant - funding from these grant programs has become uncertain in the current federal administration and has not been assumed in the 2019-21 budget. The agency requested a third policy option package of \$3.1 million in pass-through funding to Sponsors, Inc. for the Lane County Housing Initiative.

The Governor's budget for the Criminal Justice Commission is 6.6% more than current service level; the General Fund budget is 7.2% more, and includes \$3.9M of reductions and \$8.7M of increases. Reductions include:

- \$133,364 to increase the vacancy factor and remove inflation on services and supplies.
- \$35,713 to eliminate the remainder of the funding provided in SB 1041 (2017) to evaluate state spending on alcohol and drug treatment services
- \$3.7M from the Justice Reinvestment Initiative program. This action would reduce JRI grants to local governments.

Increases/new spending include:

- \$3.0M and six positions (5.87 FTE) for a new Oregon Domestic Violence Commission. The Governor's proposal for this commission is not well defined and may require legislation to establish.
- \$841,046 for contract expenses of the STOP program data collection system.
- \$4.9 million to backfill a loss of federal funding for the Specialty Courts program.