



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

- Joe Ferguson, President
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OJDDA Supports Maintaining the Governor's Recommended Budget for Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding within the Youth Development Division.

Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funding was established in 1995 with two purposes and aspirations: 1) preventing youth at imminent risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system from engaging in delinquency and delinquent youth from continuing to offend and 2) improving the resiliency factors of these youth. Communities were directed to create a collaborative process that collectively engaged community organizations, educational professionals and both public and private agencies to create a unified plan that addressed prevention and intervention services for at-risk youth. Funding was equitably distributed to all counties and tribes based on youth population and minimum grants. The Prevention funding was part of an overall public safety strategy which included Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic and Diversion funding to Counties to support youth safely in the community and reduce commitments to Youth Correctional Facilities.

From the beginning, performance measures and outcomes were developed. Outcomes consistently demonstrate that community aspirations and funding purposes have been achieved and programs are highly effective. Outcomes include:

- 810 youth included in the program evaluation
- 62% decrease in risk factors for all JCP youth
- 86% of youth with no criminal referral before JCP services did not have a criminal referral within 12 months of starting JCP services
- 63% of JCP youth with prior criminal referrals had no additional criminal referral in the 12 months after start of JCP services
- 79% reduction in aggressive behavior at school
- 80% of youth not enrolled in an educational program at the time of initial assessment were enrolled at the time of reassessment. (6 months)

(JCP Program 2015-17 NPC Research Evaluation Report)

Youth Development Council goals align with existing JCP strategies and practices.

JCP funding has been invested consistent with the Youth Development priorities of enhancing educational success through both direct educational supports and through addressing those barriers to learning and academic success external to the school and classroom setting. In addition, these positive interventions address risk factors associated with gang affiliation.

Service providers have engaged in a comprehensive community process, identifying local issues that will best serve at risk youth in their unique communities. These shared strategies include:

- Comprehensive community engagement creating strong partnerships
- Development of a common agenda through identification of local priorities to serve at risk youth
- Strong collaborations with educational programs to improve educational outcomes
- Racial inequities being addressed in the juvenile justice and education systems by collecting DMC data and developing strategies to address within the JCP programs, education and juvenile justice programs
- The process being led by a backbone organization facilitating ongoing communication, including Juvenile Departments leading the development, implementation and achievement of positive outcomes with JCP funding strategies
- Use of a validated assessment tool (JCP Assessment), data gathering, and juvenile justice information systems are intact in all counties

JCP funding has leveraged dollars throughout Oregon communities and schools.

Because community organizations collectively identified priorities and strategies, they collaboratively distributed all community funding to address the needs of youth and families along the continuum and minimize gaps in services. From this infrastructure, organizations came together to further enhance services by identifying and leveraging other funding from non-profit agencies, community foundations, educational programs and state and federal grants. It is a collectively made quilt of services that wraps around the entire community.

- Significant funding is leveraged statewide with JCP funds to address local community priorities for at risk youth.
- Washington County leverages JCP funds with Youth Investment Funds (YIF), school and city resources to provide middle and high school based counseling and mentoring services.
- Crook County leverages JCP and YIF, school resources and county general funds (GF) for family preservation case management and school based support groups and interventions.
- Linn County's Family Support Program provides Educational Service District Family Support Liaisons for comprehensive wraparound support to increase school success, improve family functioning and build youth skills leveraging federal grant funding, YIF, volunteer hours, donations and school funds.

- These are a few examples of the capacity building that has been enabled through the collective planning and cooperation that has occurred over the history of JCP funding.

Investing in youth at risk of imminent involvement with the juvenile justice system through JCP funding is a proven and sound investment and good public policy.

- Yields fewer victims
- Prevents at risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system
- Improves educational outcomes
- JCP funding supports local services and adds capacity to treat at risk youth in the community
- Current process supports a data driven, outcome based, service delivery system, producing positive results

OJDDA encourages legislators to support the Youth Development Division's budget to sustain the Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding as proposed in the Governor's Recommended Budget which is a small part of the larger budget of the Oregon Department of Education.

Sincerely,

Joe Ferguson
OJDDA President Elect

For Further Information Contact:

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