



**Oregon Juvenile Department Directors'
Association**
Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments
www.ojdda.org

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The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association Supports the Oregon Department of Education Being Fully Funded To Include Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding.

A small portion of ODE's budget supports Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funding. JCP funding was established in 1998 responding to the juvenile crime rate reaching an all-time high during the mid-1990's. During this time youth violence was highlighted locally and nationally in cases where youth committed serious predatory person to person felony crimes. Then, Governor John Kitzhaber signed Executive Order EO 98-09, which created the High-Risk Juvenile Crime Prevention partnership. All 36 Oregon counties were directed to adopt High-Risk Juvenile Crime Prevention plans to follow risk factors, including antisocial behavior, school failure, poor family functioning or poor family support, substance abuse, negative peer association and antisocial attitudes, values or beliefs.

This Funding had 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 administered through the Oregon Youth Authority to support youth safely in the community and reduce commitments to Youth Correctional Facilities.

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

- This may be one of the most highly evaluated funding sources within the state funding structure with evaluations being performed by an outside entity every two years.

JCP Program 2017-19 Evaluation Report conducted by NPC Research July 2017 -June 2019

The most recent evaluation of JCP services by NPC Research for 2017-19 biennium was conducted on the sample of 599 youth in service reported by the 17 JCP counties entering assessment data into JJIS and Tribal programs that sent their assessment data directly to NPC Research. This number (599) includes 419 youth from 17 county JCP programs (assessments entered into JJIS) and 180 youth from the programs at the Tribes (from assessments mailed to NPC; 60% of the total youth from Tribes, n = 299). Overall, there were 5,168 youth served during this biennium (including 4,450 youth served in the community whose assessments were not entered into JJIS and 299 Tribal youth). Data below is from NPC's data evaluation taken from JJIS.

- 50% of youth had no prior criminal referral (prior 12 months) of this group 92% had no criminal referral 12 months after the start of service.
- 50% of youth had a least one criminal referral (prior 12 months) of this group. 52% had no criminal referral 12 months after the start of service.
- 57% decrease in risk factors for all JCP youth.
- 72% decrease in risk factors for youth assessed as High Risk.
- 45% decrease in school dropout.
- 48% increase is a significant school attachment.
- 73% reduction in aggressive behavior at school in past 30 days.
- 63% decrease in academic failure.
- 61% decrease in chronic school truancy.

JCP Prevention strategies and practices are part of the overall Juvenile Justice Continuum.

JCP funding has been invested consistent with the High Risk Juvenile Crime Prevention Plans as part of an overall strategy to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system and keep youth who are currently involved in the system from further penetrating the system. JCP Prevention dollars used to be administered through either the county juvenile departments or the Commission on Children and Families and is currently allocated through the Youth Development Council and administered through County Juvenile Departments. JCP funding represents approximately \$5.5 million (22%) of the nearly \$25 million dollar budget of the State's money used for the juvenile crime strategy. The other two funding streams are administered through the Oregon Youth Authority in the form of Basic Services and Diversion funding. Each funding category has criteria in which the funds must be administered along with stringent reporting requirements. The use of these funding streams has helped establish;

- Strong collaborations with educational programs to improve educational outcomes
- Address racial inequalities in the juvenile justice and education systems by collecting data and developing strategies to address within the JCP programs, education and juvenile justice programs.

- Use of the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS), arguably one of the best data systems for juvenile justice in the nation. All 36 counties and OYA using the same information system providing better communication and services for youth.
- Use of a validated assessment tool (JCP Assessment), consistent data gathering and case planning efforts. State implementation of Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), an evidence-based case management system.

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

JCP funding has helped produce highly effective outcomes

- The recidivism rate (frequency of re-offense) steadily declined from 36.9% in 1998 to 27.9% in 2020
- At risk youth were diverted from the juvenile justice system, improved their connections and success in school and received appropriate treatment and support
- Validated, reliable assessments occur for all JCP youth served, identifying academic risk and protective factors, which have allowed targeted approaches to improve educational outcomes, in the areas of academic performance, attendance and increased graduation rates.

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.
- 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.
- Clackamas County leverages JCP funding with one non-profit agency, Latino Network, to facilitate the community based Restoring Individuals, Communities and Hope (RICH) Diversion Program which is grounded in restorative justice practice and serves youth in their own community. Eleven cities contribute funding for these services. Diversion services prevent youth from entering the Juvenile Justice system. In calendar years 2019 (starting in October) and 2020, 549 youth were served with 92% successfully completing the program in those years. Youth receiving this service in 2019 had a 9.8% recidivism rate.
- 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.

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (JCPAC) made recommendations to the YDC about the JCP funding which included;

- Support the existing collaborative community process
- Support existing community partnerships that leverage JCP funding
- Sustain the comprehensive local strategies that are producing positive outcomes
- Sustain equitable funding allocations for Counties and tribes