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LEGISLATIVE POLICY
AND RESEARCH OFFICE

Oregon Specialty Court Programs: Costs and Funding Preliminary Survey Results

PREPARED FOR: Joint Task Force on Specialty Courts

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About the survey

The Legislative Policy and Research Office surveyed specialty courts to collect information about operating costs, funding sources, and experiences with support from the state for the 2023-25 fiscal year.

The survey included a separate personnel questionnaire to collect information about salaries/wages, time dedicated to courts, and court-related responsibilities directly from court team members.

The Task Force may use survey results to inform its recommendations to the legislature for supporting the long-term stability of specialty courts.

Survey data was collected between August 29 through September 18, 2024.



What will the preliminary results tell us?

Today's presentation is focused on high-level preliminary results.

1. The estimated total and average operating cost for specialty courts.
2. Average costs by budget category and primary cost factors.
3. The types of funding courts access, including where courts get the most and least amounts of funding.

A final report of results and findings will be shared with the Task Force in October and included in the Task Force report to the legislature.



What is included in “costs” and “funding”?

“Cost,” “budget,” and “funding” are inclusive of all the resources needed to operate a specialty court, regardless of who pays and the source of funding. These include:

- What the court pays for (e.g., payment for contractual services)
- In-kind contributions, including the provision of personnel (e.g., District Attorneys, court personnel)
- Designated items in partner agency and provider budgets (e.g., court coordinators, treatment services)



Which courts are included in the survey results?

75% of all active specialty courts completed the survey.

Court Type	Number of Active Courts	Number of Survey Responses	Survey Response Rate
All Courts	67	50	75%
Adult Drug	21	19	90%
DWI/DUI	2	1	50%
DWI/Drug Hybrid	2	2	100%
Family Treatment	12	9	75%
Juvenile Drug	4	4	100%
Mental Health	20	12	60%
Veterans Treatment	5	3	60%



What is the estimated average FY 2023-25 operating cost for specialty courts?

Court Type	Number of Courts	Total Estimated Cost all courts	Average Estimated Cost per court	Range of Estimated Costs per court
Adult Drug Court	19	\$ 22,896,876	\$ 1,205,099	\$ 126,755 - 5,071,642
DWI/DUI Court ¹	1	\$ 3,254,526	\$ 3,254,526	\$ 3,254,526
DWI/Drug Hybrid	2	\$ 652,513	\$ 326,257	\$ 303,928 – 348,585
Family Treatment Court	9	\$ 4,444,859	\$ 493,873	\$ 50,000 - 1,225,068
Juvenile Drug Court	4	\$ 2,383,709	\$ 595,927	\$ 200,267 - 1,228,400
Mental Health Court	12	\$ 4,908,772	\$ 409,064	\$ 66,270 - 1,088,213
Veterans Treatment Court	3	\$ 1,362,774	\$ 454,258	\$ 121,440 - 780,126
All Courts		\$ 39,904,029	\$ 798,080	

Source: LPRO Survey of Specialty Courts, September 2024.



What are the cost factors?

The budget categories used in the survey are the same categories used for the Specialty Court Grant program applications plus three additional categories. They are:

Administrative Costs	Contractual Services	Equipment	Housing
Personnel	Supplies	Training	
Testing	Treatment (non-billable)*	Other (uncategorized)	

← Categories added for the survey

Non-billable Treatment was added to help the Task Force estimate the treatment costs that are not covered by participants' insurance.

Testing was added because it was common expense in Specialty Court Grant applications.

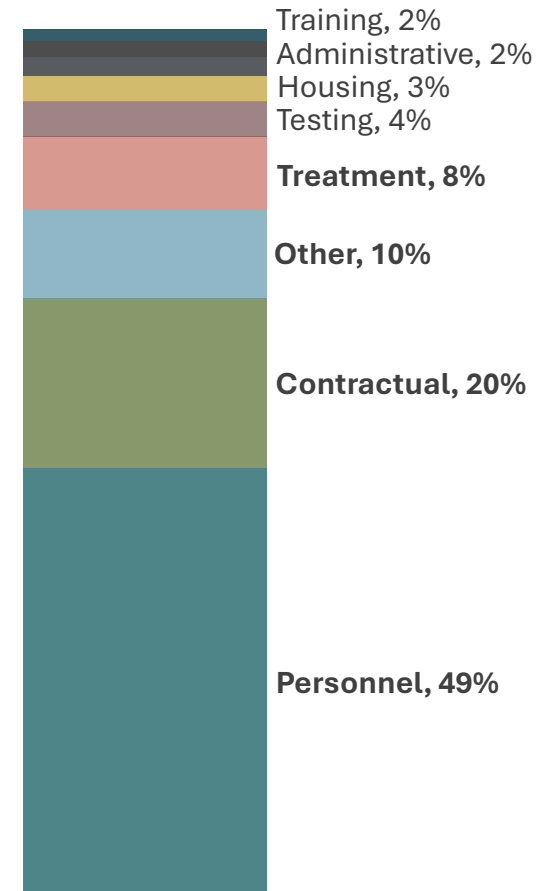


What are the primary cost factors in FY 2023-25?

Personnel account for half of specialty court budgets. They include court coordinators and judges, defense attorneys and prosecutors, court operations staff, probation officers, law enforcement, treatment providers, and other specialty court team members.

Treatment costs may be underreported as a category; some courts included them under contractual services.

Percent of Specialty Court Budgets by Category



Source: LPRO Survey of Specialty Courts, September 2024



What is the estimated FY 2023-25 average cost by budget category?

Budget Category	Number of Courts	Total Cost all courts	Average Cost per court
Administration	41	\$ 874,426	\$ 21,327
Contractual Services	33	\$ 7,795,465	\$ 236,226
Equipment	4	\$ 12,965	\$ 3,241
Housing	36	\$ 1,197,116	\$ 33,253
Personnel	45	\$ 19,701,540	\$ 437,812
Supplies	45	\$ 510,046	\$ 11,334
Testing	36	\$ 1,609,802	\$ 44,717
Training	46	\$ 735,395	\$ 15,987
Treatment (non-billable)	26	\$ 3,375,383	\$ 129,822
Other	26	\$ 4,091,894	\$ 157,381

Housing and testing are among the most common costs across courts, though they make up a smaller percentage of total costs.

Note: Not all courts reported expenses for each category, including personnel.

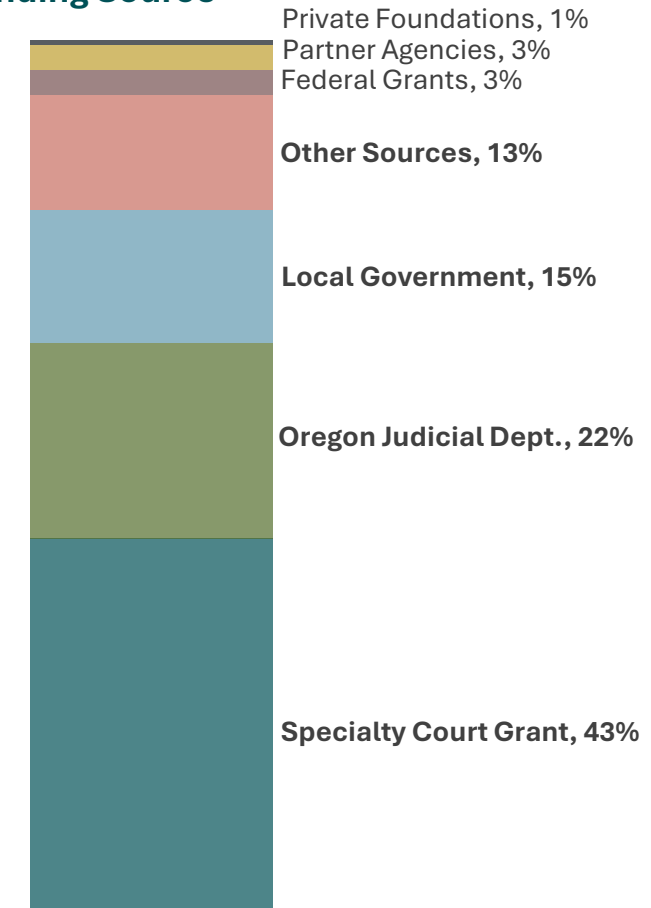
Source: LPRO Survey of Specialty Courts, September 2024



What are the primary sources of funding in FY 2023-25?

Two-thirds of all court funding comes from state resources via the Specialty Court Grant Program (CJC) and the Oregon Judicial Department.

Percent of Specialty Court Funds by Funding Source



Source: LPRO Survey of Specialty Courts, September 2024



What is the estimated average FY 2023-25 award/allocation by funding source?

Funding Category	Number of Courts	Total Awarded / Allocated all courts	Average Award / Allocation per court
Federal Grants	8	\$ 1,032,410	\$ 129,051
Local Government	10	\$ 5,506,258	\$ 550,626
Oregon Judicial Dept.	28	\$ 8,234,246	\$ 294,080
Partner Agencies	9	\$ 1,116,621	\$ 124,069
Private Foundations	9	\$ 215,301	\$ 23,922
Specialty Court Grant	45	\$ 15,852,760	\$ 352,284
Other Sources	18	\$ 4,765,247	\$ 264,736

The Specialty Court Grant program is the most common source of funding.

Local Government is a substantial funding source for the relative few courts that receive it.

Source: LPRO Survey of Specialty Courts, September 2024



Survey Limitations

Survey results are not an exact representation of operating costs and funding statewide; they are estimates based on available information.

- Some courts did not respond to the survey.
- Some survey respondents did not have complete access to their court's budget information.
- Courts might categorize and report their costs and funding differently.



Additional Forthcoming Analysis

Final survey results will be summarized in a report and shared with the Task Force in October. Additional analysis for the report may include:

- Personnel details, including average costs by personnel categories.
- Associations between costs and court capacity and/or participation.
- Associations between costs and geographic locale (e.g., urban, rural).
- Details from open-ended comments about costs and funding.
- Summary of feedback about state supports.



Questions and Discussion

