

## Youth Development Division responses to questions from the House Committee on Education, January 20, 2023

1. *The YDC is the State Advisory Group for compliance with federal JJDPa core protections for juveniles in the justice system. The YDD verifies sight and sound separation of juveniles and adults in secure custody, the deinstitutionalization of status offenders, jail removal, and the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities at juvenile justice decision points. Please explain what this means.*

Established in 1974 and most recently reauthorized in 2018, the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPa) [34 USC § 11133] requires that states annually certify the core protections afforded to juveniles who may become detained or confined at a facility under law enforcement, or court authority. The JJDPa's four core protections/requirements are:

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO):** A status offender is a juvenile charged with or adjudicated for conduct that would not, under the law of the jurisdiction in which the offense was committed, be a crime if committed by an adult. The most common examples of status offenses are chronic or persistent truancy, running away, violating curfew laws, or possessing alcohol or tobacco. This JJDPa requirement focuses on alternatives to placing juveniles into detention facilities for status offenses.
- **Adult Jail and Lock-up Removal:** This requirement focuses on removing juveniles from adult jails and detention facilities.
- **Sight and Sound Separation:** This requirement ensures that accused and adjudicated delinquents, status offenders, and non-offending juveniles are not detained or confined in any institution where they may have contact with adult inmates.
- **Racial and Ethnic Disparities:** This requirement focuses on helping states address and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities at decision points (arrests, diversion/charges, sentencing, referral to adult court jurisdiction, etc.) within the juvenile justice system.

The Youth Development Division (YDD) serves as Oregon's Designated State Agency (DSA) for the monitoring of facilities for compliance with these core protections, while the Youth Development Council functions as the State Advisory Group (SAG). The YDD and YDC also administer federal funds provided via the Title II Formula Grant Program, which support compliance monitoring and grantmaking to support crime prevention, reentry/transition services for youth.

To carry out compliance monitoring responsibilities, the YDD has a dedicated Compliance Monitor who maintains a system to effectively monitor all facilities within the state for compliance. The compliance monitor:

- Tracks every facility identified where lawful custody can occur.

- Surveys law enforcement agencies and sites about their use of construction features and whether they serve juveniles, adults, or both.
- Classifies each facility (i.e. jail, lockup, detention, or correctional facilities) in accordance with their capacity to detain (secure vs. nonsecure), purpose for use (court, investigations, or post-confinement) and population served (juvenile, adult or both). From there, the YDD applies a set of standards (e.g. 34 USC § 11133 Sec 223(a)(11),(12),or (13)) based on the facility's classification.
- Prompts all facilities annually to demonstrate compliance with requirements by submitting a detention or declaration report covering the previous 12 months that certifies the absence of violations and appropriate use of exceptions. Secure facilities that do not report are presumed under the Act to be in violation.
- Conducts in person monitoring visits a portion of facilities annually (visiting all secure facilities at least once every three years.)

The YDD staff also includes a Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator, who is responsible for collection and analysis of juvenile justice data, identification of disparities, and work with jurisdictions where disparities are identified, to address and eliminate disparities for youth at justice system decision points.

For more information and resources about YDD's work in this area, please visit <https://www.oregon.gov/youthdevelopmentdivision/Juvenile-Justice/Pages/Compliance-Monitoring.aspx>

The JJDPa also provides funding for delinquency prevention and improvements in state and local juvenile justice programs and practices. For the current funding priorities, please visit <https://www.oregon.gov/youthdevelopmentdivision/Juvenile-Justice/Pages/JJDP-Federal-Fund.aspx>

More information about the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the JJDPa can be found here: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/>

## **2. What communities specifically have you engaged in?**

Youth Development Oregon makes investments throughout Oregon and develops strategies for funding through collaboration and consultation with communities we fund.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Grants are formula funds provided to all 36 counties and 9 federally recognized Tribes within the state. Funding is provided to implement local juvenile crime prevention plans that each county and Tribe develop for their community, in partnership with the Youth Development Council (whose membership includes county juvenile department directors and Tribal representatives).

Our competitive grant programs - Community Investments, Youth Reengagement System and Future Ready Youth Programs - are awarded to programs in communities across Oregon. The development and design of each of these grant programs involved a statewide community engagement process, and this dialogue continues with regular visits with grant

recipients and periodic community engagement processes to ensure continuous improvement and responsiveness of these funding streams.

In Winter/Spring 2022, YDD began a community engagement effort with the goal of strengthening agency relationships with programs, communities and Tribes around the state, and educating and involving participants in the creation of the YDD's 2023-25 Community Investment Strategy, the process for distributing YDD's general fund competitive grants.

YDD developed a 3-stage community engagement plan, which included visits to dozens of YDD grant recipients (the first in person visits since the COVID pandemic began), regional outreach to new partners happening in concert with site visits, and a series of Community Conversations that built on the earlier meetings. These conversations allowed us to share and refine concepts for the 2023-25 Community Investment plan and gather other input on YDD programs and policy goals for the future. Additionally and most significantly, these conversations provided valuable insight on community issues and challenges, and generated ideas for aligning funding with community goals and needs. This engagement process does not influence whether funds are awarded in the region/area where the community conversation is held but it ensures community voice in the design of our grant-making application and process. The following communities were visited as part of this community engagement process (Fall Community Conversations are marked with an asterisk):

- Astoria\*
- Baker City
- Bend
- Coos Bay
- Corvallis\*
- Eugene
- Madras
- Medford\*
- Hillsboro/Washington County (West Metro Area)\*
- Hood River
- Klamath Falls
- La Grande
- Newport
- Ontario\*
- Pendleton\*
- Portland/Multnomah County (East Metro Area)\*
- Redmond\*
- Roseburg\*
- The Dalles\*
- Tillamook
- Virtual (Statewide)\*

In addition, YDD staff met with representatives from the following Tribal nations during this engagement process.

- The Siletz Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- The Klamath Tribes

### 3. What success have you seen?

### 4. What data are you using to measure your success?

#### [Combined Response]

Youth Development investments vary in their purpose, goals, youth populations served, and methods of measuring impact and success.

**Community Investment Grants** (including Youth Promise funding for established programs, Youth Solutions funding for new programs, Workforce Readiness training grants and Youth Violence Prevention and Gang Intervention Grants) are highly flexible and adaptable to the specific community and population served, and their identified needs and goals. Success measures vary across programs, but include outcomes like improved school attendance and retention, graduation, training completion, job attainment, justice system avoidance, youth reading at grade level, and assessments indicating positive youth development factors like increased sense of belonging and connection with caring adults/mentors. Program outputs such as participation, retention, and youth engagement and satisfaction are also key indicators.

Given the varied quantitative measures of Community Investment programs, adapted to the objectives of diverse communities and organizations, and the incomparability of programs serving school age youth as young as 6 with those serving young adults through age 24, the YDD highly values qualitative data as a means of evaluating individual program success and effectiveness. All grantees submit narrative reports along with their data and expenditure reporting. These narratives highlight unique program challenges and solutions, program-specific goals and measures, and individual youth stories and successes. The YDD is happy to provide examples of narrative reports and success stories upon request.

Other YDD grant programs, such as Juvenile Crime Prevention grants, the Statewide Youth Reengagement System, and recently launched Future Ready Youth Programs grants have goals and outcomes specified in statute, Oregon Administrative Rules, and/or data points established by the Youth Development Council.

#### **2021 JCP Assessment (2,013 Youth Assessed/Served)**

- 77% of youth with no referrals before JCP continued to avoid criminal referrals up to 36 months after JCP services
- 94% of youth with no referrals before JCP avoided detention after 36 months.

- 60% of youth with criminal involvement before JCP had no additional referrals after 36 months.
- 71% of youth with criminal involvement before JCP had no detention after 36 months.

Among Tribal youth participants:

- 96% of all youth with no referrals before JCP continued to not have criminal referrals at 12 months.
- 95% of youth were low or medium risk at initial assessment.
- High-risk youth were just 5% of those assessed, but had the largest reduction in risk
- 60% of high-risk youth had reduced risk at the 6-month reassessment.
- 100% of high-risk Tribal youth did not have a criminal referral 36 months after JCP services.

### **Reengagement System Grants (31 programs statewide) data for 2020-2021:**

- Outreach – Youth Contacted: 3,273
- Reengagement Enrollment: 1,461 (45% of youth contacted enrolled in programs)
- Number of Youth earning High School Diploma or Equivalent in 2020-2021: 327\*
  - 224 Diplomas
  - 103 GEDs

*\* Not all reengaged youth were eligible to earn a diploma or equivalent in the program year.*

### **Future Ready Oregon Youth Programs**

These grants were launched in late 2022, and programs are currently starting up and launching services. Data will be reported to the legislature annually; the next report due December 31, 2023, will include 2022-2023 program outcomes. Data to be reported includes:

- The number of youth or young adults from priority populations who have registered for or completed a youth workforce program
- Data on job placement rates for youth or young adults from priority populations who have completed a youth workforce program;
- A description of any new or expanded paid work experiences, workforce readiness training or job placement services created by these grants

### **5. Aside from money- what do you believe Oregon's students need to be successful?**

One of the guiding principles of the Youth Development Division is **“all students are youth, but not all youth are students.”** While our work supports academic engagement and success for K-12 students, many YDD-funded programs serve youth who are not engaged in school. This includes youth who left school before earning a diploma or GED, and those

who completed high school, but have not successfully transitioned into the workforce or post-secondary education. It does also include youth who are students, contending with significant barriers to success – homelessness, justice system involvement, foster care system involvement, poverty, disabilities, and sometimes the intersection of multiple barriers.

We believe that the following factors contribute to the success and well-being of Oregon's youth.

### **Relationships**

- Skilled, well-trained staff who care and build trust with youth are crucial to effective outreach, engagement, training, creating a sense of belonging and community within youth serving organizations.
- Staff who share cultural, linguistic, and backgrounds with the youth they serve (and staff who do not engage fully in efforts to understand and connect with the youth and families they serve).

### **Opportunity**

- Youth have a voice in how programs work, and opportunities to develop and practice leadership skills. This includes service on councils and advisory groups, real involvement in decision-making, from the program and community level up to state advisory boards and agency priorities.
- Opportunities for hands-on experience and exposure to educational and career possibilities they may not have previously been aware of considered
- Opportunities to reconnect with education in a supportive environment.
- Second chances – so many of the youth served by YDD programs have encountered barriers, struggled, disconnected or been pushed out of school. Programs and spaces where they are welcomed and given the grace to grow, and change are critical to reconnection and success.

### **Organizational Accountability**

- Organizations committed to continuous improvement and growth in their work and engage with each other to share and refine effective services and practices.
- Identifying goals (in collaboration with community, families and youth) and working to effectively measure and share results.
- Willingness and receptiveness to technical assistance, guidance and coaching from funders.

### **Community and Cultural and Individual Responsiveness**

- Programs should create spaces where youth find a sense of belonging, safety, affirmation and acceptance.
- Valuing and connecting with the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of youth.
- Fostering opportunities for youth to find connections and contribute to their community.

- Organizational willingness to understand and address the individual and societal barriers youth face, such as systemic racism and discrimination, poverty, homelessness, and system-involvement.