

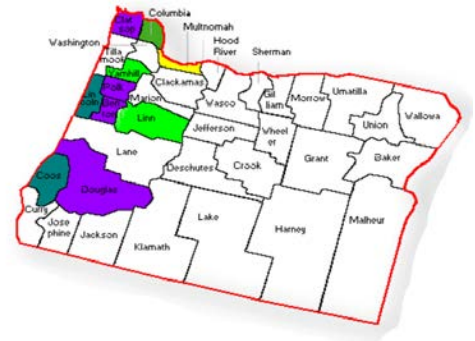
Representing the whole family

Oregon's Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP)

In Oregon, we believe that supporting children and adolescents means supporting the whole family. This is why the Office of Public Defense Services (OPDS) provides a multi-disciplinary model of legal representation for families involved in the juvenile dependency (foster care) and juvenile delinquency systems, known as the Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP). The mission of the PCRP is increasing safety and stability for Oregon families by addressing more than the client's immediate legal needs.

Counties benefitting from PCRP:

- Linn (2014)
- Yamhill (2014)
- Columbia (2016)
- Coos (2018)
- Lincoln (2018)
- Multnomah (2020)
- Benton (2021)
- Clatsop (2021)
- Douglas (2021)
- Polk (2021)



PCRP improves outcomes for Oregon children, youth and families.

The PCRP aligns with evidence-based models of high-quality representation that reduce use of foster care, expedite permanency, and create state cost-savings.

PCRP reduces the use of foster care.

After two years of implementation, use of foster care placement in PCRP counties declined by 27%, while use of foster care placement in non-PCRP counties declined by only 3%. Children in PCRP counties spend 3.5 fewer months in foster care than other foster children statewide.

PCRP achieves permanency for families.

A child in a PCRP county is 13% more likely to achieve permanency within 12 months of removal than a child in a non-PCRP County.

The PCRP increases client engagement and addresses interrelated needs:



Jolie's Story: PCRP client "Jolie" had a history of unstable housing, drug addiction, and system involvement. Initial attempts to engage Jolie failed. With the PCRP team's steadfast encouragement and coordination with her probation officer and caseworkers, Jolie completed chemical dependency treatment, mental health services, parenting classes, and accessed a housing voucher. She faithfully visited her children while working through her service plan, and her children were returned home. With the help of her PCRP team, she also secured legal custody.



Greta's Story: PCRP client "Greta" was houseless and without social supports when DHS suggested placing her child in foster care. Meeting Greta at the first court appearance, her PCRP attorney immediately engaged a case manager. The case manager sought out appropriate housing and supports to prevent family separation. The team identified a family shelter in another county that accepted Greta and her child, where they were able to safely remain together.

The PCRP achieves costs savings:



By expediting permanency and shortening foster care stays by 3.5 months, the PCRP benefits affected families and avoids the fiscal and social costs of foster care placement.

PCRP's tenets:

- **Attorneys maintain a reasonable target workload of 80 open cases** – Attorneys have frequent client contact, attend case-related meetings, conduct independent investigations, and advocate at court hearings at every stage.
- **Attorney-social work case manager defense teams** – Social work case managers work directly with PCRP attorneys to engage parents and children. Using a trauma-informed and culturally competent approach, case managers develop individualized services plans and address underlying social needs.
- **Enhanced OPDS oversight and accountability** – PCRP attorneys provide monthly caseload and activity data and engage in regular reviews with OPDS.
- **Regular training and program support from OPDS** – Specialized trainings and technical assistance is provided to PCRP attorneys and case managers.

For more information, contact:

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Oregon Office of Public Defense Services • 2021 Legislative Session