



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

- Jim Goodwin, President
- Molly Rogers, President Elect
- Joe Ferguson, Past President
- Debra Patterson, Treasurer

OJDDA
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Keep the Juvenile Justice Continuum Whole

Background

County juvenile departments are part of the public safety continuum who work in collaboration and partnership with the Oregon Youth Authority to enhance offender accountability, uphold and promote crime victims' rights, and to improve the effectiveness of delinquency interventions so that our communities are safe. County juvenile departments serve over 95% of all youth involved in the juvenile justice system in Oregon during the calendar year 2019. This is consistent with historical data of county juvenile departments managing over 90% of all juveniles in the system each year. These juveniles are committing serious crimes similar to those seen in adult corrections (sex offenses, assaults, robberies and burglaries as well as a host of lower level crimes and offenses.) Since the late 1990's, the State has directed funds(Diversion, Basic Service Grants) through OYA to County Juvenile Departments for work with high risk offenders in the community, with the goal of reducing crime and preventing high risk youth from moving into state correctional facilities. This strategy has been highly effective and has been duplicated in the adult correctional system with Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). It is critical that county juvenile department resources be maintained to the highest extent possible so that there are fewer victims, so that high risk youth receive treatment, and the public is kept safe from dangerous juvenile offenders that will reoffend without treatment and require secure confinement.

County Juvenile Departments Have Had a Significant Impact on Juvenile Crime

There were over 11,648 youth dispositions were handled by county juvenile departments in Oregon in the 2019 calendar year. Of those youth, over 95% were managed by county juvenile departments, only 3.5% of these youth were committed to OYA custody. The county juvenile departments are committed to the utilization of research proven principles to have the greatest impact on juvenile offending and to be the best stewards of the public dollars. Our results show our success:

Calendar Year 2019

- 11,648 youth dispositions handled by county juvenile departments (JJIS Report 205s)
- 27.9% statewide recidivism rate – 72.1% of youth did not commit a new crime in 12 months(JJIS Report 00249i)
- 37.6% of youth were processed, reviewed and closed by county juvenile departments (4,382 youth)(JJIS Report 205s)
- 36.9% were handled informally by county juvenile departments(4,302 youth) (JJIS Report 205S)

- 14.8% were adjudicated delinquent supervised by county juvenile departments (1,720 youth)(JJIS Report 209s)
- **1.5% were committed to OYA for Community Placements (182 youth)** (JJIS Report 205s)
- **2.0% were committed to OYA placed in a Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) (242 youth)** (JJIS Report 205s)
- **1% Waived/transferred, adult sentence to DOC (113 youth)** (JJIS Report 205s)

Loss of Funds will Deplete Important Local Public Safety Services

County Juvenile Departments develop local plans within their community based on the community resources to utilize funds in the most effective way, maintaining a continuum of public safety, treatment and victim restoration services. These include:

- Detention
- Out of home placement
- Substance abuse treatment
- Sex offender treatment
- Cognitive behavioral interventions
- Mental health, developmental and trauma-informed practices
- Community service and restitution payment programs
- Gender and culturally specific programming

The proposed 10% reduction of funding for OYA and in turn county juvenile department funding will impact public safety.

- A decreased capacity to be effective with youth in the community and inability to prevent them from moving into the Oregon Youth Authority system
- Fewer justice involved youth graduating from high school
- Fewer youth with sexual offenses receiving effective community based treatment
- Fewer opportunities for youth to earn restitution for victims
- Fewer opportunities for youth to engage in community service and rebuilding activities
- Fewer youth receiving effective cognitive behavioral interventions which teach positive social skills
- Fewer trauma-impacted youth receiving appropriate support
- Fewer youth with mental health issues getting the support they need

At this point in history, the Oregon Youth Authority and county juvenile departments are smarter, more effective and are working collaboratively to reduce crime with a balanced and effective system. OYA and County Juvenile Departments together use validated instruments to determine the best level of treatment to obtain the greatest impact with each youth and on juvenile crime. We are working with youth and families who have very complicated challenges and traumas and require a wrap-around service network. With the appropriate support and services, we can effectively address childhood trauma and delinquent behaviors at the local level. A 10% reduction in OYA's budget and funds to counties will create an imbalance in our public safety response that will decrease our overall effectiveness and likely will put more pressure on the Oregon Youth Authority services.

OJDDA's Request

Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association respectfully requests that the proposed cuts to the Oregon Youth Authority's budget not be implemented. Funds passed through the OYA's budget to county juvenile departments have supported highly effective interventions and reductions will have a negative impact on the services to young offenders and the safety of communities throughout Oregon.

For Further Information Contact:

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