



**Oregon Juvenile Department Directors'  
Association**  
*Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments*  
[www.ojdda.org](http://www.ojdda.org)

## **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 measurable goals: 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 is 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 counties and tribes have achieved high-level goals of the funding. The small grants have been highly effective.

- This is 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 2021-23 biennium was conducted on the sample of 1,641 youth in service reported by the 31 JCP counties entering assessment data into JJIS and 5 Tribal programs that sent their assessment data directly to NPC Research.

- 91% had no criminal referral 12 months after the start of service in a local JCP Program.
- 69% of youth had a least one criminal referral, had no criminal referral 12 months after the start of service.
- 41% decrease in risk factors for all JCP youth.
- 68% decrease in risk factors for youth assessed as High Risk.
- 62% decrease in school dropout.
- 39% increase in significant school attachment.
- 57% reduction in aggressive behavior at school in past 30 days.
- 48% 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 are administered by Youth Development Oregon and implemented through County Juvenile Departments and Federally Recognized Tribes.

JCP Prevention Funding is one of three local-state partnerships. 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.**

- Safer communities and less victims of youth delinquency behavior,
- Prevents at risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system,
- Improves educational outcomes and school safety,
- JCP funding supports local services and adds capacity to treat at risk youth in the community, building on locally collaborations,
- Current process supports a data driven, outcome based, service delivery system.

**JCP funding has helped produce highly effective outcomes**

- 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.
- Wasco County braided the JCP funding with a Federal Grant for the *What's Strong With You!* A locally developed program working in The Dalles Middle School. Outcomes include 95% increase for student experiencing a positive adult in the youth's life, and a 71% increase in school attachment for youth. *What's Strong With You!* brings case management and evidence-based screening to the middle school environment and supports teachers and counselors in creating an inclusive and safe experience. The calls for law enforcement decreased by over 68% with the implementation of the program.
- 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.

Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association strongly encourages the full funding for the 2025-2027 biennium. These funds are directly accountable to Youth Development Oregon with an extremely high level of transparency from YDO allocation to impacting youth in each of our communities.