



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

SB 5515

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association supports the Juvenile Crime Prevention program being fully funded.

All 36 counties participate in Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) programs by adopting High-Risk Juvenile Crime Prevention plans to address risk factors, including antisocial behavior, school failure, poor family functioning or poor family support, substance abuse, negative peer association, and antisocial attitudes. This program lies within Youth Development Oregon within the Education Department. **The Agency Recommended Budget for the 2025-2027 biennium is \$6.91 million. This program is currently funded at \$6.27 million. There is a possibility that this could be cut by \$2 million without your support.**

This funding has 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 collaborate and actively engage community organizations, educational professionals and both public and private agencies to create a unified plan that addresses prevention and intervention services for at-risk youth. Funding is distributed to all counties and tribes based on youth population and minimum grants to ensure services can be provided.

The Prevention funding is part of an overall public safety strategy which includes Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic and Diversion funding to Counties administered by Oregon Youth Authority to support youth safety and reduce commitments to Youth Correctional Facilities.

Accountability of the Program

Plans are reviewed by the Juvenile Justice Sub-Committee and presented to the Youth Development Council for approval. All of the plans meet and exceed the State's requirements for serving youth in the community and impacting risk factors. The same Risk Assessment is used statewide – allowing for aggregate outcomes to be measured.

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. In the most recent evaluation from 2021-2023 the findings included:

- **91%** of the youth in the program had no criminal referral 12 months after the start of service in a local JCP Program.
- **69%** of youth who 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.

This program has helped -

- Address inequalities in the juvenile justice and education systems by collecting data and developing strategies to address within the JCP programs and education
- Prevent at risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system.
- Improve educational outcomes and school safety.
- Support local services and add capacity to treat at risk youth in the community, building on local collaborations.
- Leverage dollars in communities and schools to support families along the continuum and minimize gaps in services.
- Support a data-driven, outcome-based, service delivery system.

Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association strongly encourages 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.

**For more information please contact:
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