



LINN COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

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Urging your support for SB 5515 and fully funding the Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Funding to Oregon Counties and Tribes through the Youth Development Oregon's Budget.

My name is Torri Lynn and I am the director of the Linn County Juvenile Department.

High-Risk Juvenile Crime Prevention funding was established in 1998 through Executive Order 98-09 as part of a three-prong approach in response to increased juvenile crime rates in the mid-1990's. JCP-prevention funding was administered through the Commission of Children and Families and has since been placed under the budget of the Oregon Department of Education and within the Youth Development Oregon (YDO) budget detail.

JCP funding has two purposes;

- 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.

Youth must qualify for funding based on a validated risk assessment tool identifying areas of risk which can lead to committing a crime. Goals of these funds are to reduce those areas identified as having risk.

High Risk JCP funding is part of a continuum of services which also includes Basic Service and Diversion dollars administered through the Oregon Youth Authority. While Basic Service and Diversion dollars are designated for youth who are already involved with county juvenile departments based on a referral from a law enforcement agency, JCP dollars allow communities to determine where the best place is to use money to deter youth from ever entering the juvenile justice system or prevent them from further penetrating the system they were already involved in.

Nearly every county and tribe uses these monies in different ways. This is a testament to local planning and local control in developing plans for youth in our diverse communities and tribes in our state. JCP funds have been and continue to be evaluated by an outside entity, NPC Research, every two years since this funding came into existence. Please refer to the latest NPC Research report on the amazing outcomes this money continues to generate. The data is consistent with historical data on the outcomes of this funding stream in relation to reducing

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involvement and/or penetration in the juvenile justice system, engagement with school, decreases in truancy, dropout rate and academic failure.

In Linn County the money passes through the juvenile department directly to the Linn Benton Lincoln ESD who provides Family Support Liaisons to engage with families referred to them by school districts. LBLESD provides in-home skills training for parents and youth, connections to local resources to reduce barriers to the youth being successful in school. They provide assistance to youth who are struggling behaviorally in the classroom by assisting with the development of a behavior plan. The Family Support Liaisons also help facilitate Youth Services Teams (YST) which operate in each of our seven school districts. YST's goals are to reduce barriers to school success and help families connect with needed local services. We know from research that youth who are successful in school are much more likely to stay out of the juvenile justice system.

Overall JCP funding is the opportunity for communities to work with a population of youth on prevention or early intervention and make connections to local resources and natural supports. This money is not a large amount in comparison to the total ODE budget, but each county being able to weave JCP funds in with other funding sources makes a huge impact on youth and families in our communities. I encourage you to review the written testimony submitted by OJDDA to see the outcomes and other important factors related to this funding. Please continue to fully fund High Risk Juvenile Crime Prevention funds to serve youth and families in our communities and tribes.

Thank you.

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