



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

County and State Juvenile Justice Funding **HB 5041**

The Oregon Juvenile Directors Association strongly supports the financial investment across the juvenile justice system. OJDDA is committed to serving youth safely and at the most efficient and effective point in the continuum.

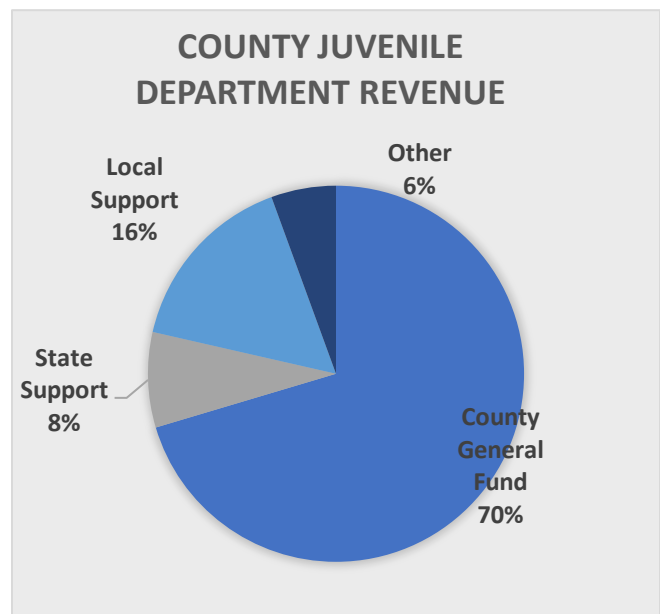
Since the late 1990s, the State has allocated Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Basic Service and Diversion funds administered through The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) to county juvenile departments for work with high risk offenders in the community. The primary goal is to reduce crime and prevent youth from moving into state youth 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 at the highest extent possible, reducing victims, making sure high risk youth receive treatment, and maintaining public safety from juvenile offenders who statistically will reoffend without the proper intervention.

County juvenile departments are the front line contacts for **all** youth referred to the juvenile justice system. Local agencies complete the Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) risk assessment to target resources toward youth with the highest risk and need. Each county receives a small allocation of funding to provide local services to youth. These allocations are blended with other funding sources to allow county juvenile departments to serve youth at the local level.

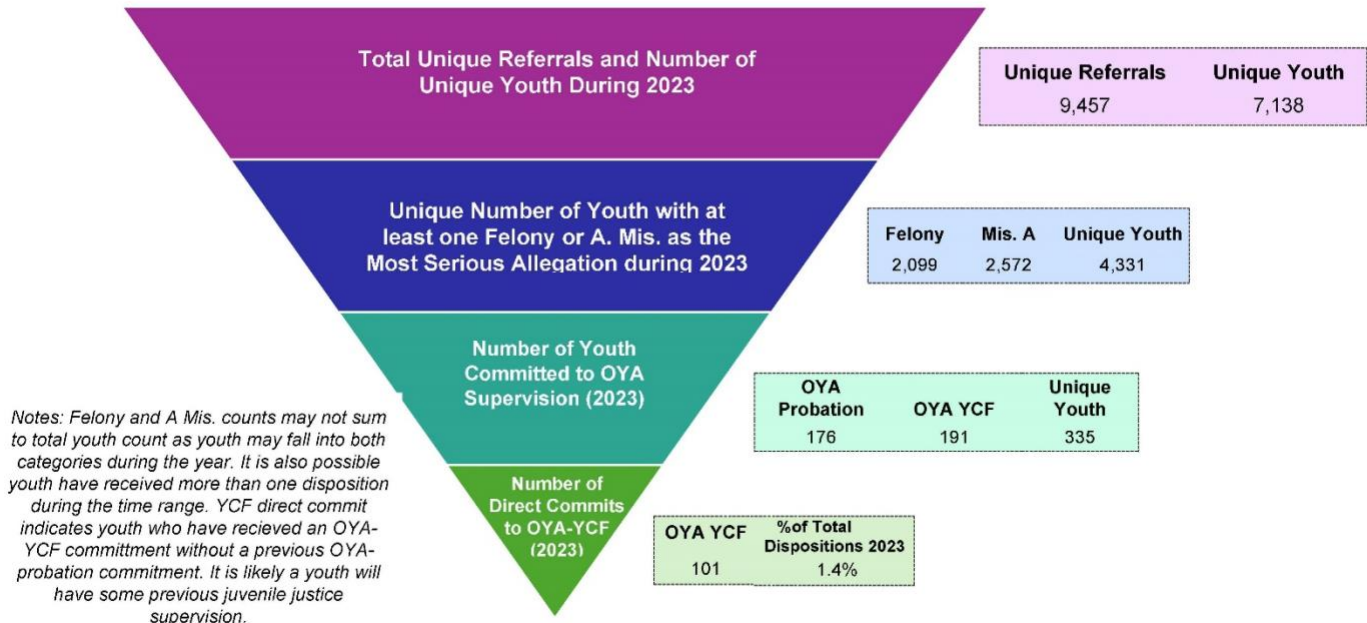
Local county juvenile departments are effective. With the limited JCP Basic Service and Diversion funding, counties maintain low rates of recidivism and high rates of return on investments.

The chart breaks down the investments across Oregon, and represents small, medium and urban counties' revenues for the operation of the juvenile justice systems at the local level. Services include diversion programs, probation supervision, and placing youth in detention who pose a public safety risk.

Each biennium counties use the data from the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) to determine the effectiveness of services and interventions needed to maintain safety in our communities. Services are tracked in JJIS and counties are able to determine the impact by recidivism numbers and the number of youth escalating to OYA.



Referrals recieved and dispositions ordered are mostly independent from each other. A referral received in 2023, does not mean it was disposed of in the same year.



Through the JJIS system counties track referrals and all decision points in the juvenile justice process. In calendar 2023, 7,138 youth entered the juvenile justice system, with only 101 youth entering OYA closed custody settings.

The Diversion funds across the Central and Eastern Counties provide specialty services including sex offender treatment, not covered by Medicaid, and stabilization services for youth to remain in their community following the services. In other areas of the state Diversion and Basic Service dollars provide needed assessments, treatment, detention services and other things to improve youth success and reduce barriers. Diversion and Basic Service Dollars are needed to maintain the most critical part of the juvenile justice continuum. Prevention and intervention for youth to reduce the chance of them going to the much more costly end of the system with the Oregon Youth Authority.

County juvenile departments and OYA are better informed, relying on data to make more effective decisions, and are working collaboratively to reduce crime with a balanced and effective system. County juvenile departments and OYA together use validated instruments to determine the best level of treatment to obtain the greatest impact with each youth. 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.

OJDDA's Request

Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association respectfully requests that the Oregon Youth Authority's budget be supported as outlined in the Governor's Proposed Budget. Funds passed through the OYA's budget to county juvenile departments have supported highly effective interventions and any reductions will have a negative impact on the services to young offenders and the safety of communities throughout Oregon.

For Questions please contact:

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