



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

HB 5041

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association supports the Oregon Youth Authorities budget in maintaining full funding for Basic Services and Diversion funds

Co-Chair Broadman Co-Chair Evans and other distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is **Torri Lynn**, and I am:

- The **Juvenile Department Director** for Linn County.
- The **Legislative Chair** for the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association (OJDDA).

Purpose of the Oregon Juvenile Justice System (ORS 419C.001)

- Protect public safety.
- Reduce juvenile delinquency.
- Ensure fair and impartial procedures for the initiation, adjudication, and disposition of delinquent conduct allegations.
- Foundation based on **personal responsibility, accountability, and rehabilitation.**
- Focus on **public safety, restitution to victims, and the community.**
- Emphasize:
 - Early sanctions.
 - Reformation and rehabilitation programs.
 - Swift and decisive intervention in delinquent behavior.
 - Transparency and accountability to Oregonians and elected officials.

Role of County Juvenile Departments

- County juvenile departments form the **largest part** of Oregon's juvenile public safety continuum.
- Collaborate with the **Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)** to:
 - Enhance offender accountability.
 - Uphold victims' rights.
 - Improve delinquency interventions to ensure community safety.
- Every county in Oregon **invests in local juvenile services** to reduce juvenile delinquency.
- **State support** through Diversion and Basic Services funding:
 - Represents about **8%** of a county juvenile department's budget.
 - These funds are **critical** for services that counties cannot otherwise afford.

Funding Requirements and Purpose

- **Diversion and Basic Services funds** come with strict requirements:
 - Specify **youth served**.
 - Require **detailed documentation** for reimbursement.
 - Objective: Prevent further involvement in the justice system and avoid placement in OYA correctional facilities.
- **Diversion and Basic Services Plan:**
 - Each county submits a plan to OYA detailing fund usage for the biennium.
 - **OYA approval** is required before any reimbursement.

Diversion Funding

- Designated for **adjudicated youth at risk** of entering a correctional facility.
- Can cover services such as:
 - Mental health and substance abuse assessments.
 - Psychological evaluations.
 - Treatment services.
 - Pro-social activities (e.g., YMCA or Boys and Girls Club memberships).
 - Staff for specialized caseloads (e.g., youth who have committed sexual offenses).
 - Other services such as **GED testing**, obtaining **birth certificates**, and **Oregon IDs** which help youth access employment.

Basic Services Funding

- Supports youth who have **not yet been adjudicated**.
- Helps maintain the infrastructure necessary for juvenile justice operations:
 - Juvenile detention beds.
 - Victim services.
 - Intensive supervision.
 - Assessments and evaluations.
 - Job readiness and educational services.
 - Early intervention and diversion programs run by county departments.

Impact of County Juvenile Departments

- County juvenile departments serve over **90%** of youth involved in Oregon's juvenile justice system.
 - This statistic has been consistent historically.
 - These youth are often involved in serious offenses, including:
 - **Sex crimes, assaults, robberies, burglaries**, and lower-level offenses.
- The state has allocated **Diversion and Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Basic Service Grants** through OYA to county juvenile departments since the late 1990s:
 - To address **high-risk offenders** in their communities.
 - The goal is to **reduce crime** and prevent youth from entering state correctional facilities.

Effectiveness of Current Strategy

- This strategy has proven highly effective and has been mirrored in the **adult correctional system** through the **Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI)**.
- The collaboration between OYA and county juvenile departments:
 - Uses **validated risk assessment tools**.
 - Determines the appropriate **treatment level** for each youth.
 - Addresses **childhood trauma** and delinquent behavior **at the local level**.
 - Requires a **wrap-around service approach** to achieve positive outcomes.

Importance of Adequate Funding

- Maintaining resources for county juvenile departments is crucial to:
 - **Reducing juvenile crime**.
 - Providing necessary **treatment for high-risk youth**.
 - Ensuring **public safety** by preventing reoffending and safeguarding communities.

OJDDA's Request

- The **Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association** respectfully requests:
 - **Support for the Oregon Youth Authority's budget** as outlined in the Governor's proposed budget.
 - The funds passed through OYA to county juvenile departments have been vital in supporting effective interventions.
 - Any reductions in these funds will negatively impact:
 - **Services for young offenders**.
 - **Safety of communities** across Oregon.

**For more information please contact:
Lara Smith lsmith@smithgr.com**