

CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION
Crisis Residential Centers, Hope Beds, Street Youth
2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET



Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0	0
GF-State	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$0)
Total	(\$5,882,000)	(\$5,882,000)	(\$11,764,000)

REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Children's Administration (CA) is submitting the following reduction option that would eliminate a variety of services available to adolescents in conflict with their family including secure and semi-secure crisis residential centers, HOPE Beds, and services to street youth. By implementing this reduction, CA expects to see an increase in the number of homeless youth or youth living in unsafe conditions.

REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL

Currently, CA provides funding to secure and semi-secure crisis residential centers (CRCs). Semi-secure CRCs provide short-term (less than 15 days) housing for youth in conflict with their families. CRC counselors work with the youth and families to resolve and prevent conflict. Secure CRC's were established as part of the "Becca Bill", which authorized law enforcement to pick up runaway youth or youth found in dangerous circumstances and place them in physically secure residential facilities or secure CRCs. Approximately 2,400 youths were served through the CRC's in Fiscal Year 2014. In addition, funding for HOPE beds is proposed to be eliminated. HOPE centers were created through the HOPE Act legislation in 1999. These centers provide temporary residential placements for youth living on the street. Youth can self-refer to a center for evaluations and services. Funding is also proposed to be eliminated for conducting outreach services for youth living on the street.

Funding for CRCs and HOPE beds is provided through funds available in the Home Security Fund (Fund 10B), which is managed by the Department of Commerce. In order to achieve savings to the state general fund, funds would either have to be moved from the Home Security Fund into the State General Fund or other expenditures currently funded through GFS would have to be identified and moved to Home Security funds.

In order to eliminate semi-secured CRCs, CA would need to seek a legislative change. RCW 74.13.032(1) requires the Department to establish, through performance-based contracts with private or public vendors, regional crisis residential centers with semi-secure facilities. Elimination of CRC beds may negatively impact the Department's performance on runaway youth outcomes in the Braam Settlement and Exit Agreement. Once runaway dependent youth are located, CRCs provide a temporary placement in an attempt to stabilize the dependent youth while finding a long-term placement for the youth.



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STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

The Washington Association of Youth Advocates has repeatedly requested to not only maintain but increase funding for services to adolescents. Likewise, parties including congressional delegates and current and former judges have interest in maintaining adolescent services, especially for those adolescents engaged in or at risk of being engaged in commercial sex trafficking.



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