

JJ&RA - JUVENILE REHABILITATION
Aftercare Services & Supervision



Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	23.1	23.1	23.1
GF-State	\$2,028,000	\$1,920,000	\$3,948,000
Total	\$2,028,000	\$1,920,000	\$3,948,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration (JJRA), requests funding and FTEs in order to reinstate Parole Aftercare Services. By funding this request, JJRA is expected to expand evidenced-based treatment by providing Functional Family Parole (FFP) Aftercare Services to all youth leaving JR residential care. If funded, 129 additional youth will receive these services each year. Community supervision and parole aftercare protects communities, reduces disproportionate minority contact, reduces juvenile recidivism and supports transition and re-entry.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the 2009 Legislative session, JR’s evidence-based Parole Aftercare services were cut deeply, with long-term negative impacts to youth. In fiscal year 2013, 58 percent of youth released from JR did not receive community supervision and parole aftercare services.

A 2011 study by the Research and Data Analysis (RDA) division of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) indicated youth who released without community supervision and parole aftercare services are far more likely to be re-arrested following release. Additionally, youth without community supervision and parole aftercare services are much less likely to be employed, and if they are, they make significantly less money than youth with parole aftercare.

As an alternative to Parole Aftercare, JR provides pre-release transition efforts to connect youth and their families to key resources. However, limited resources for parole aftercare have reduced JR’s ability to follow through post-release and work directly with the youth and family using evidence-based FFP. Youth without support from parole counselors may face challenges with accessing needed treatment services in the community, finding transportation to appointments or employment, connecting with necessary services to support the family, and reintegrating into school. In addition, these services provide needed community supervision which protects communities while providing the necessary rehabilitative treatment to youth.

Youth of color are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system throughout Washington State. As youth of color become deeper involved in the juvenile justice system there is an increased rate of disproportionality. While JR’s total residential population has declined, the percent of youth of color has increased to 58% of the total population. Most of these youth are at high risk to reoffend. Without Parole Aftercare services, youth of color, their families and communities are impacted at higher rates for re-arrest, re-conviction, unemployment and underemployment.

Without Parole Aftercare, youth released from JR leave without the support and resources needed to reenter their communities and reduce recidivism. This will result in higher costs to the taxpayers in Washington State and higher risk to their safety.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Parole (FFP) Aftercare services for all youth are crucial for JR to meet the agency’s mission of rehabilitation and support the personal success for each youth. FFP is a specialized, evidence-based program that not only supports youth, but also builds the capacity of the family to support the youth during reentry. Parole counselors receive specialized training and



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 People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded
DSHS MISSION
 To transform lives
DSHS VALUES
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JJ&RA - JUVENILE REHABILITATION Community Supervision & Parole Aftercare Services



are instrumental in developing relationships with youth, families, community service providers, employers, and educators. These relationships are crucial in ensuring youth have access to the services they need for success. Parole Aftercare services not only make a difference for each youth's achievement, but the work of the parole counselors impacts disproportionate minority contact, protects the community, reduces recidivism and increases the economic contributions of former offenders.

The implementation schedule is based upon the re-staffing of Parole Aftercare in the regional offices and the buildup of caseloads of youth released from JR residential facilities.

There would be no needed changes to existing statutes or codes as RCW 13.40.210 authorizes DSHS to provide community supervision and parole aftercare to youth released from its facilities.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 2: Safety – Each individual and each community will be safe. The decision package is essential to implementing the JJRA's Strategic Objective 2.1: Decrease rearrests by effectively preparing juvenile justice-involved youth for their futures. This request supports the Results Washington goal to increase the percentage of youth released from Juvenile Rehabilitation who do not return in 12 months from 92 percent to 95 percent by 2015.

With this funding, all JR youth released to their communities will receive evidenced-based FFP Aftercare resulting in more youth successfully reintegrating into their families and communities. Youth will have more support as they engage in education, accessing needed treatment, and finding employment, which will make them positive contributors to the local and state economy. Youth engaged in pro-social activities are less likely to reoffend, which will reduce the revolving door in juvenile justice and improve public safety. Families will benefit from the FFP services as well, with improved capacity to respond to their child's needs and improved access to needed supports in the community. Parole counselors serve as an additional layer of supervision for youth beyond parents and guardians, not only ensuring youth are accountable for their actions but also providing a crucial safety net for youth who may need it.

Taxpayers will benefit by improved public safety because youth will have significantly more chances for education, graduation and employment, which will make them positive contributors to the local and state economy. Other potential benefits include the reduction in the high costs of crime including: costs for law enforcement, judicial processing, and incarceration.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Community Supervision and Parole Aftercare Services will ensure relationships are built with youth and families, who will be strengthened and supported in the FFP model. Relationships will continue to be developed with community service providers, employers, and educators, which will result in stronger communities for youth to reenter.

Based on its impact on youth re-arrest rates, Parole Aftercare Services provided to youth released from JR also makes a key contribution to the safety of the citizens of the state and reduces the disproportionate impact of youth of color in our system. Reducing crime in communities is important to community safety and reducing the cost for law enforcement and judicial processing.

Stakeholders, e.g. law enforcement, county juvenile courts, service providers and the general public were very concerned when less youth received Parole Aftercare services. It is anticipated they will be very supportive of the reinstatement of these critical services.



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