

JJ&RA - JUVENILE REHABILITATION

At-Risk Youth Intervention Services



2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

ML Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0	0
GF-State	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$800,000
Total	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$800,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration (JJRA) requests funding in order to provide services to at-risk youth and avoid their involvement in the criminal justice system. By funding this request, JJRA is expected to provide at-risk youth intervention services focusing on prevention and suppression of behavioral problems and violence while linking at-risk youth to pro-social activities.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) defines “at-risk” youth as those with high levels of risk in their family, home, communities and social environment to such a degree that it could lead to educational failure, dropping out of school, or involvement in the juvenile justice system and gang-related offenses. In light of the growing body of research, we now know that the better and more cost-effective place to stop the “cradle to prison pipeline” is as close to the beginning of that pipeline as possible. Early intervention prevents the onset of delinquent behavior and supports the development of a youth’s assets and resilience (Osher, Quinn, Poirer & Rutherford, 2003). While many past approaches focus on remediating visible and/or longstanding disruptive behavior, research has shown that prevention and early intervention are more effective (Loeber, Farrington, & Petechuk, 2003).

The Washington State Legislature recognizes that prevention, intervention, and suppression of behavioral problems and violence are necessary for at-risk youth to avoid involvement in the criminal justice system. For Fiscal Year 2015, Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) received \$400,000 from the Washington State Legislature for at-risk youth prevention and intervention services. In a response to receipt of this funding, JR contracted with community based organizations to provide at-risk youth prevention and intervention services, including but not limited to case management, employment services, education services, vocational training and street outreach intervention programs. Employment, education and transition services are critical areas where youth need assistance. For successful prevention and intervention, youth need options to become healthy and productive members of society. Empowering youth and moving them toward obtaining the necessary skills are keys to their future.

It is imperative to continue to invest in youth and to continue to provide options to prevent them from involvement and/or penetrating deeper into the justice system. JR requests continued funding to make available services for at-risk youth.



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PROPOSED SOLUTION

This proposal requests continued funding totaling \$400,000 per year to provide at risk youth intervention services focusing on prevention and suppression of behavioral problems and violence while linking at-risk youth to pro-social activities.

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.

Research has demonstrated that intervention services and delinquency prevention programs are good financial investments. For example, a 2001 Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) study found that the total benefits of effective prevention programs were greater than their costs. More recent research by WSIPP found that sound intervention and delinquency-prevention programs can save taxpayers seven to ten dollars for every dollar invested, primarily due to reduction in the amount spent on incarceration. Youth transitioning from the juvenile justice system back to their home communities need services and resources to prevent them from future involvement in the justice system. Creating employment opportunities, providing vocational training and needed services are important to our youth and community.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Stakeholders supporting this proposal include youth, families, JR staff and the community. The Washington State Legislature funded at-risk youth intervention services in the 2009-11 Biennium and again in Fiscal Year 2015.



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