Oregon Youth Authority

Issue Brief *December 2011*

Legislatively Adopted Budget for 2011-2013

10
Number of OYA close-custody correctional and transition facilities

750
Approximate number of youth offenders supervised in OYA close-custody facilities

1,075
Approximate number of youth offenders supervised by OYA in communities

302
Total Funds, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2011-2013

258
General Fund, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2011-2013

87
Approximate percent of OYA's budget spent locally in facilities and communities

Overview

- The Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB) for the Oregon Youth Authority sets close-custody capacity at 750 during 2011-13, a reduction of 150 from 2009-11.
- The LAB adds 103 community placements for youth offenders, raising the total number of community placement beds from 555 to 658.
- The LAB decreases agency staffing from 2009-11 to 2011-13 by 120 positions, a 12 percent reduction in the agency's workforce.
- The LAB fully funds state assistance to counties in the form of Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Basic and Diversion funding, as well as Multnomah County gang programs and individualized services, at levels slightly above 2009-11.
- Due to continuing declines in revenues during 2011-13, the Legislative Fiscal Office reduced every agency's budget allocation by 3.5 percent. That 3.5 percent covers all aspects of OYA's funding including state assistance to counties.
- A hiring freeze for all state agencies was put in place in December 2011 to further address continued revenue declines. OYA already had been operating with strict hiring limitations in place since the start of the biennium.

Impact on OYA operations

The following chart shows the change in capacity levels at OYA's facilities.

Location	Capacity as of July 1, 2011	Capacity as of Oct. 1, 2011
Camp Florence YTF	25	25
Camp Tillamook YTF	25	25
Eastern Oregon YCF	50	50
Hillcrest YCF	204	154
MacLaren YCF	246	186
North Coast YCF	50	50
Oak Creek YCF/YTF	100	60
RiverBend YTP	50	50
Rogue Valley YCF	100	100
Tillamook YCF	50	50

(YCF = Youth Correctional Facility; YTF = Youth Transition Facility)

Oregon Youth Authority

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Mission

The Oregon Youth Authority protects the public and reduces crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Vision

Youth who leave OYA go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.

Core Values

Integrity
Professionalism
Accountability
Respect

Director
Colette S. Peters

Deputy Director
Fariborz Pakseresht

Assistant Director for Business Services
Jean Straight

Assistant Director for Community Services
Philip Cox

Assistant Director for Facility Services
Karen Daniels

Impact on OYA staff

A reduction of 120 positions equates to a 12 percent staffing reduction for the agency. The process for implementing this reduction took place during the first quarter of the 2011-13 biennium, affecting nearly every correctional and transition facility as staff with more seniority displaced less senior staff.

Impact on public safety

The close-custody bed closures represent a capacity reduction of 17 percent. However, the total number of youth offenders in OYA's custody at any given time is projected to be approximately 1,825. OYA still will need to serve all the youth who are placed in the agency's custody, whether in a facility or the community. Additional beds in the community will help minimize the public safety risk to some degree.

OYA's goal is to achieve better outcomes for youth by reallocating resources. To that end, OYA has been developing ways to support positive outcomes for youth within our reduced budget allocation while continuing to protect public safety and deliver quality services.

The agency has been conducting a mapping analysis and developing new assessment tools that will enable OYA to more quickly and cost-effectively place youth offenders in appropriate treatment programs; a staffing analysis to more efficiently match staffing resources to youth management requirements; and a treatment review to shift resources to better meet identified treatment needs and optimize length of stay for youth offenders based on assessments of risk and needs. These efforts will fundamentally change how OYA maps youth and provides programming, treatment, and other services.

Impact on the community placement structure

The LAB provides for an increase of 103 community placements for youth offenders, based on the projected growth forecast by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis. This increases the total number of community placements from 555 in 2009-11 to 658 in 2011-13. Of those placements, 578 are in residential programs, which receive federal match moneys. The remaining placements are in foster care, shelter, and youth care center settings. Approximately 45 percent of the funding for all community placements is federal match through Medicaid's Behavioral Rehabilitation Services program.

Impact on youth offenders

This budget will require OYA to move some youth offenders from close-custody to the community earlier than has been the practice. To assist with this process, OYA has created and validated two assessment tools — the OYA Recidivism Risk Assessment (ORRA) and the OYA Recidivism Risk Assessment for Violence (ORRA-V). These tools will be used to help OYA and county juvenile departments determine which youth offenders may be transitioned with the least risk from close-custody to community residential programs.

Decisions regarding transition into the community will be made jointly by OYA and county juvenile departments. ORRA and ORRA-V will be used to help inform the decision-making process, but will not be the only determinants. Each youth offender will receive an individual review by a team consisting of OYA and county partners.

Youth released from close-custody facilities will be placed in residential treatment programs based on such factors as risk to reoffend as indicated by ORRA and ORRA-V, need for continued correctional intervention (treatment), and county and local willingness to accept that youth back into the community.