

Program # 50013 - Juvenile Informal Intervention

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Priority: Safety
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 21010, 50010, 50022A

Lead Agency: Community Justice
Program Contact: Thach Nguyen

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Informal Intervention imposes consequences on the actions of more than 1,100 low-risk youth, preventing them from re-offending, becoming more involved in the juvenile system and leaving school. Informal intervention works: 75% of youth do not re-offend. Informal also provides accountability services to troubled children in the EIU program.

Program Description

Informal Intervention provides a cost-effective consequence for 1,100 lower-risk youth (ages 12-18) whom prosecutors have legal grounds to file charges against in juvenile court, but can instead be safely diverted from costlier formal probation. Informal Intervention holds these youth responsible for their offenses by developing and enforcing informal accountability agreements for each youth, which can require youth to: perform community service, attend victim impact or mediation sessions, and repay victims through the DCJ's juvenile restitution program. Informal Intervention also provides basic "front door" intake information and referral services. In addition, Informal Intervention works with Portland Public Schools to counsel youth who are at risk of dropping-out or being expelled so they remain in school. Informal Intervention also works with children under 12 who are too young for formal prosecution, yet have committed serious delinquent acts, such as assault, sexually inappropriate acts, arson, and other dangerous offenses. Many age 12 and under youth also receive mental health therapy through the Early Intervention Unit (EIU), the Informal unit's clinical partner.

Youth who are arrested by police but who are not formally adjudicated, or who do not receive Informal Intervention services, receive warning letters through the Informal unit. The Department of School and Community Partnership's Diversion program offer describes services provided to these youth who remain outside the juvenile justice system.

Program Justification

Informal Intervention holds youth accountable by teaching low-risk youth that they are responsible for their actions by applying appropriate consequences that are consistent with a stream of offender model and evidence-based practices. children who are 12 and under and who commit serious offenses at an early age are a high risk to become chronic offenders (and even to develop into psychopaths). Informal Intervention holds them accountable (in ways that are appropriate to their unique legal status and developmental needs) and arranges clinical interventions that are designed to prevent these children from re-offending and entering the formal juvenile and adult systems later on.

Informal intervention's early intervention services prevent youth from committing new crimes and becoming more deeply involved in the justice system. Three-quarters (75%) of youth who receive informal intervention do not re-offend. Informal Intervention is also cost-effective: by safely diverting low risk youth from the formal juvenile system, Informal Intervention saves public safety resources for high-risk youth and produces better outcomes.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Number of youth served by program.	1,180	1,500	1,262	1,300
Outcome	Percent of youth who did not recidivate one year post program exit.	75%	0%	75%	0%

Performance Measure - Description

Recidivism is measured by a new criminal referral.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

ORS 419C.001 requires "The [juvenile] system shall provide a continuum of services that emphasize prevention of further criminal activity by the use of early and certain sanctions . . .". ORS 419C.225 authorizes diversion programs.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$881,064	\$378,588	\$763,353	\$390,164
Contracts	\$220,728	\$79,516	\$190,156	\$135,361
Materials & Supplies	\$4,749	\$2,316	\$7,559	\$1,152
Internal Services	\$32,576	\$34,913	\$16,143	\$38,514
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$1,139,117	\$495,333	\$977,211	\$565,191
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$90,558	\$24,483
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$269,716	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$360,274	\$24,483
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,139,117	\$495,333	\$1,337,485	\$589,674
Program Total:	\$1,634,450		\$1,927,159	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	8.62	4.38
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$18,838	\$0	\$25,558	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$495,333	\$0	\$478,885
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$86,306
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$18,838	\$495,333	\$25,558	\$565,191

Explanation of Revenues

This program is funded by county general fund \$977,211; State Juvenile Crime Prevention \$333,948; Robert Wood Johnson Reclaiming Futures Grant \$86,306; Portland Public Schools Suspension grant \$50,000; and state funds through the Commission on Children, Families, and Communities which are passed through to CASA \$94,937.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #50041, Juvenile Informal Intervention
None.