

Legislative Update | 2023 Edition

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PARTNERSHIPS ARE CRITICAL TO YOUTH SUCCESS

Remarkable outcomes for youth and families start and end with partnerships. Collaboration with system stakeholders across the state has led to incredible outcomes and opportunities for youth. We would like to thank our legislators, whose support this previous year has enabled us (as an Idaho Behavioral Health Council recommendation) to initiate youth assessment centers and to partner with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) to create youth crisis centers. In addition, we are enthusiastic about an innovative partnership formed this previous year with Lewis-Clark State College to provide dual-credit, online courses to juveniles in IDJC custody.

These examples are a testament to the innovative thinking to meet our vision of being leaders in producing successful outcomes for youth, their families, and communities.

YOUTH ASSESSMENT CENTERS

Assessment Centers aim to prevent and divert youth from juvenile justice and child welfare systems through a single point of contact. This occurs by means of intervention in schools, at point of or after arrest, at the request of parents/caregivers, or through partnerships with other community stakeholders. Leveraging validated screening and assessment tools, Centers work to understand the barriers youth and families are experiencing at home, school, or in the community. Following assessment, Centers partner with the youth and family to access individualized resources and services to help overcome barriers and create a stable environment. When appropriate, Centers coordinate with educational, social service, and justice agencies to provide a holistic view of the family's and youth's strengths and needs.

Eight Assessment Center projects were awarded funding through supplemental one-time funding of \$6.5 million appropriated to establish centers across each of Idaho's seven judicial districts. Assessment Center projects will follow the National Assessment Center Association's best-practices and framework.

Five centers will be designated as Tier 1 centers (screening for need only; refer for assessment) and three centers will be designated as Tier 2 (screening and assessment conducted in-house).

It is anticipated that by June 30, 2023, eight Assessment Centers will be fully established and serving youth and families in their communities.



YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTERS

Funding provided this previous year for youth crisis centers will divert youth from unnecessary hospitalization or arrest and provide stabilization and intervention services to address the crisis and get connected to needed services.

Youth Crisis Centers are a place for youth to go for help if they are experiencing a behavioral health crisis (actively self-harming, suicidal thoughts, etc.). Youth can stay for up to twenty-three hours and fifty-nine minutes (most episodes of care are resolved in less time). While there, they will receive a place to rest, food, and services from mental health professionals to deescalate, develop a plan of care and get referrals to community resources.

Through a competitive grant process in collaboration with IDHW, we anticipate establishing youth crisis centers by June 30, 2023, using one-time funding of \$4.4 million.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In FY22, the IDJC continued funding for community-based programs, demonstrating positive outcomes for youth and effective use of state funds. These funds focus on serving youth at risk of commitment to the IDJC, justice-involved youth with behavioral health issues, and youth reentering communities after state commitment. These funds compliment Idaho's Behavioral Health System by maximizing its valuable resources while also providing additional gap services funding.

As such, the IDJC is collaborating with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Behavioral Health, Medicaid, and Management Services and the Department of Administration's Division of Purchasing on the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan (IBHP) contract solicitation process. The new IBHP contract will transform and improve Idaho's behavioral healthcare system for residents, no sooner than Spring 2023. It also marks major changes to the state's behavioral health service delivery system and brings great opportunities to youth and their families.

Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS)	Community-Based Alternative Services (CBAS)	Detention Clinician Program
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Targeted services: substance use disorder treatment ● Funds utilized: \$2,389,897 ● Total youth served: 1,058 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Targeted services: mental health & behavioral addiction treatment, commitment prevention ● Funds utilized: \$873,869 ● Total youth served: 595 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Targeted services: support detention clinician positions in Idaho's juvenile detention centers ● Funds utilized: \$619,845 ● Total youth served: 1,278

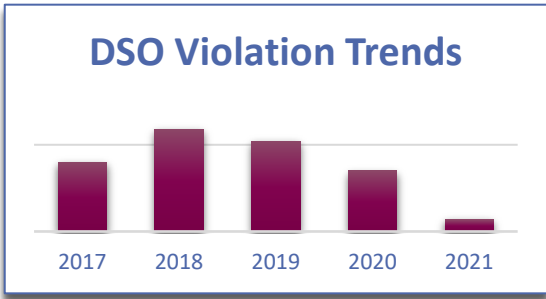
- Total Funds Utilized \$3,883,611
- Total Youth Served 2,931
- Average cost per youth in the community \$1,325
- >96% of youth were not committed or recommitted to IDJC custody

PLANNING AND COMPLIANCE

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) sets forth federal standards to ensure a minimum level of safety and equitable treatment for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. To be eligible for the funds provided under the JJDP, each state must comply with 33 requirements, including four core requirements: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Adult Jail and Lock-Up Removal, Sight and Sound Separation, and addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities.

The IDJC monitors the state's compliance with the JJDP, and in partnership with the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC), administers plans to comply with the Act while making improvements in the state's juvenile justice system. Idaho has been out of compliance with the DSO requirement since 2017; however, due to recent changes in state statute and court rule, and with the support of the IJJC, the Idaho Supreme Court and stakeholders statewide, we are seeing our lowest numbers of DSO violations. Consequently, based on data submitted for federal fiscal year 2021, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention determined in September, 2022, that Idaho is back in full compliance with all core requirements including the DSO requirement.

Lastly, national research has shown that youth of color are disproportionately over-represented and subject to more punitive sanctions than similarly-charged white youth at various levels of the juvenile justice system. As one of the core requirements, the IDJC is required to analyze data on the racial and ethnic disparities of youth at all points in the justice system, from arrest to detention to confinement. Using this data, communities will, then, work to identify measurable objectives based on the needs identified locally.



PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING (POST)

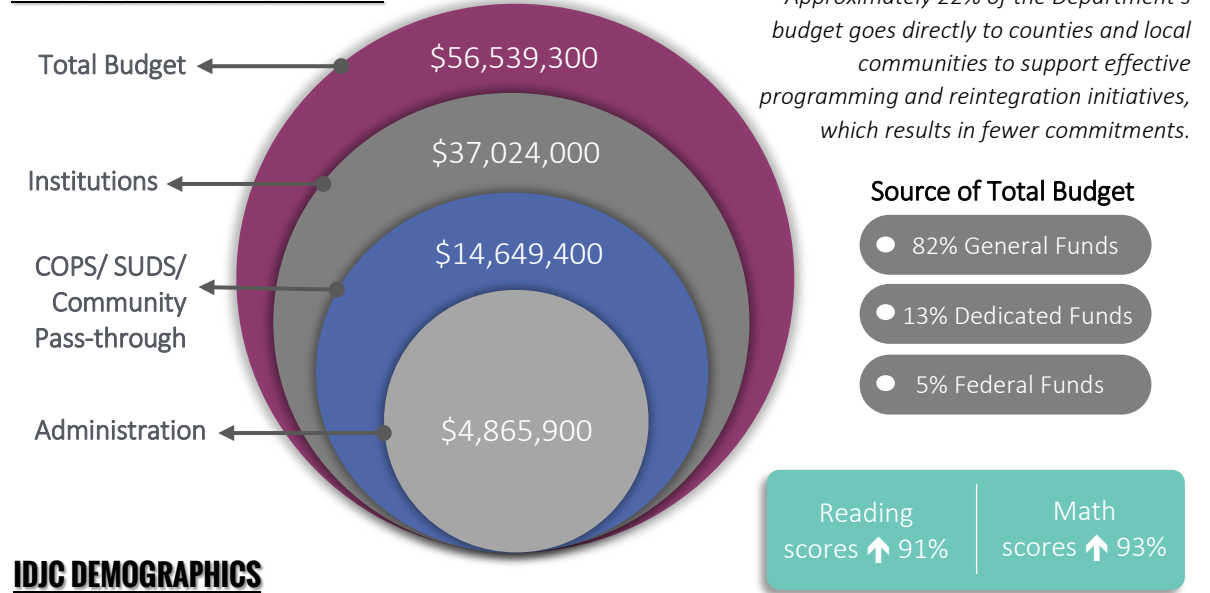
POST continues to provide high quality training and certification for all juvenile justice disciplines (probation, detention, and corrections). POST ensures curricula is evidenced-based and follows best practices within the juvenile justice field. Recently, the juvenile detention academy curricula underwent a rewrite and updated curricula that will be used in the March, 2023, academy. As part of the curricula rewrite process, both juvenile probation and juvenile detention are implementing elements of ARCON (Arrest and Control) in the 2023 POST academies. In addition, the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections partnered with POST to host two advanced trainings. The innovative training curricula will build on the core direct care training areas and provide staff with classroom instruction and scenario-based training. Total juvenile justice professionals trained in FY22:

13 Juvenile Probation Officers

18 Juvenile Detention Officers

35 IDJC Direct Care Staff

FY23 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION



IDJC DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender: Male – 81% Female – 19%	Average Age: 16.9 years old
Race/Ethnicity: W – 68% H – 22% B – 3% AI – 4% Other – 4%	
Crime: Property – 29% Person – 27% Sex Offense – 22% Other – 22%	
Crime Level: Felony – 48% Misdemeanor – 52%	Mental Health Diagnosis: 51%
Co-occurring Disorders (substance use disorder & mental health diagnosis): 30%	
Substance Use Disorders: 57%	FY22 Recidivism Rate: 28%
FY22 Avg Length of Custody: 15.5 months	FY22 Recommitment Rate: 17%

IDAHO JUVENILE POPULATION

Due to the continued collaboration with county partners to improve policy, resources, and training, the number of youth in IDJC custody and placed on probation decreased. Further, more youth were given the opportunity to avoid a formal record through diversion programs.

