
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Graduated Sanctions

Purpose

Iowa Code section [232.192](#) requires Juvenile Court Services to administer “early intervention and follow-up programs.” Historically, the Legislature has appropriated funds for such programs using the term “juvenile delinquent graduated sanctions services.” The services provided with the graduated sanctions funds are referred to in the Iowa Code as “early intervention and follow-up programs.”

Graduated sanctions services are services directed by Juvenile Court Services and the Judicial Branch to children adjudicated delinquent and to children who have been referred to juvenile court services for a delinquency violation or who have exhibited behaviors that put them at risk of a juvenile delinquency referral. The services are directed to enhance personal adjustment to help the children transition into productive adulthood and to prevent or reduce criminal charges, out-of-home placement, and recidivism. The services are provided in the child’s home community whenever feasible.

These services may be provided in an individual or group setting and can include, but are not limited to, supervised educational support and treatment and outreach services to eligible children who are experiencing social, behavioral, or emotional problems that put them at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system. This mix of services allows the flexibility to tailor treatment and services to meet the specific needs of the child. Services offered may provide individualized and intensive interventions to assist a child in establishing positive behavior patterns and to help the child maintain accountability in a community-based setting.

The State Court Administrator, the Director of Juvenile Court Services, and the chief juvenile court officers have primary responsibility for the administration of graduated sanctions and noncontracted/court-ordered services for eligible children.

Funding — State General Fund

The Judicial Branch receives a General Fund appropriation for graduated sanctions in the Judicial Branch Appropriations Act. Prior to FY 2024, program funds for Juvenile Court Services referred to as “graduated sanctions” were appropriated to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and were jointly administered by DHS and the Judicial Branch. The Chief Juvenile Court Officer for each judicial district was responsible for determining the appropriate mix of services for the judicial district. The Juvenile Court Services contract administrator was responsible for following the service contract procurement and oversight under the direction of the Chief Juvenile Court Officer. The DHS signed off on all contracts and processed all payments. Pursuant to [HF 2507](#) (Juvenile Justice Act), graduated sanctions funding is now appropriated directly to the Judicial Branch, and the Judicial Branch administers early intervention and follow-up programs.

More Information

Judicial Branch: lowacourts.gov

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Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [232](#) and section [232.192](#)
[Iowa Court Rules](#)

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