

Iowa Juvenile Home at Toledo

Purpose and History

The Iowa Juvenile Home and State Training School for Girls at Toledo (herein referred to as the Juvenile Home) was managed by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Before closing in January 2014, the Juvenile Home and Training School provided a specialized structured setting to evaluate and treat youth between 12 and 18 years of age who had been determined by the juvenile justice system to require specialized structured program care, evaluation, and/or treatment due to numerous out-of-home placements, disruptive behavior, or extensive involvement in the system. Males and females who had been judged [Children in Need of Assistance](#) (CINA) by the Iowa court system were admitted to the Iowa Juvenile Home. Females who had been judged delinquent were admitted to the State Training School for Girls at Toledo. At full capacity, the Juvenile Home and Training School served 57 youth and employed 114.0 FTE positions.

The characteristics of the average delinquent girl at the State Training School had over eight prior placements, was 16 years old, had special education needs, had a mental health diagnosis, and had an average stay of nearly nine months. The average CINA girl or boy at the Juvenile Home had over eight prior placements, was 15.5 years old, had special education needs, had a mental health diagnosis, and had an average stay of approximately 12 months. Approximately 85.0% of girls at the training School required psychotropic medication for a mental health condition.

The Juvenile Home provided educational, vocational, and health services, including:

- Comprehensive residential treatment program available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This program provided educational, skill-building, and treatment services to meet the individualized needs of the youth.
- Behavior-focused programs intended to improve youth and staff safety, develop social skills, and enhance academic achievement.
- Remedial, vocational, general, special, and postsecondary education; job readiness and active social skill building; and assessment, counseling, and treatment for substance abuse. Youth were able to receive a General Education Diploma (GED), high school diploma, and/or vocational training.
- Medication management, counseling, trauma care, testing, and assessment were used to address medical, psychiatric, and psychological needs.
- Specialized evaluation training services for juvenile court officers and judges.

Closure

On December 9, 2013, the DHS announced the closure of the Iowa Juvenile Home and State Training School and alternative placement of the youth being served at that time. The layoff of DHS staff employed at the Home was effective January 16, 2014. The DHS stated that the closure and alternative placement decision was based on Executive Branch interpretations of recommendations from a [report](#) submitted by the 2013 Iowa Juvenile Home Protection Task Force created by Governor Terry Branstad through [Executive Order Number 82](#) in August 2013.

The Task Force was comprised of five members appointed by the Governor, including the DHS Director, the Executive Director of the Drake Legal Clinic, the Director of Behavioral Services at Mercy Medical Center in North Iowa, a consultant, and the Director of Special Education, Area Education Agency 267. The Task Force held four public meetings. Alternative recommendations by the Task Force included:

- Limiting both the Juvenile Home and Training School to serving only girls and continuing operations as a “girls only” facility.
- Operating the school at the Juvenile Home and Training School on a year-round basis, but removing the DHS as the operator and placing the local school district in charge of education. Funding would have been needed for the local school district, and the mission would have included integration and collaboration between treatment and education.

More Information

Iowa Juvenile Home Protection Task Force Report: [Iowa Juvenile Home Task Force Report](#)

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- Replacing the cottages on the Toledo campus with living units designed to meet current standards, minimize the opportunity for self-harm, and remove the need for seclusion rooms. The campus cottages had been built or remodeled during the mid-1900s and had outdated floor plans and accommodations. Past campus improvements had included an FY 2006 appropriation of \$8.1 million for a new school, infirmary, and support unit.
- Subjecting any facility operated in the Juvenile Home to third-party oversight or licensure.
- Establishing a funding mechanism to allow private providers the additional funds needed to maintain the CINA youth in private facilities near the residence of each youth, and working with Magellan Behavioral Services to assist with arrangements. Once full capacity within private facilities had been reached, placement of CINA youth at the Juvenile Home would have been suspended and the facility would have served only as a State Training School. Any transition would have included ceasing new placements.

Funding

The Toledo Juvenile Home and State Training School General Fund appropriation has historically been included in the annual Health and Human Services Appropriations Act; however, the last General Fund appropriation for the maintenance of the Juvenile Home facility was made through the FY 2016 [Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund \(RIIF\) appropriation in House File 650](#). Costs associated with administration, maintenance, and security for the facility are ongoing and funded through the DHS budget.

Iowa Juvenile Home at Toledo Funding		
Revenues	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017
Intra-State Transfer from Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)	\$ 350,000	\$ 0
IDOT Road Maintenance	1,520	1,520
Total Revenues	\$ 351,520	\$ 1,520
Expenditures		
Infrastructure	\$ 226,439	\$ 197,823
Service Contracts	15,241	16,255
Administration	240,555	185,494
Total Costs	\$ 482,235	\$ 399,572
Balance	\$ (130,715)	\$ (398,052)

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [218](#), [233A](#), and [233B](#)
 441 Iowa Administrative Code [101](#)