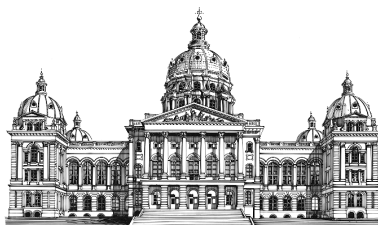


Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau



Dennis Prouty
(515) 281-5279
FAX 281-8451

State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319
November 30, 1994

Programs For Delinquents: Status Report

ISSUE

An update on implementation of the new programs for delinquents, including the new community-based and school-based services and "boot camps."

AFFECTED AGENCIES

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Department of Human Rights - Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (DHR - CJJP)

Judicial Department (JD)

Department of Education (DE)

CODE AUTHORITY

Senate File 2313 (FY 1995 Human Services Appropriations Bill)

Senate File 2319 (FY 1995 Juvenile Justice Bill)

BACKGROUND

Five new programs for delinquent youth were approved during the 1994 Legislative Session. These include:

- **Highly Structured Programs for Delinquent Youth:** The General Assembly directed the DHS and the DHR - CJJP to develop two 25-bed highly structured treatment-oriented programs for adjudicated delinquents. These programs are required to contain a resident phase and follow-up services, and at least one of the programs must include a regimen stressing discipline and physical activities. The programs are to be 90 days in length. The General Assembly did not make a separate appropriation for these 50 beds; funding was included in the budget for foster care providers contained in the Child and Family Services appropriation. The 50 beds are included in the group foster care cap of 1,350 beds.

- **Adolescent Monitoring and Outreach:** The General Assembly appropriated \$1.5 million for FY 1995 to provide intensive monitoring, outreach, and other placement prevention services to adjudicated delinquents, for 3 and 6 months. Youth are contacted on a daily basis, and some receive electronic monitoring bracelets. The Program assists clients with health, education, and employment services. Four pilot projects operated in FY 1994.
- **School-Based Supervision:** The General Assembly appropriated \$400,000 to provide school staff to address truancy and school behavior problems, as they occur. Family assistance and other services are also available to some youth. The DHS funds pay for 50.0% of the cost, while the Court Ordered Care and Treatment budget and the local school district each pay 25.0% of the cost.
- **Supervised Community Treatment:** The General Assembly appropriated \$1.9 million to provide an after-school program between 3 and 5 hours a day, for 5 to 6 days per week. Youth are involved in various skill-building activities focused on independent living, social skills, and employment. Youth also receive counseling and education support services, and aftercare. Average participation in the Program is 6 months.
- **Life Skills Development:** The General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 to provide training to develop interpersonal skills such as anger management, victim empathy, relationships, accepting responsibility, and problem-solving. Average participation in the Program is between 5 and 12 weeks.

CURRENT SITUATION

HIGHLY STRUCTURED PROGRAMS FOR DELINQUENT YOUTH

The DHS will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) at the end of November for two 25-bed highly structured treatment-oriented programs for adjudicated delinquents. Copies of the RFP will be available upon request from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. The DHS and the Judicial Department have agreed to allocate beds on the same basis as is used for beds at the Eldora State Training School. The DHS will require service providers to maintain very detailed records of treatment services, and providers will need to be licensed as Group Foster Care providers and certified as treatment providers under the Medical Assistance Program. The length of stay will be 90 days; one-third of the clients will be discharged every 30 days.

ADOLESCENT MONITORING AND OUTREACH

This Program was piloted in 4 judicial districts around the State in FY 1994 and is currently operated by the Judicial Department in 7 of the 8 judicial districts. It will be in Statewide operation by January 1, 1995. The Program is budgeted to serve 450 youth in FY 1995.

Referrals are made by Juvenile Court Officers, although in the Seventh Judicial District referrals are also made by DHS staff. The youth who are monitored range from those who otherwise would be in an out-of-home placement to those with less severe legal problems. The intensity of the monitoring also varies by child. Monitoring activities typically include calling schools and homes to assure that the child is actually where they are supposed to be. Some juveniles are fitted with electronic monitoring bracelets.

LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

This Program was piloted in the First and Fourth Judicial Districts in FY 1994 and is now operated Statewide. A curriculum has been purchased, and juveniles are involved in the Program between 10 and 15 weeks, with 2 to 3 class meetings each week.

SCHOOL-BASED SUPERVISION

This Program has been well received by local school districts and Juvenile Court Officers. It is new in FY 1995 and has been implemented Statewide, with the State funding distributed based upon the population of children. By the end of FY 1995 the Program will be operated in 20 schools. The average cost per site is \$30,000.

The DHS State funding is used to pay 50.0% of the cost of the Program, the Judicial Department appropriation for Court Ordered Care and Treatment is used to pay 25.0% of the cost, and local school districts pay 25.0% of the cost, primarily from local property taxes.

SUPERVISED COMMUNITY TREATMENT

This Program will be starting after January 1, 1995. The Judicial Department is developing a Request for Proposals in each Judicial District, and the DHS is providing assistance working with licensed providers and purchases of service contracts.

ALTERNATIVES

As noted in the Budget Impact section, the DHS is requesting a substantial increase in funding for delinquent programming. These Programs were started in FY 1994 in order to reduce the number of juveniles in group foster care. Group foster care populations have now been reduced to below the target population. The General Assembly may want to review the need for continued expansion of these programs in the context of the reduction in group foster care populations.

The new Congressional leadership has indicated support for reducing entitlement spending. It is unclear whether this possible reduction would affect the Medical Assistance Program, and whether it would limit Iowa's ability to receive federal funding for child welfare services. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau will monitor the impact of changes in entitlement funding upon child welfare programs.

BUDGET IMPACT

The total State cost of these programs in FY 1995 is estimated to be \$3.1 million. These funds provided services to 310 delinquent juveniles. The FY 1996 budget request submitted by the DHS totals \$8.7 million. This represents a 179.1% increase.

The DHS is requesting funding for a substantial expansion in programming for delinquents:

- A 34.6% increase in State funding for Adolescent Monitoring and Outreach (\$2.0 million in FY 1996 compared to \$1.5 million in FY 1995). Federal funding would increase by \$240,000 (22.0%). An additional 145 delinquents would be served during FY 1996, for a total of 595 cases.

- An 718.3% increase in State funding for Supervised Community Treatment (\$5.7 million in FY 1996 compared to \$702,000 in FY 1995). The \$234,000 in federal funding spent on this Program in FY 1995 would be shifted to other programs in FY 1996. An additional 215 juveniles would be served, for a total of 319 cases.
- No increase in State funding for Life Skills Development (\$500,000 in FY 1996, this is the same as in FY 1995). The federal funding also would not change.
- A 100.0% increase in State funding for School Based Supervision (\$800,000 in FY 1996 compared to \$400,000 in FY 1995). No caseload information is available for this Program, but the additional money would fund approximately 13 new Programs.

STAFF CONTACT: Jon Neiderbach (Ext. 16301)