

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES OVERVIEW AND FUNDING USES

Juvenile Court Services serves two primary purposes in our communities

1. The Supervision of Juvenile Offenders
 - a. To ensure public safety
 - b. To rehabilitate or habilitate the offender
2. Working with communities and schools to reduce the factors that lead to delinquent behavior:
 - c. Support for Schools
 - d. Support for Law Enforcement and private Agencies

Services funded through the Department of Human Services budget include Graduated Sanctions, Court Ordered Services, Family Center Services Carve-out, and Juvenile Drug Court.

- A. Public Safety
 1. Intensive supervision of high risk clients in the community
 2. Electronic monitoring as an alternative to detentions or for sex offenders as required by Code
 3. Community based sex offender treatment
 4. Drug testing. A nationwide study reports that four out of five youth arrested for delinquent acts where using drugs or alcohol when offending
 5. Juvenile Drug Courts provide intensive supervision, counseling and frequent drug screening to ensure compliance and diminish substance usage
- B. Support for Schools working with “at-risk” youth
 1. 105 School Liaisons in 86 more active schools assist at-risk students be successful and less disruptive
 2. Aggression Replacement Training classes offered in many schools to improve social skills
 3. Response to crisis by Juvenile Court Officers in many areas
 4. Day Treatment programs serve as alternative education programs for many students with chronic behavior problems

C. Assistance for Youth to be successful in the community

1. Counseling and skill development programs for non Title XIX clients
2. Functional Family Therapy in many parts of the State
– Highly successful “Best Practices” family counseling.
3. Aggression Replacement Training used in many programs and for many clients to improve or develop social skills and handling problems – “Best Practices” program

D. Support of Law Enforcement and Community Agencies

1. Juvenile Court Officer on call to help handle crises and provide Juvenile Justice guidance
2. Transportation arrangements to transfer clients to detention, treatment programs and Court
3. Involved in community planning to help focus client services and coordinate with local Decategorization projects

Why you should be proud of the programs you have created

1. Iowa began using an effective risk/needs assessment to determine a client’s level of risk for committing additional offenses in 2007.
2. Iowa has been mentioned as having one of the five best Juvenile Justice Systems in the country by Shay Bilchik, Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University. Former Director of the Office of Justice Programming, U. S. Department of Justice, and the Child Welfare League of America.
3. The handout provided shows the four factors that national experts say a Juvenile Justice System should incorporate to be most successful. It parallels what we have been able to do with the funds you have or had provided.

What will be lost with another \$600,000 cut?

1. 40 schools could lose their Juvenile Court School Liaisons
2. 300 families would not receive Functional Family Therapy and the child would likely end up in Residential Treatment
3. 150,000 drug tests would not be performed
4. 60 clients would not receive out-patient sex offender treatment and would end up in residential treatment, the State Training School or on the street