

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** John Casalino
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Juvenile Court Trial Unit's primary function, due to reduced funding, includes delinquency matters. This unit, working with Multnomah County's Juvenile Services Division, prosecutes serious felonies and misdemeanors committed by those under 18 years of age. This program now prosecutes youth ages 15, 16, and 17 who have committed crimes such as murder, rape and serious assaults subject to SB1008. This program seeks community protection, reformation of the youth and restitution to victims of crime. Refer to program 15101B which partially restored the unit to two primary functions: 1) delinquency and 2) limited dependency.

Program Summary

The purposes of the Oregon juvenile justice system are to protect the public and reduce juvenile delinquency and to provide fair and impartial procedures for the initiation, adjudication and disposition of allegations of delinquent conduct. This conduct includes cases ranging from minor misdemeanors to serious felonies—including murder, rape, robbery and serious assaults that were formerly prosecuted by other Multnomah County District Attorney's Office (MCDA) units but now, because of SB1008, are handled in juvenile court. The unit works closely with the Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Juvenile Division in developing appropriate sanctions aimed at accountability, community protection and reformation of the child or youth. Additionally, one of the goals of this program is to reduce the number of youth exposed to the adult criminal system. For over 25 years this program has been involved in the Anne E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The current interagency agreement with the Juvenile Services Division provides for opportunities for youth to have their matters handled informally, either through the Community Health Initiative Early Intervention Program, or through informal handling by the Juvenile Department. The current agreement calls for MCDA to provide legal sufficiency screening of all referrals, to ensure that youth are held accountable only for acts that are legally sufficient. Legal sufficiency screening by non-lawyers often results in youth being held accountable inappropriately. The goal of these programs is to provide the principles of accountability and reformation without pulling a youth further into the Juvenile System. The deputy district attorneys coordinate with the Department of Human Services, DCJ and juvenile court counselors to serve families impacted by the juvenile system. On July 1, 2019, the Department of Human Services redirected state and federal funds from MCDA to pay their own lawyers at the Department of Justice (DOJ) to represent DHS in all Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and dependency matters in Multnomah County. Refer to Program 15101B (Dependency and Delinquency) which, in FY 2020, partially restored this unit to two primary functions to serve families in Multnomah County. Lost funding from FY 2020, however, eliminated full victim advocacy to help those involved in the court process navigate the complicated and often unfamiliar juvenile system and impacted victim safety, restitution and restorative justice. This program no longer accomplishes community protection, youth reformation, family preservation and skill building to the extent it has in the past.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Cases reviewed for Delinquency, Dependency, TPR	1,857	1,363	1,558	1,558
Outcome	Early intervention program participants ___% less likely to recidivate than non-participants	39%	40%	39%	39%
Input	Number of attorneys in the unit needed to fulfill program description	11	5	7	5

Performance Measures Descriptions

For additional MCDA Budget Information:
<https://www.mcda.us/index.php/documents/multnomah-county-district-attorneys-informational-budget-packet-fy-2021.pdf>

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Juvenile Trial Court: 8.685 Assisting juvenile court; right to appear. (1) The District Attorney shall, upon request of the juvenile court, appear in the juvenile court to assist the court in any matter within its jurisdiction. (2) In counties having a population of more than 150,000, according to the latest federal decennial census, the district attorney shall designate a deputy to assist the juvenile court as provided in subsection (1) of this section. (3) The District Attorney is entitled to appear on behalf of the state in the juvenile court in any matter within the jurisdiction of the court. [1959 c.432 §63 (enacted in lieu of 8.750); 1991 c.681 §4.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Personnel	\$940,187	\$0	\$989,164	\$0
Contractual Services	\$12,000	\$0	\$14,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$36,300	\$0	\$38,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$988,487	\$0	\$1,041,164	\$0
Program Total:	\$988,487		\$1,041,164	
Program FTE	6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 15101A-20 Juvenile Court Trial Unit

In FY 2020, State and Federal funding was eliminated in this program because the Department of Human Services decided to have DOJ represent DHS in all Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and dependency matters in the County. Last year this program offer also reflected a General Fund reduction in order to meet the budget constraint. Because of reductions in both funding and FTE, this program lost two important child protection functions: full dependency and TPR. This program no longer advocates for proactive child protection efforts in dependency court proceedings to the extent it did in the past. This program no longer litigates cases where the abuse or neglect of a child necessitates effort be made to free the child for adoption (TPR). Refer to Program 15101B which restored the reduction in county funding to allow MCDA to continue delinquency and a limited role in dependency. This program now also has additional responsibilities under SB1008.