

Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Glen Banfield

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Executive Summary

In addition to maintaining public safety, this program focuses on accountability, rehabilitation and reformation for youth of Multnomah County while advocating for the rights of victims. The Juvenile Unit works with Multnomah County's Juvenile Services division to adjudicate youths under 18 years of age who commit crimes against members of the community. With the adoption of SB 1008 in 2019, youth ages 15, 16 and 17 charged with violent felonies such as murder, rape and serious assaults, are prosecuted by the Juvenile unit, including, when appropriate, seeking waiver to adult court. This program seeks to reduce disparities by diverting youth out of the system while still providing for reformation and restitution for victims.

Program Description

This program makes the community safer, reduces juvenile delinquency and provides fair, impartial and equitable procedures for the initiation, adjudication and disposition of allegations of delinquent conduct. This conduct includes minor misdemeanors to serious felonies—including murder, rape, and serious assaults under SB1008. 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 pursue equity and reduce the number of youths exposed to the adult criminal system.

This unit is involved with the Anne E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). This unit provides 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. MCDA provides 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 has resulted in youth being charged inappropriately. MCDA takes more of a restorative approach with youths than the adult system. Deputy district attorneys coordinate with the Department of Human Services, DCJ, and juvenile court counselors to serve families impacted by the system. MCDA has been engaged with system partners on the Center for Juvenile justice Reform Transforming Juvenile Probation. As a result of this project, MCDA started a new level of informal handling; taking youth who would otherwise have a formal criminal charge. Instead, allowing them to proceed with informal handling with a step up in supervision and services ultimately ending with no criminal record.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Number of cases reviewed	681	1,000	800	1,000
Outcome	Number of cases diverted from formal system involvement	121	120	200	250

Performance Measures Descriptions

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. [1959 c.432 §63 (enacted in lieu of 8.750); 1991 c.681 §4.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Personnel	\$1,691,968	\$0	\$1,801,172	\$0
Contractual Services	\$3,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$27,000	\$0	\$26,432	\$0
Internal Services	\$200,169	\$0	\$189,486	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,922,137	\$0	\$2,025,090	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,922,137		\$2,025,090	
Program FTE	8.72	0.00	8.79	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 15101 Juvenile Unit

Moved 0.79 DDA 3 FTE from PO 15301A Unit A/B to this program offer.

Moved 1.00 DDA 3 FTE from this program offer to the newly created Homicide Unit (PO 15305)