



Office of Community Involvement



Department of Community Justice CBAC

TO: Chair Jessica Vega Pederson

FROM: Department of Community Justice Community Budget Advisory Committee

DATE: March 6th, 2026

SUBJECT: Department of Community Justice Community Budget Advisory Committee Report & Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Community Justice Community Budget Advisory Committee (DCJ CBAC) supports the budget submitted by the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ).

However, the DCJ CBAC is concerned the proposed DCJ budget at a 5% cut level (or greater) will seriously restrict the ability of DCJ to effectively and appropriately respond to significant changes in operating conditions (such as increased demand for services created by increased juvenile detention, adult probation cases, and correlated downstream services). The proposed budget cuts culturally-appropriate, cost-effective, and preventive programs which may reduce future demand for DCJ services.

Our guiding values when considering our 2027 budget recommendations were:

- to fund a comprehensive, fair, and accountable system of community safety;
- to reduce or eliminate disparities and prioritize populations adversely affected by racism and economic status;
- to retain staffing levels to provide mandated, effective, and direct services;
- to advocate for services which meet the needs of high-risk, high-needs populations that aren't being fulfilled by other service providers.

The 2027 DCJ proposed budget addresses head-on the problems created in a time of austerity. While meeting the Chair's requirement of a 5% constraint budget, it lays out a

Department of Community Justice CBAC

framework for programs, protecting the Department's mandated services. For instance, last year, the DCJ CBAC supported the Department's efforts to improve the recruiting, training, and onboarding of new Parole-Probation Officers through a temporary reallocation of probation and parole positions. This year, the DCJ CBAC supports the Department's proposed reallocation or return of those positions to the probation and parole division (Program Offer 50023).

The DCJ CBAC strongly urges the Board to adopt the Department's ADD program – the Stabilization and Readiness Program (SARP). The DCJ CBAC toured the SARP facility at DCJ's Mead Building and reviewed statistics showing SARP's impact on high-risk, high-need populations. We believe SARP provides a critical and direct service in offering these populations a low-barrier day shelter and resource center, unavailable through other County programs.

This year, the County Chair directed departments to identify programs or their components in order of priority for restoration. The DCJ CBAC supports the Department's prioritization.

In particular, the DCJ CBAC strongly urges the County Chair and Board to protect: (1) DCJ Victim and Survivor Services (identified as Priority #5), and (2) the Juvenile Culturally Responsive Youth and Family Treatment Services program (identified as Priority #7). The DCJ CBAC is advocating for these two programs in particular based on the values we delineated above, highlighting that these services meet otherwise unfulfilled needs.

PROCESS

Since 2023, the DCJ Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) meets monthly with DCJ staff and visits DCJ sites, learning about its programs. The DCJ CBAC members receive training on the County budget process. The DCJ CBAC appreciates having the opportunity to review and speak with DCJ staff about the Department's budget in order to gain a better understanding of the issues facing the department and the budget process. We encourage the Department and the Chair's Office, as well as the Office of Community Involvement (OCI), to continue to explore ways to increase transparency, timeliness, and engagement for the Multnomah County community in the budget process. The current DCJ CBAC membership reflects the DCJ and OCI's efforts

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Department of Community Justice CBAC

to include persons who have been impacted by the criminal justice system and the diverse cultures of the residents of Multnomah County.

EMERGING THEMES/TRENDS

The economic and financial forecast for Multnomah County requires the Board to make difficult decisions to cut expenditures. Last year, the DCJ had an effective cut of 5.4%, including a cut to a major juvenile justice program (Behavioral Rehabilitation Service Assessment & Evaluation or A&E), followed by a \$2.6 million reduction in the Adult Services Division. This year, the DCJ Adult Services Division will lose significant staffing due to disinvestment in Pre-Trial services. At the same time, funding from other governmental sources is being reduced, and the demand for DCJ services – particularly Parole and Probation Services – may be increased due to changes to deflection eligibility and potential charges brought by the District Attorney. The downstream impact of these policy changes will potentially create increased demand, which exceeds Oregon Department of Corrections forecasts for DCJ services at a time when budgets and services are being reduced. Therefore, we urge the Board to prioritize additional resources to DCJ as a key part of the public safety continuum.

We applaud the efforts of the Board to advocate for community corrections and specialty courts during the current State Legislative session.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET/PROGRAM OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS

Our specific recommendations are as follows:

- **Program Offer 50041:** Adult Stabilization and Readiness Program (SARP)

The DCJ CBAC strongly urges the County to add SARP into DCJ's base budget. This program provides critical and direct services, including a daytime shelter and resource center, to high-risk and high-needs populations. The services provided by SARP successfully help clients engage in case management, skills development, and treatment. Adding SARP into DCJ's base budget will ensure the unique and high-acuity needs of these clients continue to be met on an ongoing basis. SARP's clientele's needs are unable to be fulfilled by other service providers - in part due to the extreme needs of this population. SARP provides a unique model in which security is embedded into the facility, with

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Parole-Probation Officers onsite, which is one of the primary factors distinguishing SARP's ability to meet the needs of these populations.

- **Program Offer 50003:** DCJ Victim and Survivor Services

The reduction of a Victim and Survivor Services Advocate will impair DCJ's ability to provide direct services and support to a vulnerable population. The DCJ uses a trauma-informed approach to engage with this population - helping DCJ live its values. This role is critical in the provision of urgent safety services to victims and survivors, including rapid allocation of funds needed to provide emergency housing, relocation, and additional support. The DCJ CBAC thanks the Board for last year's increased funding for direct and critical emergency services.

- **Program Offer 50064:** Juvenile Culturally Responsive Youth and Family Treatment Services

Following last year's reduction of the Juvenile Division's Behavioral Rehabilitation Service Assessment & Evaluation (A&E) program, the DCJ CBAC urged the Board to add Culturally Responsive Youth and Family Treatment Services as a means to bridge the anticipated gap left by closing A&E. This year, the DCJ CBAC still believes this programming will directly benefit those juvenile populations most in need of support, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other marginalized youth and their families. The types of interventions and therapeutic support this program provides are essential to justice-involved youth and their families at this stage in their lives.

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