



Oregon Youth Authority

Issue Brief

December 2011

Contracting to support youth reformation

10

Number of OYA close-custody correctional and transition facilities

750

Approximate number of youth offenders supervised in OYA close-custody facilities

1,075

Approximate number of youth offenders supervised by OYA in communities

302

Total Funds, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2011-2013

258

General Fund, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2011-2013

87

Approximate percent of OYA's budget spent locally in facilities and communities

Overview

OYA writes an average of 750 contracts and contract amendments annually. These contracts are used to purchase services and supplies that support OYA's mission to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Contracts range from food and clothing for youth in OYA's 10 facilities statewide to contracts with providers of residential treatment, community treatment, and county juvenile department services. Almost all OYA contracts are with Oregon companies and providers; most services and supplies are delivered by workers who live, work, and pay taxes in Oregon.

OYA engages contractors for services that its employees cannot perform, for specialized short-term services, and for services contractors can deliver more cost-effectively.

Contracting for services

OYA contracts with residential treatment providers in 15 counties for assessment, skill building, counseling, structure, and treatment in therapeutic environments for youth on probation or parole. The agency contracts with 60 community treatment providers across the state to deliver general therapy to reduce youth offenders' criminogenic risk factors and provide sex-offender and drug and alcohol treatment. OYA also contracts with 15 community providers in four counties for wraparound services to help youth successfully reintegrate into the community.

For OYA close-custody facilities without medical professionals on staff, the agency contracts with dentists, physicians and nurse practitioners who regularly visit youth in those facilities. Local school districts and ESDs provide staff to operate year-round schools for youth 21 and younger, and OYA contracts for education and vocational services for youth who have earned a high school diploma, GED, or are older than 21.

OYA also contracts with the 36 county juvenile departments for delinquency prevention and intervention services for youth offenders who might otherwise be committed to OYA. These services include diversion of high-risk offenders from OYA close-custody placement; crime-prevention basic services to prevent further offenses and reduce recidivism; and gang-intervention services.

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Mission

The Oregon Youth Authority protects the public and reduces crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.



Vision

Youth who leave OYA go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.



Core Values

Integrity
Professionalism
Accountability
Respect



Director

Colette S. Peters



Deputy Director

Fariborz Pakseresht



Assistant Director
for Business Services

Jean Straight



Assistant Director
for Community Services

Philip Cox



Assistant Director
for Facility Services

Karen Daniels

Contracting for supplies

Among OYA's largest contracts for supplies are those to buy food, clothing, and janitorial supplies on price agreements for facilities. OYA buys food to serve approximately 3,500 meals and snacks daily to youth offenders in close custody. OYA also provides approximately 34,000 articles of clothing annually. And, the agency buys janitorial products and writes contracts for janitorial services. For prescription medications, OYA contracts with pharmaceutical providers.

Obtaining best value

OYA continually identifies ways to maximize the value of its contracts, ranging from standardizing supplies and obtaining bulk discounts to evaluating provider effectiveness and conducting rigorous reviews to ensure contract compliance.

For example, OYA is using a new research tool to evaluate residential program effectiveness by youth age, gender, and crime type. The agency tracks underused beds in residential programs so budgeted beds can be moved to where the need is greatest. OYA also complied with a Secretary of State's recommendation to tighten contract and reporting requirements with county juvenile departments. And it rewrote education agreements to pay for documented services delivered rather than automatically paying quarterly invoices for fixed amounts.

To ensure best value for supplies, OYA centralized Food Services to control invoice approvals and installed new software to track food types, volumes, and prices. The agency is further standardizing supplies to reduce costs with more bulk purchasing. Products are tested for effectiveness and safety, such as a test of janitorial chemicals that led to a change of suppliers. All items in the agency's central warehouse, where experienced buyers search for the best prices, are evaluated annually for cost-effectiveness.

OYA purchases less expensive generic medications whenever they are available and appropriate. Prescriptions are filled by pharmacies that have contracted with OYA to provide generic and brand-name medications at reduced prices.

OYA cannot purchase pharmaceuticals in bulk because the agency does not have a pharmacist on staff to repackage the medications. However, OYA continues to investigate other options for further reducing medication costs such as implementing joint purchasing agreements with the Oregon Department of Corrections.

OYA believes in being a good steward of tax dollars and in maximizing taxpayers' resources to support public safety and assist youth offenders in becoming productive, crime-free members of the community.