



Oregon Youth Authority

Issue Brief

December 2011

Treatment services and programs for youth offenders

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

The Oregon Youth Authority provides evidence-based treatment services to help youth offenders acknowledge accountability, learn pro-social attitudes and behaviors, avoid risky thinking and actions, and engage in reformation. Research shows the most effective means of reducing the risk of a youth reoffending is to provide the appropriate combination of treatment and education.

Needs assessments

Each youth offender who is placed in OYA's care and custody receives a Risk Needs Assessment (RNA) within the first 30 days of probation or close-custody commitment.

The RNA evaluates each youth for criminal and delinquent behavior, social skills, attitudes and beliefs, substance abuse, mental health, family and parenting issues, interpersonal relationships, use of free time, employment, and education.

Results from the RNA determine the treatment and education services each youth receives in his or her case plan.

Treatment services focus on the thinking, beliefs, behaviors, and other skills each youth needs to learn to become a productive, crime-free member of society. Educational opportunities include classroom and vocational training to help prepare each youth to be successful after leaving OYA's custody.

Treatment options

OYA offers a range of evidence-based and research-informed treatments customized for each youth offender's needs. Additional treatment services and programs are provided as needed.

Most treatments are available to all youth in OYA's care and custody. Some treatments are designed to address specific types of offender behaviors such as fire setting or sex offenses. In addition, some treatments are designed specifically to meet the treatment needs of female offenders or male offenders. The most commonly offered treatments are listed on the following page.

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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

Treatment options for all OYA youth offenders

- **Alcohol and Drug Treatment** – Youth learn cognitive and behavioral coping strategies and skills to help them live without the use of drugs or alcohol.
- **Changing Behavior** – Youth learn skills to replace anti-social thoughts with pro-social thoughts and behaviors.
- **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy** – Youth learn to recognize, avoid and cope with situations, thoughts and feelings that lead to risky behavior.
- **Coping with Stress and Depression** – Youth learn better thought patterns to build positive relationships and address problems with stress and depression.
- **Fire-Setting Treatment** – Youth learn and practice more appropriate attitudes and beliefs, and gain an understanding of the effects of their fire-setting behaviors.
- **Interactive Journal Keeping** – Youth identify, discuss, and change the behaviors that led to their offenses.
- **Pathways to Self-Discovery** – Youth learn to gain control over their thoughts and feelings related to substance abuse.
- **Power Source** – Youth gain an understanding of the emotions and beliefs that drive their high-risk behaviors.
- **Seeking Safety** – Youth with a history of trauma and substance abuse learn better thinking, behavioral, and interpersonal skills, with a focus on safety.
- **Sex Offender Treatment** – Youth learn more appropriate attitudes and beliefs about sex and sexuality, better thinking skills, and more appropriate behaviors, and gain an understanding of the effects of their offending behaviors on victims.
- **Skill Streaming** – Aggressive and anti-social youth learn more appropriate interpersonal skills and self-control.
- **Social Skills** – Youth learn when and where to use appropriate social skills.
- **Street SMARTS** – Gang-involved youth develop better thinking and coping skills to identify risky behaviors and barriers to living crime-free lifestyles.

Options primarily for female offenders

- **Dialectical Behavior Therapy** – Youth with a history of suicidal behavior and difficulty coping learn more appropriate coping skills.
- **Voices** – Youth learn to connect with others and develop healthier self-images.

Options primarily for male offenders

- **Aggression Replacement Training** – Youth who display aggressive behaviors learn the skills they need to choose alternative behaviors through anger control and moral reasoning.