Community Partnerships
Working Together to Provide Services

How do partnerships help OYA youth?

Governmental Relationships
OYA works with many other justice-related agencies, state agencies, and governments to provide services. These include:
- County juvenile departments
- Courts and district attorneys
- Law enforcement agencies
- Oregon Department of Corrections
- Oregon Department of Education
- Oregon Department of Human Services
- Oregon Health Authority
- Oregon’s Native American tribes
- Oregon Youth Development Council

Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS)
The Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) is a statewide digital database designed to support a continuum of services among all members of Oregon’s juvenile justice community.
JJIS is a collaborative partnership between OYA and Oregon’s county juvenile departments. Oregon is one of only three states in the nation with a statewide data system for youth in the justice system.

Advisory Committees
Advisory committee members include OYA leaders and staff, families of youth, victim advocacy groups, social service agencies, and representatives of communities of color, faith communities, and the LGBTQQI community.
- OYA Partnership Committee
- African American Advisory Committee
- Audit Committee
- Family Advisory Council
- Latino Advisory Committee
- LGBTQQI Advisory Committee
- Native American Advisory Committee

Volunteers
More than 500 volunteers provide supplemental programs at OYA facilities. Here are a few examples:
- Business professionals teaching skills for transition
- Professional athletes mentoring young runners
- Community members helping youth train dogs
- Master Gardeners teaching youth about plants
- Local churches donating holiday items and meals

What is the Oregon Youth Authority?
We protect the public and keep communities safe.
As part of Oregon’s juvenile justice system, we hold youth accountable and provide them with opportunities for reformation, either on parole or probation in the community, or inside secure facilities. We are responsible for youth ages 12 to 24 who commit crimes before age 18.
We serve youth who are unsuccessful at the county level, who need more services than the county can provide, or who commit very serious crimes.

We believe youth can change, and we provide them the means to do so.
Research shows the human brain continues developing until at least our mid-20s. This impacts judgment and decision-making for adolescents.
We provide youth with treatment, education, and other guidance to help them take responsibility for their behavior while learning how to act differently in the future. We do this in safe, positive, supportive environments that will help them become responsible, community-minded citizens.

We use commonsense approaches guided by research on what works.
Our culture aims for everyone to develop in safe, secure, respectful and supportive environments, where we all are held accountable, and where we are connected to our community.
**Oregon’s Juvenile Justice System**

**Using the Right Gears to Rehabilitate Youth**

**Who are the youth in the system?**

- **Most youth are served at the county level.**
  - 5,200 Youth supervised by county juvenile departments providing probation and detention services and connecting youth with treatment, education, and other services locally
  - 730 Youth on parole or probation with OYA
  - 505 Youth in OYA’s nine secure facilities

- **Youth come to OYA in two main ways.**
  1. A juvenile court judge commits them to OYA because they are not succeeding at the county level, or they need more services than the county can provide.
  2. They commit very serious crimes and adult courts commit them to the Oregon Department of Corrections. Because of their younger age, they can live in OYA facilities until age 25.

- **Youth at OYA have diverse needs.**
  - AGE
    - 12 to 13: 1%
    - 14 to 15: 11%
    - 16 to 17: 34%
    - 18 to 20: 43%
  - GENDER
    - Male: 88%
    - Female: 12%
  - RACE/ETHNICITY
    - Native American: 5%
    - Hispanic: 13%
    - African American: 13%
    - White: 57%
    - Other/Unknown: 2%

**SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS**
- More than 75% have diagnosed mental health disorders.
- The majority have dealt with substance abuse or dependence.
- 43% of females and 16% of males are victims of sexual abuse.
- 29% of females and 12% of males have exhibited past suicidal behavior.

**What gears does OYA use?**

- **Community Supervision**
  - The majority of our youth are in community settings. Supervised by juvenile parole and probation officers, these youth live at home or in a variety of placements, including:
    - Residential treatment programs — OYA contracts with them for services
    - Foster or proctor homes — OYA runs its own foster care program

- **Close-Custody Facilities**
  - 5 Youth Correctional Facilities
  - 4 Youth Transitional Facilities

**Services for Rehabilitation**
- We provide or connect youth with the services and support they need, including:
  - Education and vocational training
  - Treatment for negative or harmful behaviors
  - Treatment for substance use disorders
  - Medical and psychiatric care
  - Mental health counseling and services
  - Culturally responsive services
  - Teaching positive social behaviors
  - Teaching life skills and preparing for transition back to the community
  - Recreational and enrichment activities

The justice system is like a bicycle — it works best when it can use different gears for different terrain. Luckily, Oregon has many gears available to rehabilitate youth, from county juvenile departments to community residential programs to OYA facilities. By using all of the gears, we can better reach our destination: youth who are crime-free, productive members of their communities.