



Oregon Youth Authority

Issue Brief

January 2015

Treatment services for youth in OYA close custody

10

Number of OYA close-custody facilities

650

Approximate number of youth offenders OYA supervises in close custody

550

Approximate number of youth offenders OYA supervises in community residential treatment and foster care settings

450

Approximate number of youth offenders OYA supervises who live independently or at home in communities

323

Total Funds, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2013-2015

88

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 develop skills to improve accountability, pro-social thoughts and behaviors, avoid risky thinking and actions, and engage in positive youth development. 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 who is placed in OYA's custody receives a Risk Needs Assessment (RNA) as well as other evaluations, 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, as well as from a range of psychological and trauma assessments youth receive, help OYA's treatment professionals determine the optimum placement, treatment and education services for each youth in OYA's care and custody.

Treatment options

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

Treatments focus on the thoughts, beliefs, behaviors, and other skills youth need to learn to become productive, crime-free members of society. Educational opportunities include classroom and vocational training to help prepare each youth to be a successful contributor to the workforce and society after leaving OYA's custody.

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.

Oregon

Youth Authority

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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 will go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.



Core Values

Integrity

Professionalism

Accountability

Respect



Director

Fariborz Pakseresht



Deputy Director

Joe O'Leary



Key Service Areas

Business Services

Community Services

Facility Services

Health Services

Information Services

Treatment Services

Treatment options for all youth offenders

- **Alcohol and Drug Treatment** – Youth learn cognitive and behavioral coping strategies and skills to help them live successfully without the use of drugs or alcohol.
- **Changing Behavior** – Youth learn skills to replace risky thoughts with pro-social thoughts and behaviors.
- **Coping with Stress and Depression** – Youth learn cognitive and behavioral skills to monitor and manage symptoms related to stress and depression.
- **Fire-Setting Treatment** – Youth learn about the effects of their fire-setting behaviors and develop skills to practice safe behaviors.
- **Interactive Journal Keeping** – Youth identify their readiness to change the behaviors that led to their offenses and develop personally relevant goals.
- **Sex Offender Treatment** – Youth learn developmentally and socially appropriate attitudes and beliefs about sex and sexuality, appropriate boundaries and interpersonal skills, and gain an understanding of the effects of their offending behaviors on victims.
- **Skill Streaming** – Youth learn socially and developmentally appropriate interpersonal skills and self-control.
- **Street SMARTS** – Gang-involved youth learn the cognitive and behavioral skills needed to develop the strength to live independently of gang activities.

Options primarily for female offenders

- **Dialectical Behavior Therapy** – Youth with a history of suicidal behavior and/or nonsuicidal self-injurious behavior and interpersonal difficulties learn the skills to manage their emotions and relationships in safe and healthy ways.
- **Seeking Safety** – Youth with a history of trauma and substance use learn to monitor and manage their symptoms and develop interpersonal skills that help promote safety.

Options primarily for male offenders

- **Aggression Replacement Training** – Youth who display chronically aggressive behaviors learn to improve social, anger control, and moral reasoning skills.