



OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY
Policy Statement
Part III – Youth Services (Community)



Subject:

Behavior Incentives and Reinforcing Behavior (Community)

Section – Policy Number:

C: Case Planning and Review – 1.3

Supersedes:

III-C-1.3 (03/10)

Effective Date:

04/24/2018

Date of Last Revision:

04/24/2020

Related Standards and References:

- [ORS 420A.108](#) (Policy regarding rules and dispositions for violations of rules; review of dispositions)
- [ORS 182.515-182.525](#) (Evidence-based programs)
- Performance-based Standards (PbS), *Juvenile Correction and Detention Facilities*; Order; Programming
- Community Services Individualized Services Handbook
- [OYA policy](#): I-A-11.0 Assessment, Case Planning, and Multidisciplinary Teams
- II-B-2.0 Behavior Incentives and Reinforcing Behavior [Facility]
- [Attachment A](#): Behaviors/Conditions to Reinforce with Incentives/Reinforcements


Related Procedures:

- COM III-C-1.3 [Youth Incentives – Gift Cards](#)

Policy Owner:

Community Services Assistant Director

Approved:



 Joseph O'Leary, Director

I. PURPOSE:

This policy sets guidelines for OYA field staff in providing incentives and reinforcement to promote positive youth behavior for youth on OYA community supervision.

See OYA policy II-E-1.9 Behavior Management – Incentives and Reinforcement [Facility] regarding guidelines for OYA facility staff when establishing behavior incentives and reinforcement for youth in OYA facilities.

This policy does not address staff travel reimbursement.

II. POLICY DEFINITIONS:

Behavior management: A comprehensive plan that clearly identifies how positive prosocial behavior is promoted and reinforced and how negative behavior is refocused.

Incentive: That which is planned prior to a behavior being performed to increase the likelihood that the behavior will happen.

Reinforcement: A response to a behavior that serves to strengthen or increase the likelihood a youth will repeat that behavior. Examples include social praise, tangible items (e.g., gift cards), tokens (e.g., points/levels) or additional privileges, and the removal of a stimulus a youth dislikes (e.g., curfew, house arrest).

III. **POLICY:**

OYA's mission is to protect the public by holding youth accountable, promoting change, developing and improving skills, and increasing the likelihood that youth will go on to lead productive, crime-free lives. OYA supports a culture of Positive Human Development (PHD) to assist in achieving this goal. This culture provides a physically, psychologically, and emotionally safe and secure environment, fosters caring and supportive relationships, provides high expectations and accountability, and encourages meaningful participation and connection to communities – to increase public safety and positive youth outcomes. Positive rapport, reinforcement, and incentives are an integral part of OYA's youth behavior management strategy.

Applying this approach, OYA uses a youth behavior management system that provides incentives and reinforcements as part of each youth's treatment and case plan. Each youth on OYA supervision in the community has individual treatment goals that target specific behaviors using incentives and reinforcements which are meaningful to the youth. Targeted behaviors are directly related to the youth's case plan goals and competency development.

IV. **GENERAL STANDARDS:**

- A. A youth's multidisciplinary team (MDT) establishes individual goals to target specific behaviors for that individual youth. The goals are reviewed and updated as needed.

Specific incentives are agreed on through the MDT process and documented in the case plan.

- B. Staff must verify the targeted behavior prior to establishing or administering a related incentive or reinforcement.
- C. Staff must use positive social behavior incentives and reinforcements as the primary method of promoting behavior change.
- D. Procurement of tangible behavior incentives and reinforcements must be controlled and limited.
1. Each OYA field office must follow the Community Services Individualized Services Handbook and Community Services procedure [COM III-C-1.3 Youth Incentives – Gift Cards](#) regarding procurement of tangible items for youth.

The field supervisor must approve of any distribution of tangible incentives or reinforcements prior to the distribution.

2. Staff may not use their personal funds to purchase tangible behavior incentives or reinforcements.
- E. Some examples of appropriate types of behavior incentives and reinforcements to use with youth on community supervision are listed in [Attachment A](#).

V. GENERAL PROCEDURE REQUIRED: NO

Attachment A: Behaviors/Conditions to Reinforce with Incentives/Reinforcements
Examples of Behaviors and Conditions to Reinforce

Behaviors

Shows motivation to change
Avoids situations likely to lead to re-offending
Demonstrates skills to avoid, manage, or escape from high-risk activity
Honesty
Efforts and progress towards short and long term goals and competencies
Achieves treatment benchmarks
Decrease in anger outbursts
Models skills to deal with negative peer pressure
Reduces association with anti-social peers
Models and promotes the use of non-violent alternatives for resolving conflicts
Models and encourages others to use acceptable methods for controlling impulsive behavior
Demonstrates use of emotion regulation skills
Clean substance use tests
Sobriety
School achievement (grades, attendance, behavior/graduation)
Demonstrates and promotes prosocial relationships with peers
Demonstrates skills to deal with negative peer pressure
Respectful towards others
Displays prosocial skills
Positive examples for other youth
Appropriate dress
Follows boundaries
Holds other peers accountable
Stays away from gang activity
Behavior improvements
Finds/maintains a job
Volunteers
Responsible behavior
Medication compliance
Self-reports misconduct
Responsible money management
Good communication with family
Follows home rules
Aggression control
Displays good-problem solving skills

Conditions

Pay restitution
Timely check-ins
Community service
Court conditions
Follows Parole/Probation Agreement

Attachment A: Behaviors/Conditions to Reinforce with Incentives/Reinforcements
Examples of Incentives and Reinforcements

Social

Verbal praise
Youth in programs - share recognition of good work within program
Introduce to supervisor, praising for efforts
JPPO attends school, athletic events, graduation
Attend special events
Walks at program graduation
Individual attention
Positive court hearing
More privileges
Increase frequency of home visits
Longer home visits
Driving privileges
Celebrations

Tokens

Certificates of accomplishment, acknowledgment of effort
"Atta boy" awards
Points to purchase agreed-upon rewards

Removal/Reduction of Stimulus

Extend curfew
Write off community service hours
Modify parole conditions
Unsupervised time
Less structured time (more free time)
Less frequent substance use tests
Reduce sanctions
Decrease restrictions
Early release or transition from a facility or program
Early termination of probation/parole

Tangible

Gift cards
See the Field Operations Individualized Services Handbook