

### Program #15101 - Juvenile Unit

3/7/2022

**Department:** District Attorney **Program Contact:** Glen Banfield

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program Program Offer Stage: As Requested

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: In Target

## **Executive Summary**

This program makes the community safer and seeks restitution for crime victims while prioritizing reformation of youth rather than punitive measures. Via delinquency, this unit works with Multnomah County's Juvenile Services division and prosecutes youths under 18 years of age who commit crimes against members of the community and 2) protects children and promotes skill-building. Under SB1008 this program prosecutes youth ages 15, 16, and 17 who victimize community members by committing violence felonies such as murder, rape and serious assaults, including when appropriate seeking waiver to adult court. This program seeks to reduce disparities by diverting youth out of the system while still providing for reformation and restitution for victims.

### **Program Summary**

This program makes the community safer, reduces juvenile delinquency and provides fair, impartial and equitable procedures for the initiation, adjudication and disposition of allegations of delinquent conduct. This conduct includes minor misdemeanors to serious felonies—including murder, rape, and serious assaults under SB1008. The unit works closely with the Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Juvenile Division in developing appropriate sanctions aimed at accountability, community protection and reformation of the child or youth. Additionally, one of the goals of this program is to pursue equity and reduce the number of youth exposed to the adult criminal system.

This unit is involved with the Anne E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). This unit provides opportunities for youth to have their matters handled informally, either through the Community Health Initiative Early Intervention Program, or through informal handling by the Juvenile Department. MCDA provides legal sufficiency screening of all referrals, to ensure that youth are held accountable only for acts that are legally sufficient. Legal sufficiency screening by non-lawyers has resulted in youth being charged inappropriately. This unit seeks to provide the principles of accountability and reformation without pulling a youth further into the Juvenile System. Deputy district attorneys coordinate with the Department of Human Services, DCJ and juvenile court counselors to serve families impacted by the system. MCDA has been engaged with system partners on the Center for Juvenile justice Reform Transforming Juvenile Probation. As a result of this project we started a new level of informal handling, taking youth who would otherwise had a formal charge allowing them to proceed with informal handling with a step up in supervision and services.

Performance Measures									
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer				
Output	Cases reviewed for Delinquency cases	1,072	1,590	940	1,223				
Outcome	Delinquency cases diverted from formal system involvement	113	400	74	196				

#### **Performance Measures Descriptions**

We monitor the flow of work coming into our office with referrals of delinquency, and do everything we can within the boundaries of public safety to divert referred cases out of the formal criminal legal system.

### **Legal / Contractual Obligation**

Juvenile Trial Court: 8.685 Assisting juvenile court; right to appear. (1) The District Attorney shall, upon request of the juvenile court, appear in the juvenile court to assist the court in any matter within its jurisdiction. (2) In counties having a population of more than 150,000, according to the latest federal decennial census, the district attorney shall designate a deputy to assist the juvenile court as provided in subsection (1) of this section.[1959 c.432 §63 (enacted in lieu of 8.750); 1991 c.681 §4.

# Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$1,691,668	\$0	\$1,770,314	\$0
Contractual Services	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$26,000	\$0	\$27,000	\$0
Internal Services	\$186,019	\$0	\$202,484	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,906,687	\$0	\$2,002,798	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,906,687		\$2,002,798	
Program FTE	9.00	0.00	9.00	0.00

Program Revenues						
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		

#### **Explanation of Revenues**

#### Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 15101 Juvenile Unit

New obligations, under SB 1008, to prosecute complex murder, robbery and sexual assault cases continue to increase the workload of this unit. Under COVID, resolution in delinquency cases, however, have slowed because of the need to be inperson in some hearings and trials. This unit has adapted well to remote. Law Enforcement submissions also decreased because of stretched resources due to expanded civil unrest and violence combined with decreased funding. During FY 2022, this unit discontinued litigating dependency cases. Since the passage of SB 222, assistant attorneys general are appointed to appear in dependency cases. In this moment of scarce resources, record caseloads, and a gun violence epidemic, appearing as a party in dependency cases where a Department of Justice attorney is already present is not the most prudent use of MCDA resources.