

Confinement of Juvenile Offenders



Follow-up report highlights

February 2016

The Department of Juvenile Corrections, the Legislature, and the courts have addressed our recommendations of the 2014 evaluation. These recommendations covered five areas of Idaho's juvenile corrections system.

Data integrity

The Department of Juvenile Corrections has proposed a back-end data validation approach to the US Census Bureau to ensure that complete data is provided by all facilities that confine juveniles. The department sent the bureau a complete list of facilities where juveniles were confined before the bureau's October 2015 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement.

Diversion

The Department of Juvenile Corrections provided training on diversion best practices to juvenile justice stakeholders across the state, which allowed counties to improve diversion programs while maintaining the ability to meet unique local needs.

Legislation in 2016

Legislation has been introduced to allow a court to informally adjust a petition at any time during a case and to require dismissal of charges upon successful completion of the condition of an informal adjustment.

Prevention and early intervention

\$1 million per year

The Department of Juvenile Corrections distributed Millennium Funds to counties for prevention and early intervention programs.

\$4 million per year

The Department of Education reestablished dedicated funds for its Safe and Drug Free Schools program. The funds had been discretionary for several years.

Commitment

Legislation in 2015

The Legislature amended statute to clarify that a juvenile could be both sentenced to probation and committed to the department. The amendment also established when the probation period would begin.

Courts to update Judicial Rule 19

The courts plan to update Judicial Rule 19, which contains criteria that must be met before a juvenile can be committed to the Department of Juvenile Corrections. The proposed changes will focus on committing only those juveniles who pose a danger to the community.

Reintegration

With funding from a federal grant, the Department of Juvenile Corrections created a 5-year strategic plan to improve reintegration when juveniles return to the community.



View the report: www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/

