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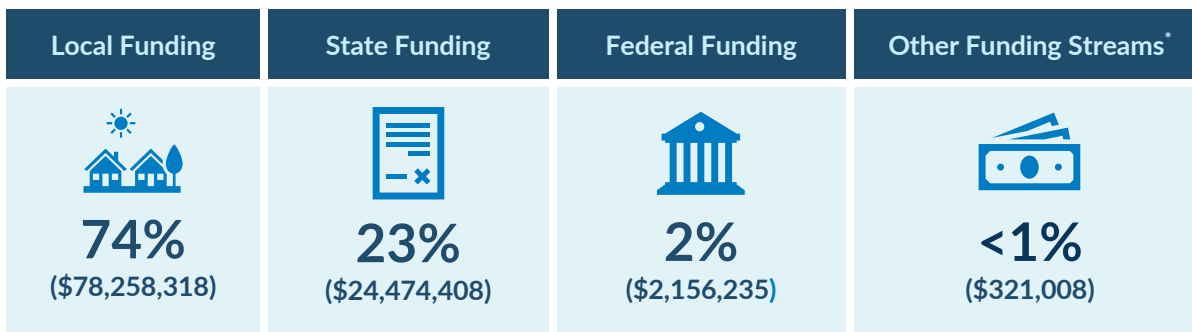
Financing Case Study for Juvenile Justice Insights from the Central County Juvenile Probation Department in SFY 2019

Juvenile justice systems rely on a range of funding streams and partnerships with government agencies, juvenile courts, and contracted providers to deliver interventions and supports for youth and families. The availability and structure of these services and resources are shaped by unique state and local policies, funding sources, and administrative frameworks. However, detailed information on juvenile justice financing, particularly at the local level, is often limited. This complexity and diverse structure of government funding make it difficult to identify and implement innovative funding strategies that could improve system performance and outcomes for youth, families, and communities. To address these challenges, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Child Trends launched the Juvenile Justice Financing Study to enhance understanding of juvenile justice system financing.

This factsheet, part of that initiative, builds on the study's findings and complements a strategic brief that provides a high-level overview of juvenile justice financing. To illustrate the findings in practice, this factsheet highlights juvenile justice expenditures from a local juvenile probation agency, detailing how funds were allocated and spent in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019. For illustrative purposes, this factsheet refers to the agency under a fictionalized name: the **Central County Juvenile Probation Department (CCJPD)**. This large county agency serves as a unique case study because it is one of the most comprehensive county-level probation departments in the country. Unlike many other county-level probation departments, which typically focus solely on probation supervision, this agency oversees a wide range of services, including detention, residential facilities, and community-based programs. By examining one local agency's budget, this factsheet aims to provide a foundational understanding of juvenile justice financing in a local jurisdiction and help policymakers and other stakeholders drive transformative system reforms.

How CCJPD's Juvenile Justice Services Are Funded

In SFY 2019, CCJPD's total expenditures for juvenile justice services amounted to \$105,209,969. The CCJPD agency operates under a hybrid model that primarily relies on local funding with supplemented contributions from state grants and allocations. This collaborative funding structure allows state and federal contributions to enhance local funding to more effectively meet community needs. The majority of expenditures for juvenile justice services in CCJPD were funded by local revenue (74%), with state funding contributing 23 percent. Federal funding accounted for 2 percent, while less than 1 percent was derived from fines and fees, foundation funding, and other court costs and donations.



Source: Child Trends' analysis of the agency's Juvenile Justice Financing Study survey data in SFY 2019: distribution of funding sources.

*Other funding streams include fines and fees (\$72,361), foundation funding (\$231,247), and other court costs and donations (\$17,400) collected by the county to provide youth services in CCJPD's supervision.

CCJPD encompasses a range of supervision and interventions designed to support youth involved in the juvenile justice system. For this factsheet, these services are categorized into two types: community supervision and out-of-home care. Community supervision allows youth to remain in their communities under structured guidance, such as diversion, probation, and home-based monitoring. Out-of-home settings include detention and residential placements. The sections that follow define these services and a breakdown of their total expenditures.

Agency Expenditures for Community Supervision

39 percent of total expenditures from CCJPD were spent on community supervision, including:

- **Diversion:** For this study, diversion refers to decisions and supports that occur after an arrest but before adjudication. Diversion may or may not include programming and offer an alternative to formal juvenile justice processing.
- **Probation:** A court-ordered period of community supervision, typically allowing youth to live at home, and during which they must comply with specific conditions as an alternative to detention or incarceration. Probation may include services and activities for both formal supervision (e.g., regular check-ins with a probation officer, monitoring, and enforcement of court-mandated conditions) and informal supervision.
- **Home-based monitoring services:** Services or electronic devices used to monitor pre-adjudicated youth who remain in their homes instead of being placed in (or remaining in) a detention facility or other residential placement. These services ensure home confinement (i.e., house arrest) and are limited to pre-adjudicated youth.

In SFY 2019, most funds (67%) for community supervision were allocated to youth on probation (Figure 1). Total expenditures for community supervision were \$22,264,386.

Figure 1. Total expenditures related to community supervision, by category

■ Diversion = \$3,940,986
 ■ Probation = \$14,920,913
 ■ Home-based monitoring services = \$3,402,487



Source: Child Trends' analysis of the agency's Juvenile Justice Financing Study survey data in SFY 2019. This figure shows the distribution of one agency's expenditures for community supervision. CCJPD did not report any expenditures for reentry/aftercare in SFY 2019.

Diversion, while serving the most youth, is the least expensive option per individual, whereas home-based monitoring services that serve the fewest youth are the most costly per individual. The next page shows that the estimated average daily expenditures per youth increase based on the level of agency oversight and supervision.

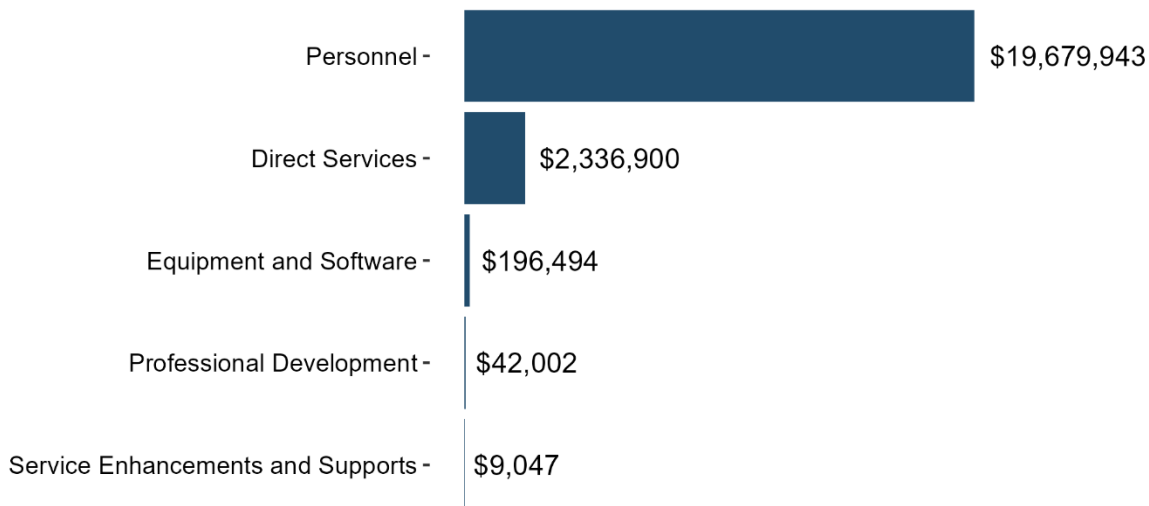
	Average Daily Population	Estimated Average Daily Expenditure Per Youth
Diversion	2,060	\$5.24
Probation	1,716	\$23.82
Home-based monitoring services	158	\$59.00

Source: Child Trends’ analysis of the agency’s Juvenile Justice Financing Study survey data in SFY 2019. This table shows the average daily expenditures per youth on community supervision.

Average daily expenditure per youth is estimated by dividing the total cost of community supervision expenditures (e.g., expenditures for personnel, administrative costs, intervention programming, support/resources provided to youth under community supervision and their families) by the average daily population over a year.

Most funding for community supervision was used to support personnel costs (e.g., funds to support salary and fringe benefits), followed by direct services (e.g., rehabilitative services and treatment programs that youth and families may receive). CCJPD receives state aid formula funding to develop and expand community-based and residential programs.

Figure 2. Community supervision expenditures and supports



Source: Child Trends’ analysis of the agency’s Juvenile Justice Financing Study survey data in SFY 2019.

Agency Expenditures for Out-of-Home Care

61 percent of CCJPD’s total expenditures were spent on out-of-home care, including:

- **Detention:** The short-term confinement of a youth in a secure (locked) or non-secure (staff-secure) juvenile justice facility. Detention can occur prior to adjudication, while awaiting a court disposition, pending placement, or post-disposition. It also includes youth awaiting transfer to adult criminal court or those awaiting a hearing or trial in adult criminal court under the authority of the juvenile justice agency. Detention facilities, which can be operated by local or state juvenile justice agencies, are designed to house youth temporarily.

- **Residential placements:** Includes all court-ordered out-of-home care in residential facilities (non-detention and non-commitment) where youth are placed as a condition of probation. This category also encompasses court-ordered placements arising from “voluntary” agreements between a youth’s attorney and the prosecuting attorney. These placements may be publicly or privately operated and can include a wide range of secure and non-secure facility types, including secure correctional facilities (e.g., state-run institutions accessed without formal commitment), residential treatment centers, transitional living facilities, group homes, and foster care.¹

CCJPD’s expenditures cover the costs of five locally operated facilities and expenditures for youth housed in contracted residential facilities. CCJPD has fewer than 10 privately contracted residential facilities, where youth from other counties are blended together in placement. However, CCJPD only funds the care of youth under its supervision.

The table below provides details on the average daily population, length of stay, and estimated daily expenditure per youth for each facility type in SFY 2019.

Locally Run Facilities		Contracted Facilities
Detention	Local residential placement	Private residential placement
Average daily population: 173	Average daily population: 200	Average daily population: 11
Average length of stay: 0.62 months	Average length of stay: 3.8 months	Average length of stay: 6.7 months
Estimated average daily expenditure per youth: \$541.80	Estimated average daily expenditure per youth*: Missing data	Expenditure data for this population were not readily available at the time of the study.

Source: Child Trends’ analysis of the agency’s Juvenile Justice Financing Study survey data in SFY 2019. This table shows the distribution of agency expenditures for out-of-home care.

*The estimated average daily expenditure per youth in local residential placement is unknown due to missing data on the total expenditures.

Note: CCJPD did not report cost-sharing arrangements with the state for committed youth in SFY 2019. Commitment refers to the court-ordered, long-term placement of a youth in a residential facility operated or overseen by a state juvenile justice agency.

Commitment follows a formal adjudication process, typically for serious offenses, and the state juvenile justice agency temporarily maintains direct oversight of the youth’s care. Commitments can be either indeterminate (where the length of stay is based on the youth’s progress and rehabilitation) or determinate (where the length of stay is fixed by the court or statute).

Summary of Total Expenditures

The table on the next page summarizes CCJPD’s estimated average daily expenditures per youth, comparing the costs of community supervision and out-of-home care. Understanding the resource allocation and cost-effectiveness of different juvenile justice interventions may help guide decisions on where to allocate funding or focus efforts to maximize impact.

¹ Youth may be dually involved with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems at the same time. In these cases, youth may be placed in foster care as a court-ordered condition of their probation. Foster care is considered a non-secure residential placement.

Community Supervision			Out-of-Home Care	
Diversion	Probation	Home-based monitoring services	Detention	Local residential placement
\$5.24	\$23.82	\$59.00	\$541.80	Missing data

Source: Child Trends’ analysis of the agency’s Juvenile Justice Financing Study survey data in SFY 2019. This table shows the average daily expenditures per youth, comparing community supervision and out-of-home care.

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Please note that the findings and conclusions presented in this report are those of the author(s) alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation.

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