

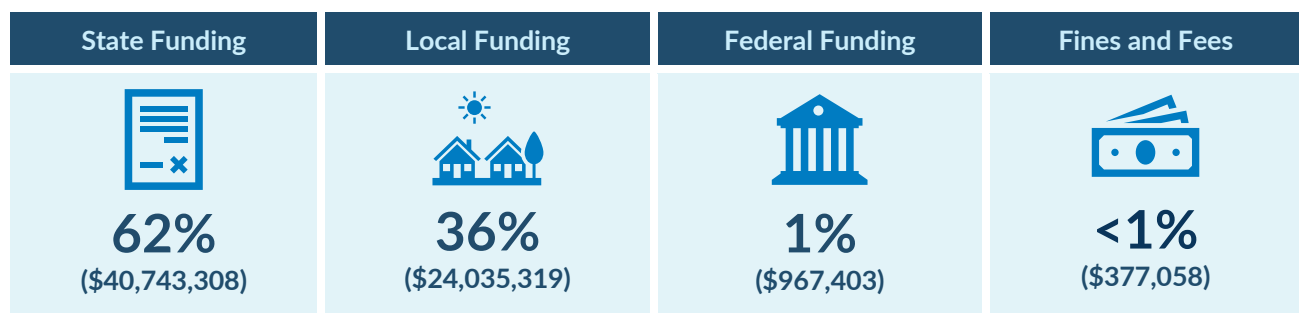
Financing Case Study for Juvenile Justice Insights from the Goldridge County Juvenile Probation Department in SFY 2019

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: **Goldridge County Juvenile Probation Department (GCJPD)**. This mid-sized county juvenile probation department serves as a unique case study due to its broad range of services and collaborative cost-sharing arrangements with the state. 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 GCJPD's Juvenile Justice Services Are Funded

In SFY 2019, GCJPD's total expenditures for juvenile justice services amounted to \$66,123,088. The GCJPD agency operates under a hybrid funding model, primarily relying on state funding but with additional contributions from local and federal governments. This collaborative structure enables local and federal resources to complement state funding, enhancing the department's ability to meet community needs. The majority of expenditures for juvenile justice services in GCJPD were funded by the state (62%), with local revenue contributing 36 percent. Federal funding accounted for 1 percent, while less than 1 percent was derived from fines and fees.



Source: Child Trends' analysis of the agency's Juvenile Justice Financing Study survey data in SFY 2019: distribution of funding sources.
Note: GCJPD did not report any foundation funding in SFY 2019.

GCJPD 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.

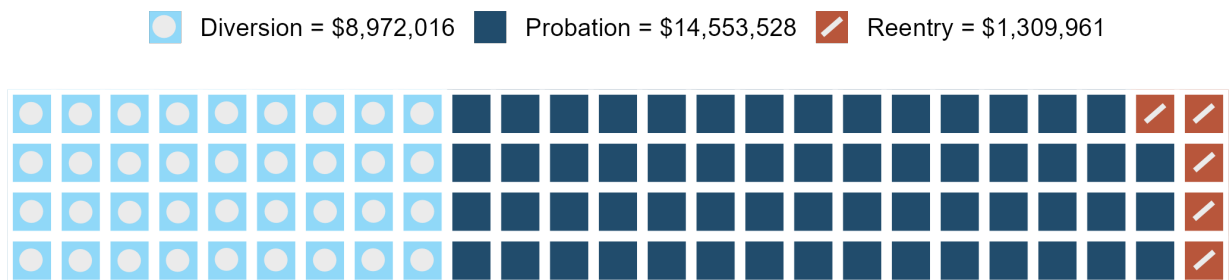
Agency Expenditures for Community Supervision

38 percent of total expenditures from GCJPD were spent on community supervision, including:

- **Diversions:** 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.
- **Reentry:** The process of reintegrating youth from residential placements or state commitment facilities back into their communities. This transition often involves the coordination of reentry services, which may include aftercare programs, to provide ongoing support, supervision, and access to necessary resources. Successful reentry typically relies on collaborative agreements between community providers and agencies to ensure the effective delivery of tailored services that promote stability and positive outcomes for youth.

In SFY 2019, most funds (59%) for community supervision were allocated to youth on probation (Figure 1). Total expenditures for community supervision were \$24,835,505.

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



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. GCJPD did not report any expenditures for home-based monitoring services in SFY 2019.

Youth on probation also have the highest average daily population, while population sizes for diversion and reentry are similar. Although diversion serves the fewest youth, it is the most expensive per individual, which may suggest more intensive or specialized services. Notably, as the level of agency oversight and supervision increases from diversion to reentry, estimated average daily expenditures decrease.

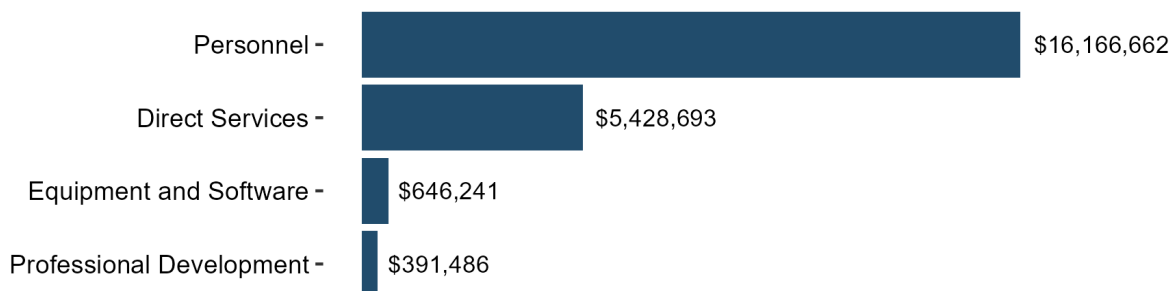
	Average Daily Population	Estimated Average Daily Expenditure Per Youth*
Diversion	165	\$148.97
Probation	1,403	\$28.42
Reentry	188	\$19.09

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., such as rehabilitative services and treatment programs that youth and families may receive). GCJPD receives state funding to implement programs that prove effective for reducing crime and delinquency.

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

62 percent of GCJPD’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

- **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).

GCJPD's expenditures encompass the costs of four locally operated facilities and include cost-sharing arrangements with the state for committed youth and those in other residential facilities not operated by GCJPD. Under such arrangements, GCJPD and the state have a joint obligation to pay for the costs of residential placements for youth under GCJPD's care. The state covers the majority of expenses associated with housing and rehabilitation while GCJPD contributes to the remaining costs.

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		Cost-Sharing Arrangements	
Detention	Local residential placement	State commitment	Other residential placement
Average daily population: 103	Average daily population: 42	GCJPD is required to pay a daily cost for their committed youth. This cost ranges from \$6.17 to \$88.93 per youth per day depending on the offense category. Committed youth with less serious offenses would cost GCJPD more.	The state typically covers 90% of the costs for residential placements of GCJPD-supervised youth. If the facility's monthly charges exceed a predetermined cap set by the state, GCJPD is required to cover the additional expenses. These costs vary based on the type of facility and the level of care required.
Average length of stay: 1.2 months	Average length of stay: 5.7 months		
Estimated average daily expenditure per youth: \$747.08	Estimated average daily expenditure per youth: \$797.63		

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.

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.

Summary of Total Expenditures

The table below summarizes GCJPD’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.

Community Supervision			Out-of-Home Care		
Diversion	Probation	Reentry	Detention	Local residential placement	State commitment
\$148.97	\$28.42	\$19.09	\$747.08	\$797.63	\$6.17 - \$88.93

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.

Acknowledgments

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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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