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Ohio Awards \$1.6 Million to Provide Detention Alternatives and Security Enhancements
Services Projected to Benefit More Than 5,000 Youth in 23 Counties

COLUMBUS – In an effort to reserve detention placement for the right youth, address challenges of troubled youth early, and improve detention services and conditions of confinement, the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) today announced \$1,628,804 in funding to assist 23 counties* through the agency’s new *Detention Alternatives and Enhancements Initiative*.

“Since 2011, under Gov. John Kasich’s administration, the state’s juvenile justice system has undergone extraordinary reforms built on the philosophy that youth and families should be served in the most appropriate and least restrictive setting possible,” said DYS Director Harvey Reed. “The Detention Alternatives and Enhancements Initiative is about progressing this philosophy so that more youth and families—especially those first involved with juvenile justice—get the help they need to prevent diving deeper into the system.”

Implementation grants will help fund physical plant enhancements as well as expand alternatives to secure detention, services and supports provided within the facilities. Alternatives will divert an estimated 800 youth from secure detention through June 2017 with the development of evening assessment and reporting centers, crisis shelters, respite services, and increased use of electronic monitoring. Funds will benefit approximately 4,200 youth who require a stay in detention by advancing quality programming and treatment. Just under \$400,000 of the \$1.6 million has been earmarked to provide much-needed physical plant improvements to boost safety and security at the facilities.

Fairfield County Juvenile Court Judge Terre L. Vandervoort is excited to use funding to develop a day/evening reporting center as a detention alternative. “This will strike the right balance in protecting the community, holding youth accountable, and providing skills and competencies young people need to succeed in the future,” said Judge Vandervoort. “Youth served by alternatives will be able to maintain educational progress, continue employment, receive monitoring during high risk afternoon and evening hours, and benefit from programs and services to address their needs.” The Court estimates the new reporting center will serve 250 youth and result in a savings of more than \$300,000 annually.

“Our goal is to help detention centers make efficient use of their resources and support public safety,” said Regina Lurry, staff lead for detention alternatives at DYS. “The proposals we’ve funded reflect the Department’s commitment to supporting options for youth taken into custody and enhancing services at detention centers in order to get better results for young people.”

Gabriella Celeste, JD, is the Director of Child Policy at the Case Western Reserve University Schubert Center for Child Studies. Last year, the Center published a [report](#) called “Getting it Right: Realigning Juvenile Corrections in Ohio to Reinvest in What Works.” Regarding the new initiative, Director Celeste said, “By strategically investing in detention diversion and quality treatment, this newest round of DYS funding continues to advance research-supported outcome-based practices and policies that deter deeper justice involvement for youth.”

DYS is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio and is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts. DYS currently operates three juvenile correctional facilities, provides parole services from two regional sites and funds and supports nearly 600 community programs serving 79,000 youth throughout the state.

*Counties benefiting from *Detention Alternatives and Enhancements Initiative* grants include the following: Allen, Ashtabula, Champaign, Clermont, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Guernsey, Jefferson, Knox, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Muskingum, Summit, Trumbull, Union, Warren, and Wayne.

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