

Legislative Update | 2025 Edition

Ashley Dowell, Director



PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING (POST)

IDJC continues to enhance the training and expertise in juvenile justice by launching the first Juvenile Corrections Officer academies at the Meridian POST Campus. Each juvenile justice discipline now reaps the benefits of a broad coalition of certified trainers from across the Law Enforcement spectrum. Further, juvenile justice instructors are expanding their influence within Patrol and Detention disciplines to inform their work with at-risk youth. IDJC’s partnership with POST has provided improved access to training opportunities for Law Enforcement Officers regarding work with the youth of Idaho.

In Fiscal Year 2024, the following juvenile justice professionals were trained:

24 Juvenile Probation Officers

43 Juvenile Detention Officers

37 Juvenile Corrections Officers

IDJC COMMUNITY PROJECTS

IDJC was appropriated funds in FY22 to develop and implement assessment centers in Idaho. **Assessment Centers** aim to prevent escalation of problem behaviors and divert youth from juvenile justice and child welfare systems through a single point of contact. This occurs by means of intervention in schools, interactions with law enforcement, at the request of parents/caregivers, or through partnerships with other community stakeholders. Leveraging validated screening and assessment tools, Centers work to understand the barriers youth and families are experiencing at home, school, or in the community. Following assessment, Centers partner with the youth and family to access individualized resources and services to help overcome barriers and create a stable environment.

Idaho’s Assessment Centers have been recognized locally and nationally for the impact they’ve had on youth. Twelve centers are established and serving youth across all seven of Idaho’s judicial districts. In FY24, these Centers served 2,896 youth. Families were connected to supportive services such as counseling, suicide intervention, and substance abuse treatment.

In FY24, the Idaho Legislature appropriated the IDJC \$350,000 to offer Assessment Centers for enhancement purposes in FY25. Ten centers applied and were awarded funding to support marketing, technology and assessment tools, transportation, and training.

FY24 Senate Bill 1350 called for standardized training, screening, and assessment tools for **Human Trafficking** victims. In response, the IDJC formed a workgroup consisting of probation and detention representatives from all Idaho judicial districts. This workgroup is collaborating to develop tools that integrate with existing facility processes. Deliverables will be complete by January 2025.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) continues to provide essential funding for youth in the juvenile justice system with behavioral health needs to access community-based programming. The Unit consists of three separate programs; the Substance Use Disorder Services Program, the Community Based Alternative Services Program, and the Detention Clinician Program. All programs offer funding for behavioral health treatments to youth within the juvenile justice system. With these programs, we continue to see high success rates in preventing youth from being committed, or recommitted, to IDJC custody demonstrating effective and efficient use of state funds. These programs are a vital component of the state behavioral health system, as they complement the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan by maximizing its valuable resources while also providing gap funding to vulnerable populations.

FY24 offered challenges and opportunities for the Behavioral Health Unit. July 2024 marked a huge milestone for the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan implementation and transition to a new managed care organization, Magellan. While facing some budgetary hurdles, the IDJC has continued to work in partnership with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and Medicaid, leveraged its strong relationships with county and community stakeholders, and continued to offer resources to youth in the juvenile justice system statewide. Through these partnerships, the BHU has continued to be responsive to the needs of youth and families in Idaho and maintain great stewardship of its funding. Research demonstrates that community-based treatment is more affordable, less disruptive, promotes family engagement by providing treatment within youths’ respective communities, and ultimately leads to improved outcomes.

Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS)

- Targeted services: substance use disorder treatment, IDJC commitment prevention
- Funds utilized: \$3,024,640
- Total youth served: 994

Community-Based Alternative Services (CBAS)

- Targeted services: mental health & behavioral addiction treatment, IDJC commitment prevention
- Funds utilized: \$596,802
- Total youth served: 432

Detention Clinician Program

- Targeted services: support detention clinician positions in Idaho’s juvenile detention centers
- Funds utilized: \$628,669
- Total youth served: 2,416

Total Funds Utilized
\$4,250,111

Total Youth Served
3,842

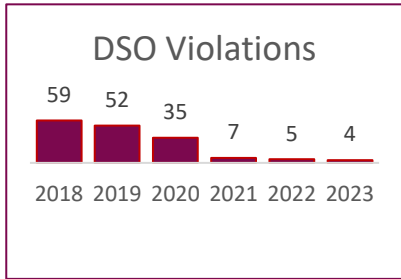
Average cost per youth in the community
\$1,106

>98% of youth were not committed or recommitted to IDJC custody



PLANNING AND COMPLIANCE

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) sets forth federal standards to ensure a minimum level of safety and equitable treatment for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. To be eligible for the funds provided under the JJDPA, each state must comply with four core requirements: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Adult Jail and Lock-Up Removal, Sight and Sound Separation, and addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities. IDJC monitors the state’s compliance with the JJDPA, and in partnership with the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC), administers plans to comply with the Act while making improvements in the state’s juvenile justice system. Idaho has been back in full compliance with the DSO requirements since 2022, and continues to maintain record low violations statewide. Since 2018, Idaho has seen a 93% decrease in DSO violations statewide. Additionally, two videos detailing the four core requirements were created for the target audience of judges and law enforcement. This last year, the Planning & Compliance Unit hosted two successful juvenile justice forums in Boise and Idaho Falls in conjunction with the IJJC and the Idaho Supreme Court. These forums focused on how Idaho can remain compliant with the JJDPA moving forward as well as integrating restorative justice practices while holding youth accountable. After these forums, Planning & Compliance released a \$100,000 grant opportunity to prevent or divert status offenders from secure confinement and entrance into the juvenile justice and child welfare systems by providing connections to community-based resources through restorative justice practices.

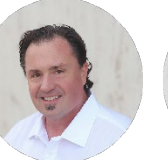


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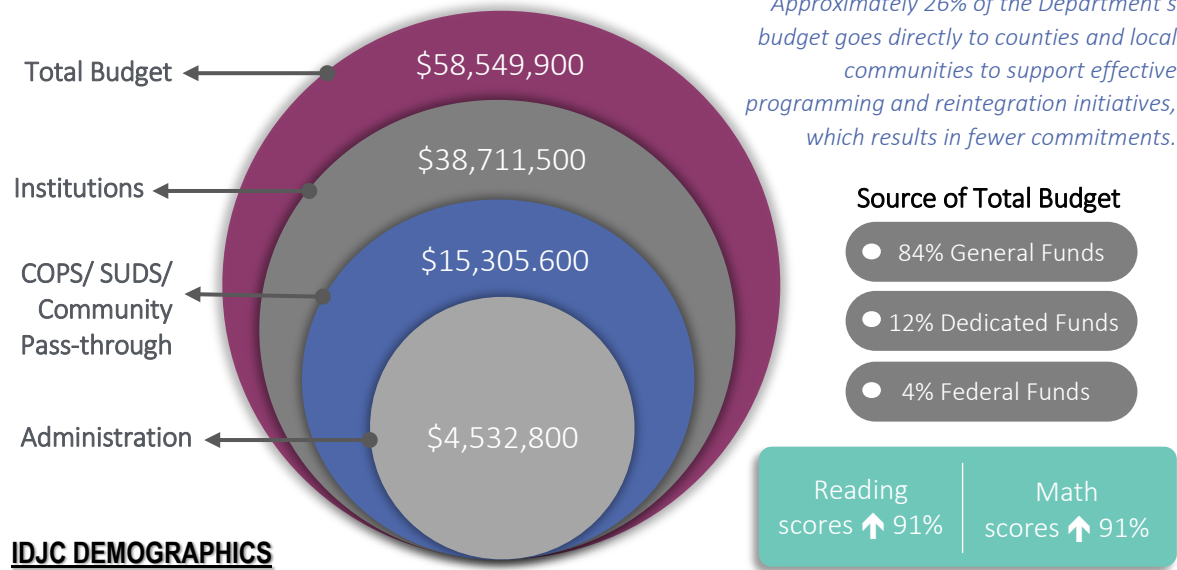
DISTRICT LIAISONS

District Liaisons (DL’s) are the primary link between the Department and the local community. They assist in developing alternative interventions, prevention, and diversion programs, partner with Planning and Compliance to complete law enforcement visits statewide, as well as disseminate information statewide to keep youth from being committed to state custody and to speed the transition back to the community after treatment. DL’s distribute information, generate local, district, and statewide data and oversee the \$7.7 million in Juvenile Corrections Act and Tobacco Tax community pass through funds distributed quarterly to all 44 counties. Some of the projects these funds have supported, which wouldn’t have been possible otherwise, include restorative conferencing and in-home intervention support, Wraparound services, electronic monitoring, anger management classes, community service programs, and youth assessments.

Juvenile Justice Administrators statewide report a total of 2,911 youth placed on county diversion, 2,901 youth placed on county probation, and 2,928 youth placed in detention across all 44 Idaho counties in 2023. Meet the IDJC DL team:

D4/Supervisor	D1 & D2	D3	D5	D6	D7
					
Alicia Baptiste	J.D. Storm	Joe Langan	Jeff Miller	Stace Gearhart	Shane Boyle

FY25 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION



IDJC DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender: Male – 83% Female – 17%	Average Age: 16.6 years old
Race/Ethnicity: White – 69% Hispanic – 18% Black – 5% American Indian – 7% Other – 1%	
Crime: Property – 35% Person – 32% Sex Offense – 15% Other – 18%	
Substance Use Disorder: 58%	Mental Health Diagnosis: 57%
Co-occurring Disorders (substance use disorder & mental health diagnosis): 39%	
Crime Level: Felony – 48% Misdemeanor – 52%	FY23 Recidivism Rate: 40%
FY23 Avg Length of Custody: 13.3 months	FY23 Recommitment Rate: 14%

Data date: 8.03.2024

FACILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

“Major construction projects are taking place at two of IDJC’s largest facilities. At JCC-Nampa, the kitchen, clinic, and laundry room were reconfigured and remodeled. At JCC-St. Anthony, two new 10,000 sq. ft. single room residential cottages are being constructed to replace aging dormitory style cottages. This is the first part of a two-phase project that will result in three new state-of-the-art cottages that will house up to 60 residents.”



JCC-ST. ANTHONY