

Juvenile Rehabilitation Community Capacity Expansion

2023 Decision Package - Capital Budget

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) seeks to expand less restrictive, community based settings for youth and young adults placed in the agency's Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) institutions, and to enhance community-based, less restrictive options.

This proposal continues the expansion of JR's community capacity and support of a trauma-informed, culturally relevant, racial equity-based, developmentally appropriate, community-based approach with therapeutic supports to support the successful reentry.



CAPITAL FUNDING FOR TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTERS WILL:

Provide capital funding to increase JR's least restrictive capacity through the creation of TLCs to be co-located at Echo Glen Children's Center and Green Hill School.

TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTERS WILL:

- ✓ Address the gap in the JR continuum to serve the institutional minimum security population, which requires youth to reside in a JR institution.
- ✓ Combine freedom of movement about the campus and the possibility for youth to engage in their community, with more in-house treatment programs (mental, behavioral, substance use disorder).
- ✓ Mean that more young people will be able to be stepped down to a less restrictive environment in keeping with the agency's vision.

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care
- Improve quality and intention of our practice

CAPITAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES WILL:

Provide capital funding to enhance access to least restrictive community-based facilities for eligible youth by adding 32 CF beds, through the pre-design and citing of two new 16-bed CFs in Clark and Snohomish Counties.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES WILL:

- ✓ Increase community capacity to offer independent living transitions for improved reentry outcomes for individuals up to 25 years of age.
- ✓ Ensure least restrictive step-down facilities closer to the youth's community and increase availability of Western Washington least restrictive facilities.
- ✓ Increase access to living wages, job experience, career development, financial independence, independent living and life skills, and higher education and vocational trades.

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