

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Funding

DISCUSSION: The House budget includes \$4.4 million in FY19-20 and \$8.8 million in FY 20-21, recurring. The Senate budget includes \$2.2 million recurring in each year of the biennium.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPCs) currently receive approximately \$22.7 million which is used to serve 21,248 youth statewide. All 100 counties receive JCPC funds that support the services identified by each county's JCPC after a thorough needs analysis. JCPC funding has not increased at the state level over the last decade.

JCPC-funded programs provide programming resources to local juvenile courts and *provide disposition options for juvenile court judges*, thus preventing youths from deeper penetration into the juvenile justice system. (Such referrals are made in lieu of, or in addition to, court proceedings.) In partnership with local county government and nonprofits, each JCPC serves as the best conduit for examining the programming needs for juveniles at the local level.

DESIRED OUTCOME: The prevention of future crimes following referrals of juveniles by judges, law enforcement, schools, and juvenile/family-serving agencies. These entities will be able to refer 9,759 youth aged 16 and 17 years old to JCPC-funded programs because of an allocation of \$4.4 million in FY19-20 and \$8.8 million recurring in FY 20-21.

IMPACT:

1. JCPCs are cost effective

- JCPC-funded programs *leverage millions of dollars and* offer strong fiscal partnerships to serve youth at the local level.
- JCPC programs are low cost, effective and community-based, addressing delinquent behavior through the provision of services close to home.
 - With the JCPC program average cost per youth of \$996 compared to the annual cost per juvenile committed to a youth development center (YDC) of \$108,862 in FY17-18, about 109 youth could be served in the community at the cost of one youth served in a YDC.
- Since 1998 JCPC programs are attributed to an 86% reduction in YDC commitments

- JCPC-funded restorative justice programs *give back to victims* by providing the courts with restitution/ community service disposition options.
 - Restorative justice programs effectively deliver *early intervention resources to schools and law enforcement*—providing opportunities for youth to be accountable for their actions while also keeping them from entering into the juvenile justice system.
 - Sixty-five percent of all teen court program referrals statewide come from school resource officers and other law enforcement officials.
 - All 100 counties fund community service/restitution programs: the most utilized type of JCPC-funded program. Expansion dollars are *critically needed* for this service type to prepare for Raise the Age.
 - Restorative justice programs are the most utilized of the 22 JCPC program types.
 - Of the 21,238 youth served in JCPC programs, 40% are served in restitution/community service and teen court programs
 - 65% of all **adjudicated youth** are referred to a JCPC-funded restorative justice program. (North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Committee Report, May 1, 2017.)

2. Impact of Senate budget:

Inability to fully develop teen court programming as a diversion plan defined by § 7B-1706(c). Teen Court program expansion and development is necessary to ensure equitable access to this restorative justice program model. Teen Court services are not currently accessible within all counties or within all judicial districts.

The Senate budget **reduces the number of additional juveniles that may be served from 9,759 juveniles to 2,440 juveniles**. If adopted, the proposed Senate recommendation for JCPC funding would result in **only 25% of the projected Raise the Age population benefitting from JCPC programming, thereby creating gaps in service**.

The House budget fully supports the projected expansion need to serve 9,759 juveniles.