

Multnomah County Gang Contingency Funding – Update April 12, 2011

The Funding at a Glance

Item	Budget Amount	Used So Far	Remaining	% Left
Juvenile Flex Funds	\$6,000	\$2,200	\$3,800	63%
Juvenile Overtime	\$18,000	\$7,000	\$11,000	61%
Restorative Justice in Schools	\$19,000	\$13,261	\$5,739	30%
Juvenile GPS Pilot	\$9,750	\$4,875	\$4,875	50%
Adult Flex Funds	\$6,000	\$1,800	\$4,200	70%
Adult Clinical Liaison	\$40,000	\$22,857	\$17,143	43%
Moral Voice	\$10,000	\$2,857	\$7,143	71%
Bicycles	\$4,000	\$4,191	(\$191)	(5%)
Rosewood Initiative	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	100%
Total	\$116,750	\$58,850	\$57,709	49%

Updates

Juvenile Flex Funds:

- **What it is:** Provides Rights of Passage training for mentors and mentees in the At Promise Mentor program for high risk African American youth on probation. About 15 mentees and 15 mentors participate weekly. The program is in full swing. The clients who completed the first Rights of Passage training have been assigned a mentor, and the mentors are now planning and doing activities with clients and their families.
- **What It's Accomplishing:** Community, clients and families are seeing African American men in the community who are very invested in the safety and welfare of the community in which they live. These mentors work with their mentees to make sure youth are in school, not breaking the law and learning how to give back to their community. The mentors/mentees are working together on various community projects.
- **Looking Ahead:** Next year the program will hopefully be funded again with a state Disproportionate Minority Contact reduction grant. If not, it will be funded by the Family and Neighborhood Gang Violence Prevention Project. The program will transition from the county to a community provider. We are planning ways to keep the mentors on board so there is a smooth transition.

Juvenile Overtime:

- **What It Is:** Provides pay for staff to work extra hours to increase a positive presence in the community at key events.
- **What It's Accomplishing:** Staff organized 3 Stop the Violence events with 50 to 75 youth and their families attending each event, attended numerous basketball games where a lot of gang affected youth attended, conducted missions with the police at hot spots, and took clients home after events like stop the violence and mentoring groups. Doing these things has helped to keep the community safe by keeping clients involved in positive activities and away from trouble spots.
- **Looking Ahead:** We hope to continue as much of this as possible, balancing the need with available resources and staff availability.

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Restorative Justice In Schools:

- **What It Is:** Provides training and technical assistance to schools in an effort to expand the Restorative Justice (RJ) in schools program, first piloted at Parkrose Middle School, into 6 other schools in Multnomah County. RJ in schools is designed to reduce suspensions and expulsions, and decrease police and juvenile justice involvement. RJ is based on a core set of principles that emphasizes healing over punishment, inclusion over exclusion, and individual accountability with a high level of community support.
- **What It's Accomplishing:** Twenty-three administrators, counselors, and school resource officers were trained in February 2011. Each school site is currently receiving technical assistance. At least three sites have employed restorative strategies so far in working directly with students. Schools are finding opportunities to apply restorative strategies this year, as well as planning for deeper, more strategic implementation next fall.
- **Looking Ahead:** More training is planned. Sustainability goals include creation of strategic funding and expansion plans. One of the challenges has been trying to start something new mid-year for schools. The schools have rallied behind the idea and have created the space for training and planning, which has been encouraging.

Juvenile GPS Pilot:

- **What It Is:** Sets up infrastructure and policy to use 6 Global Positioning Satellite units for monitoring high risk gang youth, including response planning for GPS youth who violate movement restrictions. Allows for an immediate intervention while GPS youth are residing in the community.
- **What It's Accomplishing:** With community safety being the main goal of the program, GPS provides close monitoring of high-risk youth, and supports families in assisting with supervision of their child. GPS surveillance keeps the community safe while keeping the youth in the home and involved pro-social activities such as attending school instead of spending long periods of time in detention. The program is helping keep families together so they can take advantage of needed services and support.
- **Looking Ahead:** Future goals include increasing the number of electronic monitoring/GPS units as an immediate intervention for youth who are high risk and exhibiting serious, noncompliance to conditions of probation. Equipment malfunctions with our older electronic monitoring devices present a challenge. We are in process of developing a new contract for electronic monitoring services with better equipment.

Adult Flex Funds:

- **What It Is:** Provides limited financial assistance to offenders so they can successfully access services that would otherwise be unavailable to them.
- **What It's Accomplishing:** Flex Funds have allowed offenders to participate in Batterer's Intervention Assessments, have transportation to treatment or other appointments, receive incentives for completing obligations, preserve housing, and purchase school books. Using Flex Funds assists the PO in providing tangible help when it is truly needed, improving the relationship with the offender.
- **Looking Ahead:** Funding for next year is uncertain but hoped for.

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Adult Clinical Liaison:

- **What It Is:** Creates a clinical liaison position with knowledge of the mental health system to assist the Probation Officers (POs) in navigating this complex system. This position was created because people of color are over-represented in the criminal justice system and under-represented in the mental health system. In communities of color there is a sense of distrust with the mental health community. The clinical liaison's job is to build trust, communication and participation between the offender, probation officer, and the mental health system.
- **What It's Accomplishing:** A PO who has worked the gang unit the past 10 years wrote "It's a tremendous asset to the gang unit. His personal knowledge of the gang culture coupled with his expertise in mental health and counseling has been a valuable asset to the gang unit. His knowledge of mental illness has helped us better recognize how some mental illness leads to certain behaviors or how mental illness interferes with normal cognitive thinking."
- **Looking Ahead:** Continuing this position is strongly desired, but funds are in question with looming state cuts.

Moral Voice:

- **What It Is:** Provides contract funding and supplies for monthly community meetings (December – June) as a forum to increase community involvement and educate community members about resources available to address violence in the community.
- **What It's Accomplishing:** The moral voice meetings are being held throughout the County. The first meeting was held in December in NE Portland followed by a meeting in February at the New Columbia. The community meetings are partnering with the local high schools, the SUN schools, churches, treatment agencies, neighborhood associations, POs and community members. Participants are contributing to discussions about how we can work to reduce violence, restore safety and create positive opportunity for communities of color. Expenses are projected at half the planned amount because people are donating space and volunteering.
- **Looking Ahead:** Meetings are planned for March 26 (New Columbia), April 30 (David Douglas High School), May 28 (Gresham/Rockwood Area), and June 25 (NE Portland/countywide celebration). Coordinating with multiple partners can be challenging but Moral Voice is becoming established as a meaningful way to participate in making communities safer and more vibrant. Funding for next year is uncertain.

Bicycles:

- **What It Is:** Funds the purchase of five (5) bicycles with bike racks, helmets etc. Portland Police has agreed to provide a 32 hour training for the Juvenile Court Counselors and Probation Officers in the gang unit.
- **What It's Accomplishing:** Enthusiasm for bicycle patrols in DCJ is high. Training will happen in time for the good weather.
- **Looking Ahead:** Training will occur in time to allow POs and JCCs to participate in bike patrols at events such as Cinco de Mayo, Rose Festival and National Night Out. They also plan to ride in neighborhoods such as the New Columbia and Hot Spots for gang activity such as Holiday and Peninsula Parks.

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Rosewood Initiative:

- **What It Is:** Establishes a community justice and community policing presence in the Rosewood Community apartments. Funds furniture and interior improvements for a shared police/probation office as a part of a community center.
- **What It's Accomplishing:** This project is making great progress. DCJ has been working with the Rosewood Project Community Advisory Board, community members and criminal justice partners to deepen collaboration related to the role the Rosewood Cafe will play in the community.
- **Looking Ahead:** There have been some unexpected delays with the lease, but the Advisory Board is confident that these issues will be resolved. In the mean time planning continues and DCJ work crews and staff will assist with clean up of the surrounding area to assist in preparing for opening.