

Impacts of Budget Cuts¹ For Lane County

Prepared February, 2009

General Statements

With any cuts above 10% children and families will be losing direct services and supports and this could not be happening at a worse time. More and more families are finding themselves in crisis as jobs, homes, stability and hope are lost. This is the time when more services are needed, not less.

The services and cross system supports we provide save money and lives. For example, we know that Relief Nursery families use emergency room visits less and their children spend 100 fewer days in foster care than children not receiving Relief Nursery services. If Relief Nursery services are cut, emergency room visits will increase and children will spend more time in foster care. Relief Nursery services are far cheaper than either foster care or emergency room use.

Cuts to CASA will mean less advocacy for abused and neglected children ... those already in the child welfare system. More children will spend more time in foster care and risk re-entering foster care.

Cuts to Healthy Start will mean fewer at risk families receiving critical early services and more families needing more expensive services later. More children will be at risk of entering the child welfare system, spending time in foster care and taxing health care services.

Cuts to Juvenile Crime Prevention means adding to the population of juvenile offenders and increasing juvenile crime. Youth in the Juvenile Crime Prevention program have experienced a 57% reduction in re-offenses with a cost avoidance of \$17,000 per youth.

Interventions with runaway, homeless teens mean that as adults they will have 12 fewer episodes of homelessness over a lifetime. Therefore cutting services to RHY will likely increase adult homelessness in the long run.

Rationale for across the board cuts

We believe maintaining all the elements of our system in Lane County is critical: Relief Nurseries, Healthy Start, CASA, Juvenile Crime Prevention, Runaway Homeless Youth supports and Family Resource Centers. This web of services and supports for children 0-18 and their families has a greater chance of survival if we can each bear some of the burden of funding loss. We will continue to serve as many families as we can while we work with our legislators on new funding options like a license plate for kids and a beer and wine tax. Cutting from one program and giving to another within our system will not save money it will just shift the pain from one needy population to another.

¹ Estimated 09-11 Reductions to County OCCF Allocations (using 07-09 Allocations plus inflation 2.8%)

Specific Dollar Projections by Program

Impacts at 5% Cut

CASA

- 35 abused children not served
- Training classes cancelled
- 15-20 new volunteers not recruited
- Offices are only open 4 days a week with losses from other private funding sources already in effect

Healthy Start

- Cut 1.0 FTE Family Support Worker
- 28-32 at risk families not served
- Cut 0.125 FTE Clearinghouse Administrative Support
- Medicaid match lost: \$5,000

Runaway Homeless Youth Initiative

- 6 at risk youth will not receive services
- Destabilization of services in Cottage Grove/Oakridge communities

Juvenile Crime Prevention

- 38 fewer at risk youth and families would be served

Lane County Commission on Children and Families

- Family Resource Centers (FRCs) serve 308 fewer children
- Family Support and Connections (FSC) serve 78 fewer children
- 0.25 FTE cut Administration Basic Capacity
- Community Focus Areas impacted: 3 new 0-3 child care slots not established
- Smaller, rural FRCs could close
- Rural FSC families not served
- Lose \$196,000 in leveraged funds

Impacts at 10%

CASA

- 65-80 abused children not served
- Will not recruit or train any new CASA volunteers
- No service to rural areas
- Access to grant funding will be decreased

Healthy Start

- Cut 2.0 FTE Family Support Workers
- 46-72 at risk families not served
- Cut 0.25 FTE Clearinghouse Administrative Support
- Referrals will decrease for low income housing, drug/alcohol treatment, DV assistance

- Continuum of service/supports impacted for children 0-3: Maternal Child Health, Public Health, Healthy Start, Birth to Three, Relief Nursery, etc.
- Medicaid match lost: \$10,000

Runaway Homeless Youth Initiative

- 12 at risk youth will not receive services
- A half-day of services a week would be eliminated: basic needs, connectivity, and advocacy
- Increase in the vulnerability of youth and families already outside the traditional service system
- Delaying for youth of healthy, safe, developmentally appropriate transitions

2 Relief Nurseries (Rural and Urban combined)

- 1 Therapeutic Classrooms would close
- 0.5 FTE Outreach worker and 0.5 FTE Accessing Success would be laid off
- 23 at risk children and families would not access Therapeutic Early Classrooms
- Outreach services would be cut to 50 children and families
- Accessing Success would cut 50 at risk children and families
- Child abuse rates, teen pregnancy rates, substance abuse, mental health needs, incidences of DV...will all increase
- Lose \$266,398 leveraged funds

Juvenile Crime Prevention

- 76 fewer at risk youth and families would be served

Lane County Commission on Children and Families

- Family Resource Centers serve 616 fewer children
- Cut all funds for Family Support Connections: 1,500 children/year no longer served
- 0.50 FTE cut Administration Basic Capacity
- Community Focus Areas impacted: 6 new 0-3 child care slots not established
- Evaluation, outcomes, database maintenance will not be a priority, impact not measured
- Lose \$392,000 leveraged funds

Impacts at 15%

CASA

- 80-120 abused children not served
- Loss of 1.0 FTE CASA Supervisor and
- 30 seasoned CASA volunteers let go
- Closing of up to 80 current cases

Healthy Start

- Cut 3.0 FTE Family Support Worker
- 84-108 at risk families not served
- Cut 0.375 FTE Clearinghouse Admin Support

- Fewer children immunized, less have Primary Care Physician, less ready for school, few early intervention identifications, increased ER usage
- This is the wrong time to be cutting back safety nets and supports for young families. With more people eligible for HS (as risk factors on screens increase), there should NOT be less service available
- Homelessness will increase as HS families often get onto low income housing lists with help from FSWs. Families can then also lose their children to DHS if homeless
- Florence/coastal area cannot continue to be served
- Medicaid match lost: \$15,000

Runaway Homeless Youth Initiative

- 19 at risk youth will not receive services
- 3-5 youth would lose AOD services in Oakridge/Cottage Grove
- A half-day of services a week would be eliminated: basic needs, connectivity, and advocacy
- AOC would be reduced by 9 hours
- Increase in the vulnerability of youth and families already outside the traditional service system
- Delaying for at risk youth of healthy, safe, developmentally appropriate transitions

Juvenile Crime Prevention

- 114 fewer at risk youth and families would be served

Lane County Commission on Children and Families

- Family Resource Centers serve 924 fewer children
- Family Support and Connections not funded: 1500 children per year no longer served
- 0.75 FTE cut Administration Basic Capacity
- Community Focus Areas impacted: 9 new 0-3 child care slots not established
- Contract monitoring will decrease, less Commission support, fewer Community Mobilization efforts
- 1 Americorps member not funded
- Lose \$584,000 leveraged funds

Impacts at 20%

CASA

- 80-120 abused children not served
- Loss of 1.0 FTE CASA Supervisor
- 30 seasoned CASA volunteers let go
- Closing of up to 80 current cases

Healthy Start

- Cut 4.0 FTE Family Support Worker
- 112-144 at risk families not served
- Cut 0.50 FTE Clearinghouse Admin Support
- Florence/coastal area cannot continue to be served, service to other rural areas like Oakridge, McKenzie Bridge probably

- ASQ Screenings, Immunizations, both will be negatively impacted without FSWs encouraging, helping and prompting families
- Well Baby checks and use of other primary care will diminish
- Medicaid match lost: \$20,000

Runaway Homeless Youth Initiative

- 25 at risk youth will not receive services
- 5-8 youth would lose AOD services in Oakridge/Cottage Grove
- 1 day of services/week would be eliminated: basic needs, connectivity, advocacy
- AOD would be reduced by 10+ hours
- Increases in school drop-out rate, AOD abuse, sexual assault victimization, homelessness into adulthood, DV and abuse in the home, juvenile delinquency
- Delays for youth in acquisition of essential adult skills

Juvenile Crime Prevention

- 150 fewer at risk youth and families would be served

2 Relief Nurseries (Rural and Urban combined)

- 2 Therapeutic Classrooms would close
- FTE Outreach worker and 1.0 FTE Accessing Success would be laid off
- Home visiting FTE decreased
- 46 at risk children and families would not access Therapeutic Early Classrooms
- Outreach services would be cut to 95 at risk children and families
- No rural services from Eugene RN
- Accessing Success would cut 95 at risk children and families
- Other services lost: Parenting Education, ESL and Anger Management classes, Parents for Recovery support groups
- Hunger will increase
- School readiness will decrease
- Emergency room use will increase
- Lose \$532,796 leveraged funds

Lane County Commission on Children and Families

- Family Resource Centers serve 1,232 fewer children
- Family Support Connections not funded: 1,500 children per year no longer served
- 1.0 FTE cut to Administration Basic Capacity
- Community Focus Areas impacted: 12 new 0-3 child care slots not established
- 2.0 FTE minimum staffing requirement not possible
- 2 Americorps positions cut
- Minimal Commission support, severely decreased Community Mobilization efforts
- Lose \$784,000 leveraged funds