



## Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$2,062,000 (\$2,050,000 General Fund-State) and 2.0 full time equivalents (FTE) in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget to expand education and employment opportunities to young adults in DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR).

## Program Recommendation Summary

### 020 - Juvenile Rehabilitation

DCYF requests \$1,976,000 General Fund-State in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget to expand education and employment opportunities to young adults in DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation.

### 090 - Program Support

DCYF requests \$86,000 (\$74,000 General Fund-State) in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget to support the administrative infrastructure needed for employment and education opportunities in DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation.

## Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
<b>Staffing</b>						
FTEs	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>Operating Expenditures</b>						
Fund 001 - 1	\$1,020	\$956	\$1,976	\$881	\$831	\$1,712
Fund 001 - 1	\$37	\$37	\$74	\$37	\$37	\$74
Fund 001 - A	\$6	\$6	\$12	\$6	\$6	\$12
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,063</b>	<b>\$999</b>	<b>\$2,062</b>	<b>\$924</b>	<b>\$874</b>	<b>\$1,798</b>
<b>Revenue</b>						
001 - 0393	\$6	\$6	\$12	\$6	\$6	\$12
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$6</b>	<b>\$6</b>	<b>\$12</b>	<b>\$6</b>	<b>\$6</b>	<b>\$12</b>

## Decision Package Description

The growing population and high acuity of need of young adults in DCYF JR highlights the urgency to expand education and employment opportunities. JR serves individuals up to age 25 and is charged with ensuring that these young adults develop vital employment and career development skills necessary to join the workforce upon exit of JR as well as to reduce recidivism. Effectively engaging young people in educational and career programming to ensure their future success will require personalized planning and support, positive behavioral interventions, access to resources and opportunities, family engagement, ongoing monitoring, rigorous quality assurance, and professional consultancy.

**Introduction:** Through providing adequate education and employment opportunities within JR, DCYF will improve public safety by equipping young adults with the skills and resources needed to avoid reoffending. Governor Jay Inslee’s Executive Order 16-05, Building Safe and Strong Communities through Successful Reentry, recognized the critical role of employment in reducing recidivism, setting a goal to increase post-incarceration employment rates and acknowledging that effective reentry programs significantly improve long-term outcomes.

This request supports DCYF’s responsibility to provide humane treatment, secure facilities, and essential opportunities that reduce the likelihood of future offenses. Washington State’s signing on to Reentry 2030 affirmed the commitment to successful reentry with a promise to “scale up access to... education [and] employment skills training,” as well as to “clear away unnecessary barriers to opportunity and economic mobility.” By engaging families, offering personalized planning and support, and connection to community resources, this request addresses pervasive obstacles faced by individuals with criminal records, including those related to employment and education. Additionally, involving an external consultant for gap analysis and workforce development aligns with state initiatives to remove employment barriers and create fair hiring practices. Further, The 2024 Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators study of GHS commissioned by DCYF leadership includes “Programming and Education” among the recommendations, noting that “programming options are limited, contributing to youth idleness and lack of engagement.” The report recommends personalized, structured opportunities to affirm the commitment to a therapeutic, rehabilitative system.

**Access to Resources and Opportunities:** Adequate security and dedicated education staff have been an ongoing challenge, sometimes resulting in the cancellation of programs. Specialists and post-secondary/vocational staff will connect youth with community resources, including job skills, mentorship, as well as academic and career advising. Access to these resources and opportunities will allow JR to transform campuses into positive, exciting, and therapeutic environments where young people can learn new skills, pursue academic and career interests, and build community.

In collaboration with JR Regional Employment Specialists and Transition Specialists, the additional staff requested will assist with job readiness training and partner with local employers and agencies at critical transition points, providing the tools necessary for educational and career success.

**Family Engagement and Ongoing Monitoring:** Engaging families in the future planning process will create a robust support network, extending beyond JR and into when young people exit. Family and community support is crucial for long-term success, providing a stable environment and resources for continued monitoring and follow-up services will enable early intervention and successful reentry, reducing recidivism and ensuring sustained success.

**Reentry/Future Planning Preparation and Employment:** Based on DCYF's Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) Report (Goins & Fox, 2023), employment during JR significantly impacts post-release employment and recidivism rates. Youth employed before release are more likely to have post-release employment and work more quarters post-release, reducing recidivism likelihood. Thus, creating additional employment opportunities is essential. Reentry preparation is crucial for young people aged 18 or older, particularly those expected to live independently upon release. DCYF proposes to

(1) Meet the need for vocational programming on campuses, and

(2) To undertake a gap analysis with an external consultant to map out meeting the remaining workforce development needs for young people. This external consultant will provide analysis and recommendations for program expansion and sustainability.

**Vocational Programming – Landscaping, Automotive, and HVAC Certification.** By partnering with K-12 schools, local colleges, employers, community organizations, vocational rehabilitation, and career centers, DCYF can provide the resources and skills necessary for entering high-priority career pathways as defined by Washington's Workforce Development Board and local employers. DCYF seeks to offer Certificated Landscaping, Automotive, and HVAC Certification programs, which offer tangible benefits in terms of vocational training and skill development for youth at Green Hill School (GHS) to equip youth with practical skills that enhance their employability upon release. Costs of the programs will include paying contractors to provide the services and/or paying for personnel, equipment, materials, administrative and miscellaneous fees.

#### IT Infrastructure for Vocational Programming

- **Laptops:** Durable and secure laptops support education, job training, and rehabilitation with secure functionality. These laptops require replacement every two years due to frequent use and continued advances in technology. DCYF requires 50 secure laptop replacements: for devices, internal Wi-Fi bios, warranties, and protective cases to support young people to participate in educational and vocational activities.
- **Technology Consultation:** World Possible has a proven track record of providing consultation to JR regarding the Secure book laptop and internet program. DCYF requests funding for technology consultation.

**Professional Consultancy and Workforce Development:** A contract for a consultant to provide a gap analysis of existing JR programs, work-based learning strategies, employment programs, job-readiness planning, and capacity-building tools will help create a sustainable workforce and job training program, improving economic outcomes for young adults exiting JR.

The contractor selected will need expertise in challenges faced by young people with felony records to conduct a landscape analysis and develop a set of recommendations and practice improvements that will address:

- Career exploration and academic achievement
- Skills development workshops
- Job readiness training
- Expansion of apprenticeships and post-secondary programming in JR

- Expansion of targeted job placements, apprenticeships, and internships

As the agency embraces guidance on building out opportunities for young people to engage in vocational opportunities, DCYF is also prioritizing building out infrastructure for young people to have employment on campus. Currently, young adults in JR may take advantage of work opportunities through the MyJobs program, which gives young people a chance to make money and gain valuable career experience during their time with DCYF.

Conclusion:

This comprehensive approach ensures that young adults leaving JR better prepared for successful reintegration, ultimately contributing to safer and stronger communities in Washington.

## Assumptions and Calculations

### ***Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:***

DCYF requests funding to adequately meet the educational and employment programming needs for JR's growing population of young adults, many with high acuity needs.

### ***Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:***

Reentry/Future Planning Preparation and Employment: Cost \$1,040,000

- Landscaping program: \$195,000 per year for facilities, equipment, materials, and administrative/miscellaneous costs
- HVAC program: \$265,000 per year for personnel, facilities, equipment, materials, and administrative/miscellaneous costs
- Automotive Program: \$60,000 per year, Vehicles for Change utilizes virtual reality technology to offer immersive training, equipping individuals with expertise and skills needed to earn at least 2 Automotive Service Excellence certifications and launch successful automotive repair careers.

Professional Consultancy and Workforce Development: Cost \$250,000

- Consultant/2 years/\$125,000 per year

IT Infrastructure: Cost \$ \$190,000

Laptops: \$50,000 funding needed every two years

Technology Consultation/4 years/\$70,000 per year

**MyJob Program:** Request placeholder funding to expand this program which provides young adults work opportunities, providing a chance to make money and gain valuable career experience during their time with DCYF.

### ***Workforce Assumptions:***

DCYF requests 2.0 FTEs and \$582,000(\$570,000 GF-S) in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget, which includes 5% Institutional premium pay for GHS.

Post Secondary & Vocational Programs at Green Hill School: 2.0 FTE

1.0 Program Specialist 5. Annual Salary & Benefits \$123,000

1.0 Juvenile Rehabilitation Specialist. Annual Salary & Benefits \$109,000

**Historical Funding:**

FY2026

- FTE = 10.0 FTE
- Total Funds = \$3.085 million
- Near General Fund = \$3.085 million
- Other Funds = \$0 million

FY2027

- FTE = 10.0 FTE
- Total Funds = \$3.085 million
- Near General Fund = \$3.085 million
- Other Funds = \$0 million

**Strategic and Performance Outcomes**

**Strategic Framework:**

This proposal contributes to the Governor’s Result Washington goal:

World-class education: Providing every Washingtonian a world-class education that preparing for a healthy and productive life, including success in job or career, in the community and as a lifelong learner.

**Performance Outcomes:**

Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement: Quality Assurance and Continuous Quality Improvement Plans will measure outcomes, identify barriers, and highlight successes. Continuous assessment and improvement will help us better meet the needs of our young adults and provide resources for them to adapt to emerging challenges and opportunities. By implementing these strategies, DCYF aims to optimize resources, leverage existing expertise/FTE, and maximize positive outcomes for young adults exiting JR, ensuring they thrive in the workforce, academically, and their communities.

## Equity Impacts

### ***Community Outreach and Engagement:***

The final report to the legislature, as required by E2SHB1295 in 2022, includes a letter from Secretary Hunter and Superintendent Reykdal that states “young people in juvenile rehabilitation institutions have lacked consistent access to a high-quality education; in fact, the graduation rate for young people in Washington who spend time incarcerated is 14%. To right this historic wrong, we must take bold action.” Youth voice, institutional education leaders, and community members were actively engaged in the work of E2SHB1295 and their input is centered in the proposal.

### ***Disproportional Impact Considerations:***

Students learning in secure facilities are furthest from educational justice, and Black, Indigenous, and young people of Color disproportionately impacted by the juvenile legal system, and as a result, have the lowest graduation and employment rates in the state. This proposal is designed to remove barriers to education and employment and increase opportunities for individualized education and career planning.

### ***Target Communities and Populations:***

This proposal expands opportunities for all young people in JR, thereby increasing equity and access to vital education, job readiness, and post-secondary and career opportunities. E2SHB 1295, which passed in 2021 stated “the legislature finds that students in Washington's secure facilities have been unable to access the education and supports they need to make life-changing academic progress. As a result, these students have experienced dismal graduation and recidivism rates and have lost invaluable opportunities for hope and transformation.” This proposal advances equity and opportunity for all young people in JR.

### ***Community Inputs and Incorporation:***

JR’s Statewide Education Team’s recent focus groups with JR young people (140 young people participated), staff, and education and community partners have all expressed the need for expanded education, job readiness, and post-secondary and career planning in JR. This proposal addresses recommendations from Project Education Impacts K12 and post-secondary sub-committees’ recommendations for closing the opportunity gap for young people in JR. In the E2SHB1295 report, Secretary Hunter and Superintendent Reykdal cite the importance of continuity of education, which is addressed in this proposal, “we know youth transition through a juvenile justice system that is run by multiple entities from local, county, and state systems. Each entity approaches education differently and this lack of continuity creates disruption for young people. Education delivery must consider the needs of the entire continuum young people may experience. Youth who are incarcerated need a system that assigns coaches, advocates, and mentors to each individual to provide continuity across institutions until students transition successfully following restorative services and quality, inclusive education.”

**Other Collateral Connections**

**HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions**

Not applicable

**Puget Sound Recovery:**

Not applicable

**State Workforce Impacts:**

Not applicable

**Intergovernmental:**

DCYF anticipates full support of the positive impact this expansion will create for young people in JR. There is no direct impact to other agencies, aside from increased support and collaboration.

**Stakeholder Impacts:**

DCYF anticipates support from K-12, post-secondary, and community-based organizations. These non-governmental stakeholders are part of the continuum of support that is needed for successful education and reentry outcomes.

**State Facilities Impacts:**

Not applicable

**Changes from Current Law:**

Not applicable

**Legal or Administrative Mandates:**

Not applicable

**Governor's Salmon Strategy:**

Not applicable

**IT Addendum**

**Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?**

No

**Objects of Expenditure**

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Obj. A	\$173	\$173	\$346	\$173	\$173	\$346
Obj. B	\$59	\$59	\$118	\$59	\$59	\$118
Obj. C	\$195	\$195	\$390	\$70	\$70	\$140
Obj. E	\$524	\$524	\$1,048	\$524	\$524	\$1,048
Obj. G	\$5	\$5	\$10	\$5	\$5	\$10
Obj. J	\$64	\$0	\$64	\$50	\$0	\$50
Obj. T	\$43	\$43	\$86	\$43	\$43	\$86

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