



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$7,040,000 in General Fund-State in the 2024 Supplemental Budget for enhanced security at Echo Glen Children’s Center while a perimeter fence is constructed around the facility.

Program Recommendation Summary

020 - Juvenile Rehabilitation

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Fiscal Summary

| Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i> | Fiscal Years | | Biennial | Fiscal Years | | Biennial |
|---|--------------|---------|----------|--------------|------|----------|
| | 2024 | 2025 | 2023-25 | 2026 | 2027 | 2025-27 |
| Staffing | | | | | | |
| FTEs | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Operating Expenditures | | | | | | |
| Fund 001 - 1 | \$4,639 | \$2,400 | \$7,039 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Expenditures | \$4,639 | \$2,400 | \$7,039 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Decision Package Description

Echo Glen Children’s Center is a medium/maximum security facility in Snoqualmie that houses males up to age 17 and females up to age 25 committed to DCYF’s Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) division. At Echo Glen a variety of treatment services are provided and it is the only institution with females and gender specific programming. Educational and therapeutic services are also provided for a wide range of youth with varying needs. These include: Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Aggression Replacement Training, cultural programming, transformational mentoring, pre-conviction experiences, sex offense specific treatment, chemical dependency treatment specialized mental health services and education in partnership with the Issaquah School District and Renton Technical College. The campus is also known for its Canine Connection program which allows youth to train future service animals.

Due to a changing and complex population and recent escapes, there is an immediate need to ensure staff safety, community safety, and the safety of the youth and young adults at that facility. The Echo Glen campus is not currently fenced, part is bordered by natural wetlands and forests. The Governor’s 2023 Supplemental Capital Budget funded and ultimately the Legislature appropriated \$8,050,000 for security upgrades including the campus perimeter fence around Echo Glen. KMB architects, along with civil engineering firm Pertee Inc, was requested to conduct a scoping review and feasibility study for campus security improvements. This study explored:

- Mitigating or reducing the likelihood of future resident escape attempts.
- Restricting accidental and intentional access onto the campus: pedestrian and vehicular.
- Directing all staff, visitors, providers, and vendors towards a single point of entry.
- Identifying necessary security protocols as implemented by EGCC and DCYF.

The open nature of the existing campus greatly increases the likelihood of an escape, which has occurred by committed juveniles. The escapes were directed either to the north of campus through a heavily forested area towards Lake Alice or to the south along the campus main access road.

The proposed campus perimeter effectively provides a continuous fence barrier along the facility. DCYF is also making security enhancements such as updated video surveillance, motion detection monitoring, and motion-activated lighting to further mitigating future escape attempts. If an escape does occur, the perimeter security camera will capture the escapee, and a security detail can be dispatched to a targeted location.

The capital project deals with infrastructure and does not drive any increase in the number of FTE required. It is anticipated that once the fence design is completed and a contract is executed, it will require one year for construction, possibly less. Permitting will also be required with King County.

Therefore, as an interim security solution until the perimeter fence is constructed, there is an immediate need for contracted security guards to

ensure staff safety, community safety, and the safety of the youth and young adults that DCYF houses at Echo Glen. DCYF has hired contracted security guards and has reduced mandatory overtime on graveyard shifts for JR staff and provide a human presence 24-7 at the entry gate on the main road. The hiring of contracted security guards will continue to occur in phases until the campus is secure with the completion of the perimeter fence. Contracted security personnel have received an orientation to DCYF policies, welfare checks, and other security protocols, and will allow roving security to focus on unit support and at times, when needed, be deployed to work in a unit if there is an immediate need.

Contracting will occur until the campus is secured with the completion of the perimeter fence and will include the following and other security-related duties as needed:

- Perform perimeter checks and internal roving campus security support;
- Be posted in units where there is a vacancy on graveyard shifts; and
- Conduct body/bag scanning during shift changes until that vacancy is filled.
- Provided this an emergent need, DCYF requests funding for trained, contracted security personnel to support the needs of the Echo Glen campus from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024.

Assumptions and Calculations

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

This request is not an expansion to a current service but rather addresses immediate safety needs until the permanent perimeter fence is completed.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

Calculations provided in attachments “2024 Supp_JR Echo Security DP Backup” and “Backup Echo Security Request 2024 Supplemental” DCYF estimates include actual costs for two months July 2023 of \$307,000, an estimate for August 2023 of \$332,000 and September 2023 through December 2024 \$400,000 per month for sixteen months based on the average cost of the service. The Department of Enterprise Services increased the rate for the contract with Security Services NW by 20% effective September 2023, which is included in the estimate. The total estimated request is \$7,040,000.

Workforce Assumptions:

Not Applicable

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

This proposal contributes to the DCYF priority aimed at improving the quality and intention of practice. By investing temporality in contracted security for non-client facing duties, DCYF JR staff can focus on their client facing roles. Additionally, this proposal supports the Governor’s Result WA goal of healthy and safe communities.

Performance Outcomes:

Clients living in DCYF institutions are some of the most vulnerable in our society. By funding this request, the state is meeting its statutory and societal commitment to care for our clients as well as the safety of DCYF staff and the community.

Equity Impacts

Community outreach and engagement:

DCYF has worked with local municipalities, law enforcement agencies and emergency response services to strategize and partner on how to support community safety around Echo Glen. Local jurisdictions are supportive of this critical step to ensure safety the fence is constructed. Local partners include, City of Snoqualmie, King County, Washington State Patrol, City of North Bend, and King County Sheriff.

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

JR has a disproportionate number of youths of color (64%) who deserve safe, transparent, and therapeutic environments to receive the services that support their rehabilitation. Safer environments reduce rates of aggression, drug introduction, and the need to transfer to higher security settings. Safer environments also prevent youth from further penetrating the justice system. DCYF will continue to ensure that equity drives the work we are doing with all youth

Target Populations or Communities:

This funding will provide staff safety, community safety, and the safety of the youth and young adults that DCYF houses at Echo Glen.

Other Collateral Connections

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not Applicable

State Workforce Impacts:

Not Applicable

Intergovernmental:

Not Applicable

Stakeholder Response:

Not Applicable

State Facilities Impacts:

Not Applicable

Changes from Current Law:

Not Applicable

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

Not Applicable

HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions

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 |
|---|--------------|---------|----------------|--------------|------|------------|
| | 2024 | 2025 | 2023-25 | 2026 | 2027 | 2025-27 |
| Obj. C | \$4,639 | \$2,400 | \$7,039 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Agency Contact Information

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