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| Regionalization Diversion Funding | |
| <p>Is the money that is going to be spent on diversion placements coming from the cuts that were implemented for FY 2017 in State Aid?</p> | <p>No. The state appropriation for the probation strategy included new funding for the regionalization plan. Within SB 1630 that established Regionalization was the requirement to "reimburse" counties for the cost of diversions.</p> |
| <p>Are counties with placement dollars going to be penalized or be less likely to be considered for Grant "R" funding?</p> | <p>No. The regionalization task force addressed this issue in the definition of the target population and specified that a department should undergo its usual processes and procedure prior to submitting an application for diversion. The regional diversions are intended to be utilized when a department has made all reasonable efforts to avoid commitment and is now recommending TJJD commitment to the court but feels that this particular youth would benefit from an additional opportunity at intervention (see target population definition). An application should not be submitted unless a department is certain that they will recommend commitment to TJJD, unless this diversion opportunity is available. The definition of the Target population states: “...In order to qualify, the juvenile probation department must demonstrate a prior effort to provide appropriate intervention with priority given to the treatment needs of the youth. Interventions should be commensurate with county resources.”</p> |
| <p>How does TJJD determine the allocation of the \$9 million diversion funds per region? Does each region receive the same amount reserved for their region or is it one big pot of money that is accessible by any of the regions?</p> | <p>Funds are not allocated by region but by individual applications that are submitted by a department and reviewed by the Regionalization Division at TJJD. Applications are considered on a first come, first served basis.</p> |
| <p>What will happen to any Grant "R" funding that is not used?</p> | <p>It is TJJD’s intention to use all Grant “R” funds for regional diversions. Funding encumbered for a specific diversion that goes unused will be unencumbered and used for other youth approved for diversion. It is important to track court dates and receive timely feedback as to the status of a youth. If a court does not support the diversion of a youth,</p> |

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| | TJJD will then look at other youth applications for approval. |
| <p>I have read through the summary grant requirements which indicate that for reimbursement the grantee must submit proof of payment with each reimbursement request. My question concerning this is our county currently operates both a secure post-adjudication facility and a non-secure post-adjudication facility. Many of the youth in these facilities seem to meet the eligibility criteria for the grant, but since the facility is county-operated there will be no invoice or proof of payment generated. Is there a way to request reimbursement for youth in these facilities if they fall within the target population? For example, could we request reimbursement at the specialized rate for youth in our secure facility? Our goal is to keep youth within our county whenever possible, but I did not really see a process for requesting reimbursement in this scenario.</p> | <p>Placing a youth in your own facility is considered a part of your own continuum of services and not eligible for reimbursement.</p> |
| <p>Would it be possible to get a copy of the Request for Reimbursement form if available?</p> | <p>A department does not need a form to get reimbursed. The department will only need to send TJJD a receipt that payment was made to the placement.</p> |
| <p>If a County contracts with a provider for a community based re-entry service that is paid at a program rate, and a youth qualifies for regionalization diversion funds will the county be reimbursed for the cost of the service for that one youth?</p> | <p>Yes, if the diverted youth aftercare program is approved as part of a diversion application and the actual cost of those services can be identified as reimbursable.</p> |
| <p>The question has come up that if we accept a youth for diversion, the approved plan is to place the youth in a non-secure IV-E facility how does the reimbursement work.</p> | <p>TJJD will reimburse the difference between the cost of the placement and the amount reimbursed through the IV-E program.</p> <p>If the placement is \$140 per day and the IV-E reimbursement is \$75 per day, diversion funds will pay the difference of \$65 per day.</p> |
| <p>Does TJJD have the authority to allocate any remaining funds to the counties/regions specifically designated for community based</p> | <p>The Human Resources Code, as amended by Senate Bill 1630 (84[R]), requires TJJD to develop a plan to divert 30 youth in FY16 and 150 in</p> |

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| diversion programs? | FY17, and appropriations were built around these numbers. While TJJD does have authority to transfer funding between programs up to certain limits, the agency does not expect there to be funds remaining. |
| Regional Diversions (Grant R) | |
| Once a youth qualifies for diversion are they automatically considered to be under an Individual Diversion Plan? Or, is there additional paperwork that needs to be completed while the youth is under supervision? Is there separate case plan that needs to be completed for these youth? | The Individual Diversion Plan is the plan for the youth including aftercare that will be reimbursed with diversion funds. All case management standards and other requirements a department has when a youth is in placement remain the responsibility of the department. No separate case plan is necessary for regional diversion youth. |
| Does each Region/County have a quota on the number of Applications that will be Approved for Grant "R" funding? | No. |
| Once an Application has been Denied, can it be reconsidered for Grant "R" funding? | Only for a new offense or new petition to modify due to violation of court ordered felony probation or based on additional "new" information. |
| Can the Probation Department request that the Denied Application be re-considered if the child is pending court for subsequent offenses? | Yes. |
| If the TJJD screening team does not agree with the Probation Department's Proposed Placement, will this result in the application being Denied? | It can be a factor, but prior to staffing TJJD will follow up with the county to discuss consideration of other options. One of the areas of weakness TJJD has seen in some applications is a lack of clarity of the youth's specific treatment needs and how those identified needs will be met by the recommended facility. In such cases, TJJD staff has worked with departments to better understand the youth's treatment needs and identify an appropriate placement based on a youth's needs. The collaboration has proved beneficial. |
| If the Probation Department's recommendation to the Court is | As soon as possible after an application has been approved to maximize |

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| TJJD, at what point do we advise the Court, the Attorney and the District Attorney that the child has been Approved for Grant "R" funding? | collaboration. Applications are reviewed within 5 days of submission. |
| Are Grant "R" eligible kids with more severe felony offenses less likely to be accepted for Grant "R" funding? | TJJD considers regional diversions for youth within the identified target population and how the recommended facility could meet the child's identified needs, the outcomes of prior interventions, and the youth's potential to benefit from additional placement. |
| How is the Common Application helpful in determining whether a child is Approved for Grant "R" funding? | It has valuable information and is reviewed with every application to provide a clear understanding of the most recent offense, family information, mental health diagnoses, school history, etc. The Interagency Application for Placement offers additional insight as to the youth's potential for inclusion into the target population, including any history of abuse, trauma, neglect, mental health diagnosis, response to intervention, etc. Probation officers know their youth best, and are strongly encouraged to take time to add information they think is important. |
| Will the Probation Departments receive some type of "formal notice" of Denial of Grant "R" funding and the reason for the Denial? If so, when? | Yes. The department will receive an email notification from central office and an informal notice from their regional program administrator immediately after a decision is made. All decisions are made within 5 days of the application submission. |
| Are Grant "R" eligible kids that have more referrals for community services but were unsuccessful, more likely to be Approved for Grant "R" funding? | No. One variable reviewed through the application process is how well a youth may be responding to assistance/interventions provided by the department. TJJD understands most kids that are being referred for diversion are being referred due to violating probation (not attending programs being one of them) so this is considered along with other information that would provide an idea of how the child will respond to the recommendations being made by the department for diversion. |
| Regionalization Start-Up Funds | |

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| <p>How will one department receive a 5% administrative fee for their auditor who will serve as the HUB of a region?</p> | <p>A department within a region could have elected to have a single county be the fiscal manager of the start-up program funds. Up to 5% of the amount used could have been used for those fiscal management services.</p> |
| <p>General Questions Concerning Funding</p> | |
| <p>Can placement funding be budgeted in one-line item from the beginning and then tell TJJJ where it was spent instead of trying to predict the future every year? This will save us from having to do budget adjustments.</p> | <p>Budget is set up based on TJJJ reporting requirements set by the Legislature. Departments can allocate funds in any category allowable. Departments can make budget adjustments mid-year. Departments are encouraged to contact Mike.meyer@tjjd.texas.gov if needed to discuss how to manage this process.</p> |
| <p>How has funding changed overtime from the state to counties?</p> | <p>Since 2007 juvenile probation referrals in Texas have decreased by 40% and the amount of state funding available for juvenile probation departments has increased by approximately 70%.</p> |
| <p>The regionalization funding (\$9 mill) for next year. If I remember right, there was previous discussion about some of it being used for community programming but I forgot the clarification of what types of programming? For our region I will have available a facility next year that is a former transitional living center (non-secure and title iv-e eligible facility) that could easily be opened and operated as a regional non-secure facility. Building and furnishings are there. Would take funding to set up staffing wise and some updated electronics. My thoughts would be to apply for a 2-year funding for operational costs, in-kind is building, school and TONS of counseling through Texas Tech, open this up for the entire region at a reasonable cost, obtain IV-E certification (which I'm told can take up to 18 months) then it could probably be self-sufficient enough to fully operate.</p> <p>Is this something we could look into? Facility would hold 32 kids in a double-bunk dorm room style setting. I'm told if the "county"</p> | <p>You may be remembering a conversation about "core regional need" or "start up" funding. One of the purposes of that part of regionalization is to kick start the kinds of things you mentioned. (Each region has already determined the use of that funding.) If possible, TJJJ may try to expand what is available for regional projects over time. You could request funding through the S&E program. The limitation there is that most of those funds end up being needs-driven, whereas your proposal is a new initiative.</p> |

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| <p>operates it we could only have 25 max, some Title IV-e rule. Either way need 3 JSO's on staff at any given time.</p> <p>Salaries + fringe and incidentals \$325,000</p> <p>Electronics \$20,000</p> <p>Misc resident supplies and food \$30,000</p> <p>Travel/Training \$25,000</p> <p>Total \$400,000 is what I would need to request to become operational.</p> | |
| General Questions | |
| <p>Does SB 1630 require each region to have a continuum of services available in each county and region to youth and families?</p> | <p>A goal of SB 1630 is to improve services within each region, creating a continuum of services. The resources within the regions differ resulting in a continuum of services that would be unique to each region.</p> |
| <p>Are the regions required to have and submit a community needs assessment as part of their regional plan?</p> | <p>There was a department inventory form used to identify services available and current service gaps.</p> |
| <p>What grant funds (i.e. grant S, N etc.) does TJJJ allocate to each county and what is each grant's purpose of use?</p> | <p>The TJJJ Internet page has the various grants offered to counties, the purpose or goals of each grant is explained within the body of the grant.</p> |