

Overview: Youth Aids and Juvenile Correction Costs in the 2013-15 Budget

Following a biennium in which the Youth Aids Allocation was reduced by about 17% (about 10% of which was a permanent reduction that becomes the “base” for 2013-15 and about \$7 million that was “lapsed” back to the general fund) two of the three juvenile correctional institutions (JCI) were closed, and the daily rates charged to counties were increased, the 2013-15 proposal regrettably does not restore all of the reductions while still increasing the daily charges to counties for services.

As proposed, the Governor’s Budget provides for:

- An estimated average daily population of 300 youth placed in the three remaining facilities (Lincoln Hills School for Boys, Copper Lake School for Girls, and the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center).
- The daily charge for a youth placed in a JCI will be \$297 (2013-14) and \$304 (2015-15). These are both up from the current rate of \$289 and both include a \$17 “debt surcharge” to pay off the deficit accumulated over the past 6-8 years in JCI revenues.
- Costs for Corrective Sanctions placements rises substantially from the current \$100/day to \$125/day in 2013-14 and \$128/day in 2014-15.

Comment:

The closing of Ethan Allen School for boys and Southern Oaks for girls did result in some savings that helped stabilize increases in the daily institutional rates. However, the trend of raising daily rates without parallel increase in overall youth aids funding is a concern, as it places greater pressure on local jurisdictions to develop safe and successful alternatives. Much of this has been done, but the challenge remains.

To see more detail, go to the overview of the budget related to Correction located at:

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/budget/2013-15%20Budget/Documents/Governor/corrections.pdf>

Or the Legislative Fiscal Bureau overview of the entire budget at:

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/budget/2013-15%20Budget/Pages/Governor.aspx>
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/budget/2013-15%20Budget/Pages/Governor.aspx>

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