

Priority:	Education	Lead Agency:	School and Community
Program Offer Type:	Existing Operating	Program Contact:	Peggy Samolinski
Related Programs:	21003, 21005, 21007, 21009, 21014, 21015A, 21018, 21020A, 21022, 21023, 21024, 21016B, 21020B, 21025A, 21025B, 21026		
Frameworks:	School Aged Policy Framework, Poverty Framework		

Executive Summary

Touchstone provides individual family support through case management, emergency services, and connection with other community resources during the 10 month school year. It removes barriers for at-risk families and improves academic achievement by helping children be ready to learn. Touchstone is the component of a full services school continuum that provides direct service/case management. The other components of this continuum are SUN Community Schools (extended day activities, family engagement and service access and integration) and School Attendance Initiative (attendance services). (Adjustment to the original program offer was made to reflect elimination of Touchstone services at two school sites, Kenton and Whittaker, which are being closed by Portland Public Schools in FY06. The original program offer was further reduced to reflect the elimination of 1.0 FTE Community Convener position.)

Program Description

Touchstone services stabilize families so that children can learn, working to ensure that their basic needs are met for food, stable housing, clothing, and physical and mental health. Building on family strengths to overcome economic and social barriers to self sufficiency, Touchstone staff provide case management and intervention services for families in 43 County schools. They provide case management, referral, mental health/alcohol and drugs screening, advocacy for families, crisis intervention, skill building activities, mentoring programs, and recreation services for children and families; Touchstone staff are the gateway to school based health clinics and mental health providers. They forge strong connections with the principal, school personnel, and other school-based staff in their building (including School Attendance Initiative, SUN CS site manager, health clinic staff, and other non-profit staff who provide services in that building) in order to ensure seamless and coordinated services.

Program Justification

This program promotes three of the Education team's six strategies: ensuring that the basic needs of students are met, including the needs for physical and mental health, as they relate to school readiness or school success; supporting caregivers in preparing children to learn; and bridging the gaps and breakdown the barriers to help all youth attend, engage in and succeed in school. Touchstone programs are located in schools with the neediest children (those in high-poverty neighborhoods, who are struggling academically). Lack of parental support and a dysfunctional home life are two leading causes of school failure. Touchstone's population is at high risk for barriers to academic achievement; 57% of the families enrolled are headed by a single parent; 63% have incomes at or below the Federal Poverty Level; and 53% are people of color. 87% of clients indicate that the issue that brought them into the program (the "presenting issue") had been addressed by the time of their exiting the program, and 97% said they had achieved some or all of their case plan goals. 82% of the Touchstone children were not absent from school for more than 10 days in the previous quarter.

Performance Measures

DSCP does not currently have the capacity to capture student success as measured by school promotion, state benchmark scores or school attendance; this is under development. The interim measures that are captured include: 690 families will participate in case management and 6,000 will receive crisis intervention. 80% of children served will not be absent from school more than 10 days in the previous quarter. 70% of children enrolled will participate in after-school programs. 100% of clients will indicate that presenting issues were addressed by the time of program exit.

Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results

Touchstone case managed 550 families in FY04, provided crisis intervention for over 5,000 children and families, addressed the presenting issue of 87% of clients by the time of their exiting the program, and engaged 66% of the children in extracurricular activities that supported their academic achievement. Program measures outlined above will apply for FY05; in progress are measures to demonstrate school promotion and school success, as capacity allows.

Program Mandate: 4 Program and Funding Level Choice

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2005	2005	2006	2006
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$1,143,384	\$239,502	\$1,393,111	\$0
Contracts	\$28,176	\$0	\$68,880	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$78,787	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$9,585	\$360,409	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$1,171,560	\$249,087	\$1,901,187	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$20,604	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$127,201	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$147,805	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,171,560	\$249,087	\$2,048,992	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,420,647		\$2,048,992	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	17.60	0.00
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$5,665	\$0	\$0	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$249,087	\$0	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$5,665	\$249,087	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund based on current service level

State Mental Health Alcohol and Drug Prevention revenue was eliminated based on notification received from DCHS

Significant Program Changes