

Priority: Education **Lead Agency:** School and Community
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Related Programs: 21022, 21031A, 21033, 21034, 21035, 21036, 21037, 21031B

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Touchstone (TS) is a direct service case management and service linkage program that is delivered by County staff. TS is a voluntary school-based, youth-focused program with the mission to impact poverty, minimize barriers to learning for children who are not succeeding in school and increase school success. Within the school, TS is the access point and conduit for children, families, and school partners, into a full array of human services. TS workers are the experts on human services within their schools, the SUN Service System and the local community. TS is part of the SUN Service System which implements the School-Age Policy Framework. TS and SUN CS (offer 21031 A,B) are an integrated service team, providing a comprehensive and nationally recognized best-practice school and community based model serving the needs of highly impoverished and diverse families.

Program Description

TS services stabilize families so that children can learn, working to ensure that their basic needs are met for food, stable housing, clothing and physical & mental health. Building on student and family strengths to overcome economic and social barriers to self-sufficiency, TS staff provides case management for students & families in 41 (K-8) schools (27% of County schools). They provide case management, referral, mental health/alcohol and drug screening, advocacy for students and their families, crisis intervention, skill building activities, mentoring opportunities, and recreational services. Strong connections are forged with the principal, school personnel, and other school-based staff to ensure seamless and coordinated services. Services target students at-risk for academic failure stemming from poor attendance, behavior issues, poor interpersonal or social skills, and/or families needing affordable housing, energy assistance, parenting skills, and employment resources.

Program Justification

This program supports strategies 1, 4 and 5 of the Education Team by ensuring the basic needs of children are met as related to school success, promoting student performance beyond the 5th grade targeting those performing below standards, bridging the gaps and breaking down barriers to help all youth attend, engage and succeed in school. TS provides fundamental social & support services that keep kids engaged in school. TS programs are located in schools with the neediest children, those in high-poverty neighborhoods and children who are struggling academically. Research has proven that the link between poverty and lack of academic achievement is significant and persistent. The population TS serves experience barriers to academic achievement; 57% of the families are headed by a single parent; 60% have income at or below the Federal Poverty Level & 62% are people of color. Yet, 94% of the TS clients achieved some or all of their case plan goals by exit.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	# of families served by case management	522	1,845	1,845	1,845
Outcome	% students served who improve State test scores in Reading	76%	75%	75%	75%
Outcome	Avg daily student attendance for students served	89%	90%	90%	90%
Outcome	% of clients served who are in permanent housing at exit	92%	90%	90%	90%

Performance Measure - Description

State test & attendance measures comprise annual data from school districts; data was analyzed as part of a Fall 05 report by the Northwest Regional Educational Lab. Due to timing & complexity of this data it is only available at the end of the school year; thus current year estimates are based on the current year purchased target.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2006	2006	2007	2007
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$1,393,111	\$0	\$1,659,577	\$0
Contracts	\$68,880	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$78,787	\$0	\$160,787	\$0
Internal Services	\$360,409	\$0	\$280,102	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$1,901,187	\$0	\$2,100,466	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$46,743	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$297,037	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$343,780	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,901,187	\$0	\$2,444,246	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,901,187		\$2,444,246	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	18.90	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund - Based on current service level

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #21016A, School Svcs - Full Svc Schools - Touchstone

The program model has changed to increase client caseload size and decrease length of stay. Caseloads have increased from 45 to 90 clients per TS worker. Also TS is using an informed short-term case management researched based model by Gerard Egan " The Skilled Helper". This model allows a 30, 60, 90 day length of stay on a caseload.