

Priority: Safety
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 50023A, 50023B
Lead Agency: County Human Services
Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Runaway Youth Services provide 24/7 reception center, crisis line, shelter, support services, and gender specific transitional housing for approximately 2,250 youth age 12-17 who have run away, and their families. 80% of those served are reunited with their families or placed in another safe, stable living environment.

This program is a collaboration among DCHS, DCJ, and DHS.

Program Description

Runaway Youth Services include: Reception Center - collaboration among law enforcement, DCJ, and DHS to directly receive from officers youth found to have committed minor status offenses such as curfew violation, truancy, etc... In FY 06-07 crisis response services were co-located with the Reception Center creating a county-wide "child receiving center" for older youth. Crisis Line - 24/7 youth and family help that serves as central access point for services. Telephone intervention and face-to-face, drop-in intervention is available. This is the only community based resource for runaway youth and their families in the County. Emergency Shelter - shelter and emergency assistance in 11 bed co-ed group home. Services provide overflow capacity for DHS foster care youth and a detention placement alternative. Youth receive food, safety, medical care, transportation, and hygiene services. Shelter services operate within a 72 hours intervention timeline. Research shows that the longer a young person is separated from their family (where no abuse is present), the potential for eventual reunification decreases and further penetration into the child welfare system increases. Support Services/Case Management - intake, assessment, individual service plans targeting family reunification, ATOD and mental health counseling, and family mediation. Gender Specific Transitional Housing - 2 beds for girls in single gender group home. Research shows that a single gender environment results in better self-sufficiency outcomes for some young women.

Program Justification

Runaway Youth Services address Safety Indicator: "Citizen perception of safety" and respond to Safety Strategy 2: "Safety system components work effectively together", Strategy 3: "Intervene early to keep juveniles out of the public safety system", and Strategy 4: "Treat drug/alcohol addiction and mental health issues".

County investment in Runaway Youth Services through DCHS is leveraged by investments from law enforcement, the juvenile justice system and DHS. Success with detention reform efforts, and the reduction of children entering the child welfare system are directly impacted by Runaway Youth Services. When families are able to appropriately raise their children at home, community resources aren't depleted. Those children are more likely to reach their full academic potential, avoid involvement with juvenile justice, and stay out of foster care. Reception Center services support and maximize law enforcement efforts to maintain officers on patrol versus using those scarce resources for social services. By intervening directly and immediately with youth in the earliest stages of delinquent behavior, services provide a critical component of the community's safety systems.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Primary Measure | Previous Year Actual (FY06-07) | Current Year Purchased (FY07-08) | Current Year Estimate (FY07-08) | Next Year Offer (FY08-09) |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Output | # of youth and families receiving intervention | 997 | 1,600 | 1,750 | 2,250 |
| Outcome | % of youth served who return home or exit to other stable housing | 85.0% | 80.0% | 85.0% | 85.0% |
| Outcome | % of youth served who avoid referral to juvenile justice system | 92.0% | 90.0% | 90.0% | 90.0% |

Performance Measure - Description

Increased numbers served represent addition of Reception Center services.

Legal/Contractual Obligation**Revenue/Expense Detail**

| | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2008 | 2008 | 2009 | 2009 |
| Personnel | \$14,061 | \$0 | \$14,060 | \$0 |
| Contracts | \$408,080 | \$203,738 | \$689,641 | \$203,738 |
| Materials & Supplies | \$604 | \$0 | \$376 | \$0 |
| Internal Services | \$2,013 | \$0 | \$2,067 | \$0 |
| Subtotal: Direct Exps: | \$424,758 | \$203,738 | \$706,144 | \$203,738 |
| Administration | \$22,279 | \$0 | \$88,526 | \$0 |
| Program Support | \$18,810 | \$0 | \$71,041 | \$0 |
| Subtotal: Other Exps: | \$41,089 | \$0 | \$159,567 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF: | \$465,847 | \$203,738 | \$865,711 | \$203,738 |
| Program Total: | \$669,585 | | \$1,069,449 | |
| Program FTE | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 |
| Program Revenues | | | | |
| Intergovernmental | \$0 | \$203,738 | \$0 | \$203,738 |
| Program Revenue for Admin | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Revenue: | \$0 | \$203,738 | \$0 | \$203,738 |

Explanation of Revenues

Federal/State funds - \$203,738
 County General Fund - \$706,144

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25138, Runaway Youth Services

In FY09, CGF funding for the Reception Center have been transferred to this program offer from PO 25136A Homeless Youth System and PO 25136B Homeless Youth System Reception Center.

This Program Offer includes a 3% inflationary increase of \$12,236 over FY08 for the County General Fund portion of contracted client services.