

Priority: Basic Needs

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Program Contact: Mary Li

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Runaway Youth Services provide 24/7 Reception Center, crisis line, shelter, support services, gender specific transitional housing services for approximately 2,250 youth ages 12-17 who have run away, as well as their families. About 85% 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 - a collaboration among law enforcement, DCJ and DHS to directly receive from officers, youth found to have committed minor status offences such as curfew violation, truancy, etc. as an alternative to detention. In FY07, the Reception Center was co-located with runaway crisis response services, creating a countywide "child receiving center" for youth up to age 18. Crisis Line - 24/7 youth and family help line that serves as central access point for services. Telephone intervention and face-to-face, drop-in intervention also 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 with services focused on family reunification. Some overflow capacity is available as a detention placement alternative. Youth receive food, safety, medical care, transportation and case management services. Shelter services operate within a 72 hour intervention timeline. Research shows that the longer a young person is separated from 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 - two beds for girls in a group home setting. Research shows that a single gender environment results in better self-sufficiency outcomes for 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."

Runaway Youth Services successfully impact detention reform efforts and reduced the number of children entering the child welfare system. County investment in Runaway Youth Services through DCHS is leveraged by investments from law enforcement, the juvenile justice system and DHS. When families are able to appropriately raise their children at home, community resources are not 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 system.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY07-08)	Current Year Purchased (FY08-09)	Current Year Estimate (FY08-09)	Next Year Offer (FY09-10)
Output	# of youth and families receiving intervention & services	2,370	2,250	2,250	2,250
Outcome	% of youth served who return home or exit to other stable housing ¹	92.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%

Performance Measure - Description

¹ 'Stable housing' typically includes DHS custody which could include foster or group home placements. But most youth are reunited with family.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2009	2009	2010	2010
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$14,060	\$0	\$16,216	\$0
Contracts	\$689,641	\$203,738	\$709,247	\$189,476
Materials & Supplies	\$376	\$0	\$376	\$0
Internal Services	\$2,067	\$0	\$2,399	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$706,144	\$203,738	\$728,238	\$189,476
Administration	\$112,371	\$0	\$102,995	\$0
Program Support	\$90,176	\$0	\$64,918	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$202,547	\$0	\$167,913	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$908,691	\$203,738	\$896,151	\$189,476
Program Total:	\$1,112,429		\$1,085,627	
Program FTE	0.16	0.00	0.17	0.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$203,738	\$0	\$189,476
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$203,738	\$0	\$189,476

Explanation of Revenues

OCCF-Youth Investment - \$189,476
 County General Fund - \$728,238

Significant Program Changes

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