

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

Runaway Youth Services provide a 24/7 Reception Center, crisis line, shelter, support services, family counseling and reunification services, and gender-specific transitional housing services for approximately 2,255 youth ages 12-17 who have run away, or who are at risk of running away, as well as their families.

This program is a collaboration among DCHS, DCJ and DHS. About 90% of those served return home or to another stable living environment at exit.

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 offenses such as curfew violation, truancy, etc. as an alternative to detention. The Reception Center is 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 a 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 families in the county.

Emergency Shelter - shelter and emergency assistance in an 11-bed, co-ed group home with services focused on family reunification. Youth receive food, safety from the street, 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 involvement in the child welfare system increases.

Support Services/Case Management includes: intake; assessment; individual service plans targeting family reunification; alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and mental health counseling; and family mediation. Gender Specific Transitional Housing provides 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.

Runaway Youth Services successfully impact detention reform efforts and reduce 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.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY09-10)	Current Year Purchased (FY10-11)	Current Year Estimate (FY10-11)	Next Year Offer (FY11-12)
Output	# of youth and families receiving intervention & services	2,255	2,250	2,250	2,000
Outcome	% of youth served who return home or exit to other stable housing	92.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Stable housing can include being in DHS custody which could include foster or group home placements, but most youth are reunited with family.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

N/A

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2011	2011	2012	2012
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$16,405	\$0	\$16,815	\$0
Contracts	\$723,432	\$189,475	\$723,432	\$189,476
Materials & Supplies	\$518	\$0	\$435	\$0
Internal Services	\$3,699	\$0	\$1,792	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$744,054	\$189,475	\$742,474	\$189,476
Program Total:	\$933,529		\$931,950	
Program FTE	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$189,475	\$0	\$189,476
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$189,475	\$0	\$189,476

Explanation of Revenues

\$189,476 - OCCF Youth Investment: Based on OCCF estimated funding
 \$742,474 - County General Fund

Significant Program Changes
 **Significantly Changed**

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

\$204,000 of State funds supporting current service levels will be reduced by the Commission on Children, Families, and Community. If implemented, operation of the entire set of runaway services will be eliminated or severely reduced due to economies of scale associated with shelter operations.