



**Department of Community Justice
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

Juvenile Services Division

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To: Shannon Busby, County Budget Office, Budget Analyst Senior

From: David Koch, Director, Juvenile Services Division

Date: June 3, 2011, 2011

Subject: Program Amendment – At Promise Mentoring Program
Continuation & Restorative Justice in Schools Program
Expansion

This program amendment proposes two additions to the Department of Community Justice (DCJ) FY2012 budget. Funding for both amendments has been identified within DCJ's proposed FY2012 budget.

Operation of the 'At Promise Mentoring Program' for high-risk African American youth involved in the juvenile justice system had been identified for transition to a community-based program. To ensure program continuity and maintain momentum achieved to date in retrospect it is deemed more prudent to continue operation of the existing program within DCJ, at least for the upcoming fiscal year. Initially, funding for the program was made possible through a federal grant awarded to the Juvenile Services Division by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, Oregon Commission on Children and Families. Grant funding decreased in the second year of operation and is scheduled for elimination in FY 2012.

The At Promise Mentoring Program is designed to reduce the criminal referral rate for African American youth in Multnomah County and keep this population from further penetrating the Juvenile Justice System. This program has shown potential for delinquency reduction by providing a positive African American male in the young men's lives; encouraging their involvement in pro-social activities, keeping youth in school, and assisting youth with vocational and employment opportunities. At Promise is the only program in the state of Oregon providing mentoring for high-risk gang-involved youth in the Juvenile Justice System. As a side note, the program has been invited by the America Learns Network (ALN) to participate in their research project; the primary aim of which is to identify program components that contribute to positive outcomes for high-risk delinquent youth. Results to date are encouraging despite challenges associated with recruitment of mentors for this difficult population.

Expansion of the 'Restorative Justice in Schools' program builds upon the successful program first piloted and ultimately launched at Parkrose Middle School and later expanded into Parkrose High School. This was a collaborative effort involving the Parkrose School District, Resolutions Northwest and DCJ. Early intervention with youth at high risk of gang involvement and delinquent behavior generally is best accomplished in the youth's social milieu, specifically while they are attending school. Learning problem solving skills, coping mechanisms and behaviors offering alternatives to violence have been shown to reduce gang affiliation and delinquency. Restorative Justice principles emphasize healing over punishment, inclusion over exclusion, and individual accountability with a high level of community support. Over time it is expected that changes in youth behavior, the behavior of school system personnel, and school disciplinary practices will help reduce the incidence of over-representation of minority youth both in school disciplinary actions as well as juvenile justice system involvement. This program offer seeks to expand replication of the program model in six (6) Multnomah County schools (two in David Douglas district, three in Portland Public schools, and a MESD alternative high school).

A related program offer – 50025B Restorative Justice Training – provides one-time funding to deliver training and technical assistance in restorative justice principles to school staff, juvenile justice personnel, SUN school staff and school police/resource officers throughout the SUN (middle and high) system within Multnomah County.