



Media Release

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DHS Awards Federal Grant Funds Totaling \$530,000 to 21 Programs

Recipients aim to prevent juvenile delinquency at the community level

Programs across the state designed to reduce behavior problems, develop leadership skills and equip at-risk youth with the knowledge necessary to get and maintain a job are among 21 receiving a total of \$530,715 in federal grant funds, the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Youth Services (DYS) announced today.

“We believe that each of these programs is an important part of helping Arkansas implement successful, long-term strategies to address the problems associated with juvenile delinquency,” said DYS Director Tracy Steele. “We are committed to developing partnerships to prevent young people from coming into the juvenile justice system so they can instead live positive lives.”

The Division worked with the Arkansas Coalition for Juvenile Justice to select the programs. Funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and is for community-based programs aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency or improving the juvenile justice system. A total of 30 applicants submitted proposals. Programs are awarded funds on an annual basis with an opportunity for additional funds for up to three years.

The 21 newly-funded programs will serve more than 7,400 youth in 20 counties.

“On behalf of the Arkansas Coalition Juvenile Justice board I would like to congratulate the grant recipients on being awarded a grant to work with at-risk children,” said Board Chairman Jerry Walsh, who also is executive director of South Arkansas Youth Services. “The grant process was highly competitive and the programs selected were of high quality. We believe that children in Arkansas communities will benefit from this rigorous process.”

Programs, locations and funding are listed below:

Ashley County Juvenile Intake/Truancy Program overseen by 10th Judicial District, Division Five Judge Teresa A. French, McGehee --\$30,000

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Employment Support Program for Juvenile Re-Entry overseen by the Boys & Girls Club of Saline County, located at the Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center -- \$29,335

Mentoring Program for At-Risk Youth overseen by Comprehensive Juvenile Services, Inc., Fort Smith -- \$29,470

First Tee Character Development for At-Risk Youth overseen by Conway County Community Services, Morrilton -- \$30,000

Delinquency Prevention to Address High Risk Delta Counties with Minority Youth overseen by East Arkansas Youth Service, Inc., Marion -- \$30,000

Life's Intensive Skills Training overseen by Garland County, Hot Springs -- \$45,900

At Promise overseen by Intervention Associates, LLC., Little Rock -- \$19,025

Breaking the Cycle overseen by Jefferson-Lincoln County Circuit Court, 6th Division (Juvenile), Pine Bluff -- \$30,000

Project Reach/Club Hope overseen Leaders, Inc., Sherwood -- \$30,000

LSY ATM Project overseen by Life Skills for Youth, Little Rock -- \$30,000

Love Letters Community Center for Youth overseen by Love Letters A Universal Sound Multi-Purpose Community Youth Center & Gym, North Little Rock -- \$19,230

Southwest Alive and Free Project overseen by Ministry of Intercession/Bridge to Success, Little Rock -- \$29,354

Quality Uplift and Education for Students overseen by Omegas of Greater Little Rock, Little Rock -- \$11,480

G.P.S. Monitoring Program overseen by Phillips County Juvenile Probation Department, Helena -- \$30,000

Our Club Elite overseen by Pulaski County Youth Services, Little Rock -- \$30,000

Follow the Leader overseen by Second Chance @ Life, El Dorado -- \$30,000

Training & Technical Assistance for Sexual Abuse Management Teams overseen by UAMS-Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute, Little Rock -- \$30,000

First Tee Character Development for At-Risk Youth Summer Program overseen by the City of Morrilton, Morrilton -- \$10,000

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The Community Garden of HEROS overseen by the Garland County Juvenile Court, Hot Springs -- \$8,951.25

Attitude Determines Altitude overseen by Jefferson-Lincoln County Circuit Court 6th Division (Juvenile), Pine Bluff --\$15,000

Digital Audio & Recording Klub (D.A.R.K.) overseen by Pulaski County youth Services, Little Rock - - \$13,000

DYS works with juveniles who come into contact with, or those who are at risk of coming in contact with the juvenile justice system. The Division served 9,300 youth in 2013 through community-based programs and eight residential treatment or correctional facilities.

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