



Community Youth Development (“CYD”) Program

Department of Family and Protective Services

(REVISED 2-11-09)

Action Needed: Approve DFPS Exceptional Item for CYD Program

Approve Exceptional Item # 11 (\$2 million GR), providing funding to expand services in the CYD Program. (Total \$6.2 million GR, including STAR). DFPS would expand CYD in two communities with high incidences of juvenile crime and serve an additional 539 youth per month.

What is CYD?

Community Youth Development (CYD) is a program that was created in 1995 to **prevent truancy and delinquent behaviors** among youth in Texas ZIP codes with high juvenile crime and other risk factors. The program serves youth up to age 17, with an emphasis on youth between the ages of 10-17. The program currently operates in 15 ZIP code areas.

How does CYD work?

DFPS contracts with local fiscal agents to develop juvenile crime and delinquency prevention services in 15 designated ZIP code areas. CYD is based on a youth development model; when young people are given opportunities for healthy development – including opportunities to participate and contribute in meaningful ways in their community - they are less likely to engage in criminal behavior. There is no charge for services. Residents, businesses, youth, and other interested parties are encouraged to be involved in the development and evaluation of CYD services by serving on the community collaborative committee.

What services does CYD provide?

Each local CYD program must have a youth leadership development component, establish a Youth Advisory Committee, and provide mentoring services. Examples of other services provided through CYD to address community needs include academic support, life skills and career development, conflict resolution, character education, and youth sports and recreational services.



Why should CYD be a funding priority?

- ★ In 2006, more than 8,000 youth were in custody in juvenile justice facilities on a daily basis; 61% for non-violent offenses. Many of these youth could have been prevented from entering the juvenile justice system had they participated in the CYD program.
- ★ Each teen prevented from becoming a career criminal (including future adult offenders) could save between 1.7 and 2.3 million dollars per youth. (*Transforming Juvenile Justice in Texas: A Framework for Action, Blue Ribbon Task Force Report, 2007*)



- ★ 55% of youth age 10-16 are minorities; yet non-whites represent 72% of youth in juvenile justice custody in Texas (*Study of Minority Overrepresentation in the Texas Juvenile Justice System-Final Report, Office of the Governor, October 2005*)
- ★ CYD served 12,319 youth in FY 07, of whom 96.5% were minority youth.
- ★ Youth served in the CYD Program successfully avoid juvenile justice referrals.
- ★ The cost of CYD services averaged \$344 per youth served, in FY08.

Of the funding requested, TNOYS supports allocating some portion to existing programs. There has been no increase in funding to CYD since its inception in 1995; service capacity has decreased due to inflation and increased program requirements.

Texas Network of Youth Services

2525 Wallingwood Drive, Suite 1503 * Austin, Texas 78746 * Ph: (512) 328-6860 * Fax: (512) 328-6863 * info@tnoys.org
www.tnoys.org