

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NYS Office of Children & Family Services Announces \$4 Million  
To Treat Juvenile Delinquents in Own Communities  
- New York City, Long Island, Monroe County Targeted -**

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) today announced the award of \$4 million in Community Reinvestment Program grants to provide services for approximately 1,200 juvenile delinquents in their own communities, avoiding costly and less effective placements far from home.

Governor David A. Paterson said: "We need to invest in effective community alternatives to keep youth out of placements and families strong. These cost-effective programs will address accountability and public safety with intense monitoring, and connect youth and families with a network of providers to address their major issues. The programs will help keep youth connected with their families and communities, both of which offer essential supports to keep youth on track to successful futures."

The seven grants were awarded through a competitive bid process, to areas of the state with the highest court-placement rates to juvenile justice facilities: the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan in New York City; Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island; and Rochester's Monroe County. The grants will be funded through federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq., said: "These grants continue New York State's efforts to transform its juvenile justice system to one that is responsive to the individual needs of youth. Research has consistently shown better outcomes for youth who are diverted from detention and participate in community-based programs designed to address their needs and work with families, rather than placing them in costly residential facilities located far from home."

She added, "The awards are part of our efforts to begin implementation of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Task Force recommendations."

Senator Velmanette Montgomery (Brooklyn), chair of the Senate Committee on Children and Families, said: "These grants support a 'call to action' for more community-based alternative programs to help troubled youth turn their lives and stay on the right track. This rehabilitative model is less expensive and is most effective in creating successful outcomes for young people and their families."

Assemblyman William Scarborough (Queens), chair of the Assembly Committee on Children and Families, said: "These grants constitute a critical component in the effort to reduce the numbers of youth sent to juvenile jails. Many young people previously incarcerated really need substance abuse, mental health, counseling and other services that can be provided to them in their communities. These funds are a step in that direction."

The Community Reinvestment Program is an initiative that OCFS designed with stakeholders to invest in, expand, and enhance community resources with multi-phase interventions in order to prevent family court placements. The ultimate goal is to provide youth and families in high-need communities with a comprehensive community network of supports.

The following grants have been awarded (listed by region to be served):

**NEW YORK CITY:**

- Bronx: Good Shepherd Services, \$595,000
- Brooklyn: Good Shepherd Services, \$595,000
- Manhattan: Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services, \$589,653
- Queens: Fund for the City of New York / Center for Court Innovation, \$518,500

**LONG ISLAND:**

- Nassau County: Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth, \$484,044
- Suffolk County: Hope for Youth, \$593,988

**MONROE COUNTY:**

- Hillside Family of Agencies, \$595,000

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