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STATUS OFFENDER PILOT PROGRAM

Division of Youth Services
Department of Human Resources

Contact Person:

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PROJECT TITLE: STATUS OFFENDER PILOT PROJECT

This project will seek to demonstrate the feasibility of 100% deinstitutionalization of status offenders in a selected urban and a balanced number of rural counties. The programs will also be used to increase the Divisions' statewide alternate planning ability. All programs will be established in counties who show the most willingness to cooperate in a joint effort with the Division of Youth Services. Programs to be funded under this grant include:

1. In-Home Supervision Unit

A. Crisis Teams - The Crisis Team will give professional support to the status offender when his/her misbehavior is causing dramatic ill effects on himself, his family, peers and school. This team will assist in the coordination of local community agencies to provide the needed service. Where a service is lacking, the Crisis Team will provide it. Crisis intervention is an effort to cause an increase in tolerance on the part of the family and community toward the child who is draining them of their needed strength to cope adequately in their own lives.

B. The Community Detention Worker

1. Supervises 5-8 youth in lieu of secure detention (either in parent's, relative's, or other suitable home placement).

2. Supervise youth in Attention Homes in his area.
3. Supervise Attention Home parents, and provide needed backup resource as requested.
4. Receive and regulate the flow of youth in and out of the entire community detention program.
5. Will interview and recommend contracting for new Attention Homes.

2. Attention Homes

The Attention Home program will be one of the primary alternatives to be utilized to serve youth in lieu of secure incarceration.

Screening criteria for JJDP Attention Homes will include:

- a. Youth charged with a status offense as defined by this grant (including the truant, runaway and incorrigible)
- b. Youth who temporarily cannot return to their own home, a relative's home, or other approved placement.
- c. Youth who could be placed in a non-intensive program.
 1. stable youth
 2. youth not severely mentally disturbed and not acting out in an aggressive manner.

Attention Homes are expected to have impact in the following ways:

1. The Attention Homes (33 bedspaces) will provide the opportunity to divert a maximum of 138 children for 9 months from any contract with a secure institution.
2. The local court personnel will have a viable alternative to detention not presently available in their communities.
3. It will be much less expensive to detain children in this manner than in detention facilities. Current RYDC costs

are \$24 per child per day while attention homes cost \$1/day when not occupied, and \$6.60/day when occupied.

4. These homes will provide the child with an environment much more conducive to community adjustment than that provided by detention centers.

The overall goal of the homes will be to make the first offense of the youthful offender also his last.

3. Contract Homes

The format of these homes will be very similar to the Attention Home, except it is designed for long-term placement for the purposes of rendering treatment services. Services provided by these homes will be for both the probation and commitment levels. These homes will be expected to deliver more intensive and specialized treatment than that of regular Attention Homes.

Screening criteria will include:

- a. youth charged with a status offense as defined by this grant (including the runaway and ungovernable child);
- b. youth needing long-term (as defined more than 60 days), residential treatment services.

4. Purchased Services

These will include:

- a. non-residential services like psychological and/or psychiatric diagnostics and treatment;
- b. other services provided by private/public agencies that are necessary to meet the treatment needs of status offenders and/or committed youth in need of specialized or intensive residential treatment services. This will include long-term foster care and specialized residential treatment.

The purchased services grant will assist in seeking to achieve 100% deinstitutionalization of status offenders from the Division of Youth Services' institutions by offering a broad range of "services." Some youth will need very little service while others will require more intensive and long term services. It is this latter group which the purchased services section will concentrate on.

The above services in the model areas will be coordinated with a locally appointed Advisory Board. The purpose of the Advisory Board will be to:

1. aid in establishing operating policy;
2. identify service gaps;
3. work to open existing community services;
4. assist in evaluating a part of the project's success or failure.

There are two groups of children that will need to be impacted:

1. Primary Group - Those currently detained in secure facilities (jails, Regional Youth-Development Centers, and Youth Development Centers)
2. Secondary Group - Those who are inadequately placed in community based or non-secure facilities and are likely to recidivate without additional services.

Lastly, a strong effort will need to be made to develop programs that will block entry of status offenders into secure facilities.

Approximately 2,446 status offenders will need services.

Jails	366 (estimate)
RYDC	1,813 (1975)
YDC	<u>367</u>
	2,546

Some of the problems that have to be faced in order to assure Georgia's compliance to the JJDP Act are:

1. How do we deal with the seriously disturbed status offender who is difficult to contain in a non-secure setting?
2. How will deinstitutionalization be effected in rural areas where:
 - a. transporting youth to distant resources can be costly?
 - b. staff are not convinced that non-secure treatment is effective?
 - c. there is no intake unit of some type?

The Division will work to relieve these problems by developing the programs mentioned above in selected model areas. The advantages of utilizing a model area approach are as follows:

1. Proposed programs will be tried in both rural and urban communities.
2. A determination can be made of the types and numbers of status offenders.
3. A model area for the State will help dispell any negative attitudes that 100% deinstitutionalization cannot be accomplished.
4. If 100% deinstitutionalization cannot be accomplished as is spelled out in current JJDP standards, we will be able to support alternatives based on fact.

The Division will provide JJDP funded service to all counties for which it is responsible. This includes detention level services for 155 counties and at the commitment level it means being responsible for providing alternate services to all counties.

Phase I - October 1976 - January 1, 1977

1. Make final selection of model areas based on the amount of agreement to work toward grant goals that can be achieved.

2. Begin development of a plan as to where other services will be distributed to non-model areas.
3. Begin process of selecting local Advisory Council members.
4. Make decisions on how all new programs will be supervised at the local level.

Phase II - January 1, 1977 - September 30, 1977

1. Hire all staff and provide all necessary orientation and training. Start serving youth as quickly as possible.
2. Begin development of listing of all agencies and programs capable and willing to provide services to status offenders.
3. Begin locating contract homes and attention homes and start serving youth as quickly as possible.
4. By September 30, 1977, complete an initial progress report.

It will be expected that each program type will serve the following numbers of youth: (maximum and minimum levels are indicated)

	1/1/77-9/30/77	10/1/77-9/30/77
(a) Community Detention and Crisis Teams (10 workers)	300-450 youth	500-600 youth
(b) Contract Homes (36 beds)	36-50 youth	40-50 youth
(c) Attention Homes (33 beds)	90-150 youth	130-190 youth
(d) Purchased Services	<u>40-60 youth</u>	<u>40-60 youth</u>
	466-710 youth	410-900 youth

In specifics, this means that between 19-29% of the status offenders can be deinstitutionalized (overall in the State) in first 9 months.

Between 29% and 36% of the status offenders can be deinstitutionalized

during the 2nd year of the operation of the grant. The difference can be explained in the fact that the first nine months will be limited because of start up problems, the second full year should be more of an indication of the total potential of these programs. In large part, the achievement of these stated goals will be limited or helped by how well local units utilize the resources allocated to them.

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