

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agency Name: Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department

Project Title: TRANSITIONS Work/Study Program: Educational Readiness

CJD Grant App: 2556003

Grant Period: 9/1/2015 – 8/31/2016

Goal Statement: The overall goal of the TRANSITIONS Work/Study Program is to provide older juvenile probation youths with the tools that they will need to be educationally ready, literate in all areas of job readiness, and confidently knowledgeable of higher education opportunities and resources in the community that will enable them to work toward a successful personal future. A primary emphasis of the TRANSITIONS program is LITERACY and MATHEMATICS tutoring.

TRANSITIONS Work/Study Program bridges the gaps for at-risk kids. One of the biggest challenges that the older juvenile offender faces is getting past the GED/High School Diploma hurdle and then knowing what to do. There is definitely a crossroads at this time in these young adults' lives. They can keep on doing what they know and end up in the adult system or try to strike out on their own to find a job wherever they can - usually minimum wage! It turns out that the hardest thing to do is to try to stay out of trouble and live right! A significant number of these young adults have barely gotten by in school; they don't know how to get a job or how to keep a job; and they usually only have minimal support from their family or community.

The TRANSITIONS Work/Study Program is an extremely comprehensive job training program - not in the traditional sense at all. The first step of this effort must be to provide remedial academic assistance - "educational readiness" - so that they can read, write and do math well enough to fill out the job applications, go for interviews, take the GED, attend certification courses in trade schools, or actually go on to higher education opportunities. While the chronological ages of the juveniles we are serving in the program are 14 to 18, they are much further behind academically than their average peer. Much more effort has to be put in the front end of this job training process!

Educational Readiness places a priority on one-to-one tutoring of the juveniles requiring this remedial assistance in reading and math as well as

specialized computer programs, DVDs and other materials to assist in the tutoring effort.

The target group of the TRANSITIONS Work/Study Program is made up of boys and girls , ages 14-18 who are on probation with the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department, who are behind in school and in need of "focused future planning".

The components of the TRANSITIONS Program are 1) EDUCATIONAL READINESS primarily in reading and math with one-to-one tutoring; 2) WORKPLACE LITERACY - getting a job, keeping a job, work skills and ethics; 3) INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE in learning about opportunities at vocational school, junior colleges and universities like registering for school and getting financial aid.

The outcome of this important program will look like this: young adults who have increased self-esteem and confidence because of increased academic success in the form of a GED or high school diploma; young adults who have obtained employment and/or higher education that will carry them into a future career; and young adults who are contributing members of society rather than negative drains on prison and welfare systems.

Budget:

CJD award: \$46,230.87

Cash Match: 22,627.02

Total: **\$68,857.89** Personnel – One (1) FT Education Specialist