

School District Grant: Reducing Youth Involvement in Gangs

Philadelphia City Schools

GRANTEE: Philadelphia City Schools

ADDRESS: 440 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130

AMOUNT: \$4.8 Million

DURATION: 27 months

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Philadelphia Project U-Turn Expansion will focus on three primary service goals: a) increasing educational achievement and decreasing the dropout rate for juvenile offenders and at-risk youth; b) providing paid work experience and internships for out of school juvenile offenders; and c) reducing youth gangs and violent crime in Philadelphia. To do this, four key initiatives will be implemented: 1) slot expansion through a new accelerated high school; 2) design and implementation of a transitional bridge program; 3) design and implementation of a learning to work strategy; and 4) augmentation of occupational skills training opportunities for E3 Center youth participants.

MAJOR TRACKS:

- Accelerated High Schools Model: This model will serve a target population of court involved youth, overage under-credit students, and former dropouts returning to complete their high school diploma through an autonomous small school.
- Bridge Program: Will support out of school youth and other struggling students in attaining academic credits, literacy and numeracy skill levels, workforce preparation and other qualifications needed for successful entry into an array of existing School District educational program pathway options. This program will provide services across three phases: academic and vocational assessment; skill development via participation in learning activities; and referrals to appropriate credential bearing options after literacy and numeracy gains.
- Learning to Work: Will partner community-based organizations with schools to facilitate employment and paid internships placements for youth. The program will be located at Overbrook High School (designated as persistently dangerous) among others.
- Philadelphia E3 Centers: Will partner with Lehigh Career and Technical Institute to develop a systemic approach to aligning the academic and occupational offerings in the state's juvenile placement facilities with ongoing career training offered to youth once they return to Philadelphia from placement.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO BE SERVED: Philadelphia School District

CONTACT: Marcia Schulman (215) 400-4150



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