

School District Grant: Reducing Youth Involvement in Gangs

Orange County Schools

GRANTEE: Orange County Schools

ADDRESS: 445 West Amelia
Orlando, FL 32801

AMOUNT: \$4.8 Million

DURATION: 27 months

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: This project will focus on an initiative aimed at providing at-risk youth with intervention and support to succeed in school and to deter their involvement with gangs in Orange County Public Schools, Orlando, Florida. The project will focus on the following:

1) Academic intervention and support for juvenile offenders and at risk youth; 2) employability skills and work employment experiences; and 3) reduction efforts for youth involved in gangs.

MAJOR TRACKS:

- **Academic Intervention:** This strategy will serve four high schools, four middle schools, five alternative school-to-work programs and school programs within eight Juvenile Justice commitment centers. Schools will work with identified youth who are involved in the Juvenile Justice system, are transitioning from commitment or detention or who have been identified as at-risk of becoming involved with gang or unlawful activity. Eight instructors will be assigned to middle schools and three instructors will serve the alternative and justice programs.
- **Academic Center:** Will serve youthful offenders finishing Department of Juvenile Justice commitments who are in need of a transitional school environment. This strategy will allow for a successful progression for academic achievement targeted at 8th and 9th graders.
- **Services with Workforce Central Florida:** Two resource staff will be contracted to work with identified in-school and out-of-school youth to provide employability skills training and paid work experience opportunities.
- **Outreach Workers:** Three outreach officers from the gang units of Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Orlando Police Department will be employed to provide service and act as a liaison with school programs and the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- **Sponsored Events:** Numerous events will be conducted to stimulate youth participation during after school hours, weekends and the summer as well as a youth safety summit entitled "Partners in Change".

GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO BE SERVED: Orange County Public Schools

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