

LOW-RISK RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

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Low-risk residential programs begin the continuum of residential commitment programs within the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Youth assessed and classified for placement in programs at this level

represent a low risk to themselves and to public safety. Although low-risk residential programs are designed for first-time commitments to the Department, some youth may have a juvenile record that includes one commitment for a third degree felony or a misdemeanor with an associated residential placement.

In FY 2008-09, 868 youth received services through placement in a low-risk residential program and 724 youth completed services the previous year.

Of those youth who received services within FY 2008-09:

- ***85% were male***
- ***71% were non-white***
- ***68% were 15 to 17 years of age***

Programs within the low-risk restrictiveness level are not physically secure, but they provide security sufficient to ensure the safety of the youth and staff. Youth attend public school in some program models.

Youth placed in low-risk residential placement generally have as their most serious current offense a misdemeanor or a third degree felony and have usually performed unsuccessfully in diversion or probation programs.

At the time of this report there were four low-risk residential programs in operation in the state.

Profile of Youth

The following tables provide demographic data taken from the Department's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). Profile data are based on the number of youth, unduplicated, who were provided services by the Residential Services program area during FY 2008-09.

Low-Risk Residential Programs

	AGE					Youth Served
	0—7	8—11	12—14	15—17	18+	
Statewide	0	2	158	593	115	868
Percentage	0%	0%	18%	68%	13%	100%

	GENDER/RACE								Youth Served
	Male				Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Statewide	202	447	84	2	52	69	11	1	868
Percentage	23%	51%	10%	0%	6%	8%	1%	0%	100%

Program Evaluation

Low-risk residential programs are evaluated through the Department's Quality Assurance (QA) process following a set of standards developed specifically for residential programs. Standards are based on the criteria set by national standards, state policy, and Florida Statutes.

Quality Assurance Performance

The following table ranks low-risk residential programs that received a QA performance rating during FY 2008-09. The Short Term Education Program received the highest QA performance rating with a 72%.

Residential QA Performance Rankings¹

Ranking	Circuit	County	Program Name	Specialized Beds ¹	Overall Percent	Overall Rating
Low-Risk Residential Programs						
1	4	Nassau	Short Term Education Program (STEP)	None	72%	Acceptable Performance
2	11	Miami-Dade	Dade Group Treatment Home	None	68%	Minimal Performance
3	9	Orange	Eckerd Academy	Specialized Beds	40%	Failed

¹ Programs with specialized beds receive funding from one or more of the following sources: RSAT, IMHS, MHOS, or BHOS (refer to the residential chapter for full descriptions). This table only includes Quality Assurance (QA) ratings for programs reviewed during FY 2008-09. Please refer to the "Data Sources and Methods" chapter of the CAR for a description of changes to the QA review cycle.

Outcome Evaluation Performance

Program profile summaries and outcomes, including total releases, the percentage of youth adjudicated for offenses committed during placement (ODP), number of completions and completion rates, demographic characteristics, average length of stay, and success rates are presented in the following table. Program profile summaries and outcomes are based on the number of youth who completed a low-risk residential program in FY 2007-08.

Low-Risk Residential: Program Profile Summaries and Outcomes on Youth Completions FY 2007-08

Program Name	Completions										
	Total Releases	Percent ODP ¹	Total		Percent Male	Percent Black	Percent Hispanic	Average Age at Admission	Average Prior Seriousness Index	Average Length of Stay	Success Rate
			N ³	Percent							
Female											
Sawmill Academy for Girls ²	13	8%	11	85%	0%	82%	0%	17.0	16.2	91	64%
STEP II - Female	64	0%	63	98%	0%	51%	5%	16.5	9.3	29	62%
Vision Quest - Low	75	5%	68	91%	0%	47%	9%	15.8	11.6	164	68%
White Foundation Family Homes - Female ²	12	0%	12	100%	0%	67%	8%	16.3	9.7	123	50%
Subtotal	164	3%	154	94%	0%	53%	6%	16.2	10.9	100	64%
Male											
Blackwater Short Term Offender - Low ²	12	8%	10	83%	100%	50%	0%	17.0	17.2	87	100%
Brevard Group Treatment Home	63	13%	60	95%	100%	63%	7%	14.1	17.0	169	35%
Dade Group Treatment Home ²	18	6%	17	94%	100%	71%	12%	14.5	20.7	223	53%
Eckerd Academy ²	67	10%	59	88%	100%	64%	12%	15.8	14.6	206	41%
Eckerd Youth Challenge Program - Low	1	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forestry Youth Academy ²	56	7%	28	50%	100%	32%	4%	16.7	22.7	365	75%
Peace River Outward Bound ²	153	0%	144	94%	100%	57%	8%	16.8	17.9	74	45%
Seminole Work and Learn Center ²	46	4%	43	93%	100%	56%	5%	16.0	18.2	146	44%
South Pines - Low ²	31	3%	27	87%	100%	81%	7%	16.1	19.4	137	30%

Low-Risk Residential: Program Profile Summaries and Outcomes on Youth Completions FY 2007-08 (continued)

Program Name	Completions										
	Total Releases	Percent ODP ¹	Total		Percent Male	Percent Black	Percent Hispanic	Average Age at Admission	Average Prior Seriousness Index	Average Length of Stay	Success Rate
			N ³	Percent							
Male (continued)											
STEP I - Male	162	1%	152	94%	100%	49%	7%	16.6	15.0	30	43%
White Foundation Family Homes - Male ²	31	10%	28	90%	100%	64%	0%	14.6	17.6	174	36%
<i>Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility</i>	2	0%	2	100%	100%	100%	0%	16.1	16.5	99	50%
Subtotal	642	5%	570	89%	100%	57%	7%	16.1	17.1	118	45%
Low-Risk Residential Programs	806	4%	724	90%	79%	56%	7%	16.1	15.7	114	49%

¹The ODP is the percentage of releases adjudicated for an offense during supervision.

²These programs have closed, changed providers, or had a structural programmatic change since the time period of the evaluation.

³Italics indicate the program completed fewer than 15 youth; therefore, care should be taken in interpreting these data.

Program Expenditures

The following table provides a listing of the FY 2008-09 expenditures for each low-risk residential facility. Expenditures are obtained through the Department's Bureau of Finance and Accounting and information submitted by private providers.

Residential Expenditures-Level 4 (FY 2008-09)

CONTRACT PROVIDER PROGRAM NAME	Contract #	STATE EXPENDITURES		FEDERAL EXPENDITURES				TOTAL
		DJJ Contract Expenditures	Other State Expenditures	Medicaid	Behavioral Health Overlay (BHOS)	National School Lunch	Other Federal Expenditures	State + Federal Expenditures
Center for Drug Free Living, Inc.								
Brevard Group Treatment Home	S8F01	\$1,031,469.00	\$37,524.00	\$36,746.00	\$313,810.00	\$42,173.00	\$0.00	\$1,461,722.00
Global Youth Services, Inc.								
Peace River Youth Academy	L7G02	\$882,711.40	\$193,939.70	\$0.00	\$285,389.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,362,040.60
Peace River Outward Bound								
Henry & Rilla White Foundation, Inc.								
Nassau JRF Low Risk	R2002	\$806,779.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$284,975.68	\$6,474.62	\$0.00	\$1,098,229.90
Miami's River of Life, INC.								
Dade Group Treatment Home	K6H02	\$330,571.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$330,571.51
Outward Bound, Inc.								
Short Term Education Program (STEP)	R2051	\$1,248,319.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,562.38	\$0.00	\$1,268,882.18
Vision Quest National Limited								
Red Road Academy Low Risk	R2006	\$1,709,985.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,709,985.80
Vision Quest - Warrington	R2037	\$2,469,748.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,469,748.72
Florida Home Quest								
Programs that closed								
Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.								
Eckerd Academy (Closed 2/2009)	R2009	\$832,873.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$252,360.00	\$38,593.00	\$0.00	\$1,123,826.16
Outward Bound Discovery								
Outward Bound Discovery	L7G02	\$1,073,517.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,302.46	\$0.00	\$1,097,820.26
TOTAL		\$10,385,976.79	\$231,463.70	\$36,746.00	\$1,136,535.18	\$132,105.46	\$0.00	\$11,922,827.13

Sources: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Administration, Finance & Accounting
Provider self-reported funding excluding DJJ Contract expenditures.