



# 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. 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 2007-08, 953 youth received services through placement in low-risk residential programs and 911 youth completed services the previous year.**

**Of those youth who received services within FY 2007-08:**

- 79% were male
- 56% were non-white
- 63% were 15 to 17 years of age



- Programs within the low-risk restrictiveness level are not physically secure, but provide security sufficient to ensure safety of 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.
- Youth classified for low-risk residential placement have usually performed unsuccessfully in prevention, diversion, or probation programs.
- At the time of this report there were five 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. Profile data are based on the number of youth, unduplicated, who were provided services offered by the Residential programs areas during FY 2007-08.

# LOW-RISK RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

## Low-Risk Residential Programs

	AGE					Youth Served
	0-7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	0	4	308	599	42	953
Percentage	0%	0%	32%	63%	4%	100%

	GENDER/RACE						Youth Served
	Male			Female			
	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other	
Statewide	316	434	5	89	108	1	953
Percentage	33%	46%	1%	9%	11%	0%	100%

## Program Listing by Judicial Circuit

The following tables provide a listing of the five low-risk residential programs that are currently in operation. The column on the far right denotes any additional specialized services the program is funded to provide. These data are based on the October 2008 Juvenile Justice Information System capacity report. Not all programs referenced here will be reported in the program evaluation section below, as they may have had no releases for FY 2006-07.

### Low-Risk Residential Listings by Judicial Circuit

Circuit	County	Program Name	Contract Provider	Total Beds	Specialized Beds & Funding Source
<b>Male</b>					
9	Orange	Eckerd Academy	Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.	50	46 BHOS
11	Miami-Dade	Dade Group Treatment Home	Miami River of Life, Inc.	10	None
12	DeSoto	Peace River Outward Bound <sup>1</sup>	Outward Bound Discovery	35	None
18	Brevard	Brevard Group Treatment Home	Center for Drug Free Living, Inc.	30	29 BHOS
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>125</b>	
<b>Female/ Male</b>					
4	Duval	Short Term Education Program (STEP) <sup>1</sup>	Outward Bound Discovery	55	
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>55</b>	
<b>Low-Risk Residential Programs</b>				<b>180</b>	

Bed capacities based on the October 2008 JJIS bed capacity - all beds are subject to change.

<sup>1</sup> These programs have closed, changed providers, or had a structural programmatic change since the time period of the evaluation.

## Program Evaluation

Low-risk residential programs are evaluated through the Department’s quality assurance 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. The Outcome Evaluation Performance and Program Accountability Measures Performance provide information on success, cost, and effectiveness.

## Quality Assurance Performance

The following table ranks the low-risk residential programs based on their 2008 QA performance score. The Peace River Outward Bound program received the highest QA performance rating with a 76%.

### Residential QA Performance Rankings

Ranking	Circuit	County	Program Name	Specialized Beds <sup>1</sup>	QA Score
<b>Low-Risk Residential Programs</b>					
1	12	DeSoto	Peace River Outward Bound <sup>2</sup>	None	76%
2	18	Brevard	Brevard Group Treatment Home	Specialized Beds	73%
3	4	Nassau	Short Term Education Program (STEP) <sup>2</sup>	None	72%
4	11	Miami-Dade	Dade Group Treatment Home	None	68%
5	9	Orange	Eckerd Academy	Specialized Beds	40%

<sup>1</sup> 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).

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

# LOW-RISK RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

## 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, post commitment services 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 2006-07.

### Low-Risk Residential: Program Profile Summaries and Outcomes on Youth Completions FY 2006-07

Program Name	Total Releases	Percent ODP <sup>1</sup>	Completions								
			Total		Percent Male	Percent Black	Percent Hispanic	Average Age at Admission	Average Prior Seriousness Index	Average Length of Stay	Success Rate
N <sup>3</sup>	Percent										
<b>Female</b>											
<i>First Step Adolescent Services Group Treatment Home<sup>2</sup></i>	16	0%	13	81%	0%	54%	8%	14.7	14.7	168	62%
STEP II - Female <sup>2</sup>	50	0%	50	100%	0%	46%	2%	16.7	9.9	30	74%
Vision Quest - Low	119	4%	112	94%	0%	63%	6%	15.6	10.5	157	68%
White Foundation Family Homes - Female <sup>2</sup>	21	5%	19	90%	0%	79%	0%	16.2	15.2	156	63%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>Male</b>											
Blackwater Short Term Offender <sup>2</sup>	20	0%	18	90%	100%	61%	0%	16.9	10.6	118	33%
Brevard Group Treatment Home	52	12%	43	83%	100%	63%	12%	13.6	19.0	150	42%
<i>Dade Group Treatment Home</i>	14	21%	6	43%	100%	83%	33%	14.2	20.5	217	50%
Eckerd Academy	72	8%	61	85%	100%	46%	11%	15.5	14.7	293	51%
Escambia River Outward Bound <sup>2</sup>	81	4%	65	80%	100%	72%	2%	15.6	11.7	134	49%
Forestry Youth Academy <sup>2</sup>	37	11%	31	84%	100%	35%	10%	17.1	23.5	355	68%
Peace River Outward Bound <sup>2</sup>	91	0%	89	98%	100%	37%	16%	16.3	16.1	97	47%
Seminole Work and Learn Center	44	18%	36	82%	100%	81%	0%	16.5	16.5	116	47%
South Pines - Low <sup>2</sup>	94	2%	86	91%	100%	76%	13%	16.2	18.5	150	57%
STEP I - Male	123	1%	113	92%	100%	60%	8%	16.5	11.6	30	62%
White Foundation Family Homes - Male <sup>2</sup>	58	3%	51	88%	100%	67%	6%	15.6	10.5	159	55%
Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility <sup>2</sup>	70	6%	57	81%	100%	67%	4%	16.6	11.9	121	63%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Low-Risk Residential Programs</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>57%</b>

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

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

3 Italics indicate the program completed less than 15 youth and care should be taken in interpreting these data.

## Program Accountability Measures (PAM) Performance

The desired outcome of juvenile justice programs is to reduce future offending in a cost-effective manner. However, by legislative mandate and program design, programs serve youth whose risk to re-offend varies widely. These factors affect the likelihood that youth will recidivate. A simple comparison of program success rates does not take these factors into account. In fact, such a method would unfairly penalize programs that serve the most challenging youth. It is therefore important that outcome measurement take into consideration the risk factors that influence the likelihood of re-offending for the youth released from each program.

The Program Accountability Measures model takes into account the risk factors of the youth completing each program and estimates the probability of those youth recidivating. Before doing so, it is possible to calculate how well a program is expected to perform based on the risk of re-offending of the youth completing the program, and to compare this to how well those youth actually performed after release. This ensures that programs serving more difficult youth are not held to inequitable standards due to the higher risk of re-offending of the youth they serve, and provides a realistic measure of program effectiveness for those programs serving less challenging youth.

A Program Accountability Measures score is calculated for each program to provide a program rank based on its effectiveness and cost relative to other commitment programs. The Program Accountability Measures score is derived from a formula based on effectiveness as measured by reduced re-offending and cost per youth completing the program. The following table provides Program Accountability Measures scores by gender, restrictiveness level, and effectiveness based upon youth released in FY 2006-07, and followed for success through June 30, 2008. All Program Accountability Measures tables and outputs can be found at: [www.djj.state.fl.us/](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/)

### Low Risk Residential: Program Accountability Measures (PAM) Performance Youth Completions FY 2006-07

Program Type/Program Name	N	Observed Success Rate	Percent Difference *	Expected Success Range	Cost per Completion	Effectiveness Category	Cost Category	PAM Score
<b>Female Low Risk Residential</b>								
STEP II - Female **	50	74%	0.0	72.0% - 74.5%	\$6,578	Average	Low	77
Vision Quest - Low	112	68%	-2.3	70.2% - 71.6%	\$23,557	Below Average	Low	69
White Foundation Family Homes - Female **	19	63%	-6.2	69.4% - 74.0%	\$26,343	Least Effective	Low	61
<b>Male Low Risk Residential</b>								
Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility **	57	63%	5.5	55.0% - 57.7%	\$12,039	Effective	Low	87
Forestry Youth Academy **	31	68%	9.6	54.1% - 58.1%	\$64,472	Highly Effective	High	85
STEP I - Male	113	62%	3.7	56.7% - 58.3%	\$8,828	Effective	Low	84
South Pines - Low **	86	57%	1.2	53.7% - 55.8%	\$22,626	Effective	Low	76
White Foundation Family Homes - Male **	51	55%	0.0	52.1% - 55.1%	\$27,327	Average	Low	73
Escambia River Outward Bound **	65	49%	-1.2	50.4% - 52.9%	\$17,739	Below Average	Low	72
Peace River Outward Bound **	89	47%	-2.3	49.5% - 51.5%	\$13,134	Below Average	Low	71
Eckerd Academy	61	51%	0.0	51.0% - 53.5%	\$41,188	Average	Moderate	70
Seminole Work and Learn Center	36	47%	-2.5	49.7% - 53.5%	\$18,980	Below Average	Low	70
Brevard Group Treatment Home	43	42%	-6.5	48.3% - 51.6%	\$32,261	Least Effective	Moderate	59
Blackwater Short Term Offender **	18	33%	-14.1	47.4% - 53.3%	\$5,437	Least Effective	Low	49

\* Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole percent

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

# LOW-RISK RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

## Program Expenditures

The following table provides total state versus federal expenditures for low-risk residential programs and includes self-reported federal expenditures from private provider organizations. The source documents from which these amounts were derived are as follows: Florida Accounting Information Resource Report at Level 2 for period July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008, Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and program cost affidavits submitted by private provider organizations. The first two sources are submitted to the Florida Department of Financial Services and used by the State Auditor General's Office for their audit of the Department's expenditures of federal funds.

### State and Federal Expenditures FY 2007-08

CONTRACT PROVIDER PROGRAM NAME	Contract #	STATE EXPENDITURES			FEDERAL EXPENDITURES			TOTAL	
		DJJ Contract Expenditures	Other State Expenditures	Total State Expenditures	Medicaid/BHOS	National School Lunch	Other Federal Expenditures		Total Federal Expenditures
<b>Center for Drug Free Living, Inc.</b> Brevard Group Treatment Home	S8F01	1,036,894	0	1,036,894	349,801	37,696	42,164	429,661	1,466,555
<b>Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.</b> Eckerd Academy	R2009	1,391,133	0	1,391,133	345,288	49,476	0	394,764	1,785,897
<b>Miami River of Life, Inc.</b> South Florida Juvenile Residential Facility	K6H02	342,594	0	342,594	0	0	0	0	342,594
<b>Outward Bound Discovery</b> Peace River Outward Bound STEP <sup>1</sup>	L7G02 D3E03	1,238,547 1,357,725	0 0	1,238,547 1,357,725	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1,238,547 1,357,725
<b>Vision Quest</b> Vision Quest - Warrington	T8F01	1,040,207	0	1,040,207	310,475	0	0	310,475	1,350,683
<b>YouthTrack, Inc./Rescare</b> Seminole Work and Learn Center	B5D01	592,610	0	592,610	0	0	0	0	592,610
<b>Programs that closed</b>									
<b>Psychotherapeutic Juvenile Services</b> South Pines Academy low risk <sup>2</sup>	R3H01	450,121	0	450,121	171,889	0	0	171,889	622,010
<b>Three Springs, Inc.</b> Withlacoochee JRF <sup>3</sup>	E5E03	23,639	0	23,639	0	0	0	0	23,639
<b>Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</b> Forestry Youth Academy <sup>4</sup>	X1343	1,358,930	243,387	1,602,317	0	32,557	0	32,557	1,634,874
<b>Henry and Rilla White Foundation, Inc.</b> White Foundation Family Homes <sup>5</sup>	D3E02	736,278	0	736,278	141,007	0	0	141,007	877,285
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$9,568,678</b>	<b>\$243,387</b>	<b>\$9,812,065</b>	<b>\$1,318,460</b>	<b>\$119,729</b>	<b>\$42,164</b>	<b>\$1,480,353</b>	<b>\$9,934,693</b>

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

Did not report indicates the provider did not respond to a certified letter requesting funding information.

<sup>1</sup> Project STEP received money for both male and female offender beds. The STEP program that serves females closed 8/29/08.

<sup>2</sup> South Pines Academy low risk closed 11/1/07

<sup>3</sup> Withlacoochee JRF closed 8/27/07

<sup>4</sup> Forestry Youth Academy closed 4/25/08

<sup>5</sup> White Foundation Family Homes received money for both male and female offender beds and closed 12/31/07