

Low Risk Residential Programs

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, but require placement in a residential setting. 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.

Key Facts

- ✓ The Department operates 12 low-risk residential programs.
- ✓ 1,030 youth completed low-risk residential programs.
- ✓ 78% were males and 22% were females.
- ✓ 63% were 15 to 17 years of age.
- ✓ 40% of youth who completed a low-risk residential program in FY 2004-05 recidivated.

- 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 are generally offenders whose most serious current offense is a misdemeanor or a third degree felony.
- Youth classified for low-risk residential placement have usually performed unsuccessfully in prevention, diversion, or probation programs.

Profile of Youth

The following tables provide demographic data taken from service history extracts and delinquency referral extracts from the Department's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). Profile data are based on the number of youth who completed a low-risk residential program in FY 2004-05.

	Age at Admission					Completions
	0-7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	0	7	276	654	93	1,030
Percentage	0%	1%	27%	63%	9%	100%

Table 8-3

	Gender/Race						Completions
	Male			Female			
	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other	
Statewide	362	434	5	102	127	0	1,030
Percentage	35%	42%	<1%	10%	12%	0%	100%

Table 8-4

Program Listing: Low-Risk Residential

The following tables provide a listing of the twelve 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. (Note, these data are based on the October 2006 JJIS 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 2004-05.)

Low-Risk Residential Programs for Males

Circuit	County	Program Name	Contract Provider	Total Beds	Specialized Beds & Funding Source
1	Escambia	Escambia River Outward Bound	Outward Bound Discovery	35	None
1	Leon	Seminole Work and Learn ¹	Youthtrack, Inc./Rescare	24	None
5	Hernando	Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility	Three Springs, Inc.	20	None
8	Levy	Forestry Youth Academy	Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services	40	None
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	Outward Bound Discovery	35	None
18	Brevard	Brevard Group Treatment Home	Center for Drug Free Living, Inc.	30	29 BHOS
Total				244	

¹Program was a moderate risk level, but converted to low risk in August 2006.

Bed capacities based on the October 2006 JJIS bed capacity - all beds are subject to change.

Table 8-5

Low-Risk Residential Programs for Females

Circuit	County	Program Name	Contract Provider	Total Beds	Specialized Beds & Funding Source
18	Seminole	First Step Visionary Adolescent Services Group Treatment Home	First Step Adolescent Services, Inc	12	12 BHOS
19	Okeechobee	Vision Quest	Vision Quest	62	51 BHOS
Total				74	

Bed capacities based on the October 2006 JJIS bed capacity - all beds are subject to change.

Table 8-6

Low-Risk Residential Programs for Males and Females

Circuit	County	Program Name	Contract Provider	Total Beds	Specialized Beds & Funding Source
4	Nassau	STEP	Outward Bound Discovery	33	None
4	Duval	White Foundation Group Treatment Homes	Henry & Rilla White Foundation, Inc.	44	44 BHOS
Total				77	

Bed capacities based on the October 2006 JJIS bed capacity - all beds are subject to change.

Table 8-7

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 recidivism, cost, and effectiveness.

Quality Assurance Performance

The following table ranks the 12 low-risk residential programs based on their 2006 QA performance score. The First STEP IV Adolescent Services Group Treatment Home received the highest performance rating with a 78%.

**Low-Risk Residential
Quality Assurance Performance 2006**

Ranking	Circuit	County	Program Name	Specialized Beds	QA Score
1	18	Seminole	First STEP IV Adolescent Services Group Treatment Home	Specialized Beds	78%
2	18	Brevard	Brevard Group Treatment Home ¹	Specialized Beds	76%
3	2	Leon	Seminole Work and Learn ¹	None	74%
4	12	DeSoto	Peace River Outward Bound	None	72%
5	4	Nassau	STEP	None	69%
6	1	Escambia	Escambia River Outward Bound	None	65%
6	11	Miami-Dade	Dade Group Treatment Home	None	65%
7	4	Duval	White Foundation Group Treatment Homes	Specialized Beds	64%
8	9	Orange	Eckerd Youth Academy	Specialized Beds	61%
9	5	Hernando	Withlacochee Juvenile Residential Facility	None	52%
	8	Levy	Forestry Youth Academy ²	None	85%
	19	Okeechobee	VisionQuest Warrington ²	Specialized Beds	80%

¹Education score is not included. Data not available from DOE.

Table 8-8

²A one day review was conducted and the deemed status score was carried over for 2006. Deemed status is eliminated effective 2007.

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 recidivism 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 2004-05.

Low-Risk Residential Program Profile Summaries and Outcomes Youth Completions FY 2004-05

Program Type	Program Name ^{1,2}	Completions									
		Total Releases	% ODP ³	Total Completions		% Black	% Hispanic	Average Age at Admission	Average Prior Seriousness Index	Average Length of Stay	% Recidivism
				N ¹	%						
Female	First Step Adolescent Group Treatment Home	18	11%	14	78%	43%	0%	15.4	6.9	257	36%
	Leaf Group Treatment Home (Closed)	15	0%	15	100%	47%	20%	15.8	7.4	150	27%
	Rilla White Foundation Family Homes	24	0%	22	92%	82%	9%	15.9	6.8	116	18%
	STEP II	49	0%	48	98%	38%	6%	16.6	9.3	30	21%
	Vision Quest	134	0%	130	97%	60%	8%	15.6	8.5	149	25%
	Subtotal	240	1%	229	95%	55%	8%	15.9	8.3	127	24%
Male	Alligator STOP Camp (Closed)	80	1%	77	96%	57%	3%	16.5	14.1	49	36%
	Blackwater STOP Camp (CSC)	44	7%	39	89%	59%	3%	17.0	16.8	136	46%
	Brevard Group Treatment Home	39	15%	37	95%	59%	11%	13.8	15.1	172	54%
	Dade Group Treatment Home ¹	14	14%	12	86%	50%	33%	13.2	18.5	195	58%
	Eckerd Youth Conservation Academy	70	4%	62	89%	55%	13%	15.7	16.8	261	32%
	Escambia River Outward Bound	81	2%	76	94%	58%	3%	15.4	11.7	118	63%
	Forestry Youth Academy	45	4%	39	87%	41%	5%	16.9	17.8	314	31%
	Jonathan Dickinson STOP Camp	70	1%	65	93%	55%	14%	16.3	12.7	81	34%
	Peace River Outward Bound	52	6%	37	71%	38%	19%	14.2	15.1	246	68%
	Rilla White Foundation Family Homes	60	10%	55	92%	71%	5%	15.3	9.7	173	49%
	South Pines	76	3%	71	93%	62%	21%	16.3	17.8	147	41%
	STEP I	177	0%	172	97%	45%	6%	16.6	10.5	32	41%
	Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility (Global Redir.) (Provider changed)	61	0%	59	97%	58%	7%	16.6	10.9	110	44%
	Subtotal	869	4%	801	92%	54%	9%	16.0	13.5	127	44%
	Low-Risk Restrictiveness Programs	1,109	3%	1,030	93%	54%	9%	16.0	12.3	127	40%

Table 8-9

¹ Less than 15 youth completed the program and care should be taken in interpreting the data.
² Names of provider agencies are noted in parenthesis if a program has had multiple providers.
³ ODP is the percentage of releases adjudicated for an offense that occurred during placement.

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 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 recidivism 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 PAM model takes into account the risk factors of the youth completing each program and estimates the probability of those youth recidivating. In 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 PAM score is calculated for each program to provide a program rank based on its effectiveness and cost relative to other commitment programs. The PAM 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 PAM scores by gender, restrictiveness level, and effectiveness based upon youth released in FY 2004-05, and followed for recidivism through June 30, 2006. All PAM tables and outputs can be found at: www.djj.state.fl.us/research/PAM/index.html.

**Low-Risk Residential
PAM Scores by Gender and Effectiveness
Youth Released FY 2004-05**

Program Type/Program Name	N	Observed		Cost per Completion	Effectiveness Category	Cost Category	PAM Score
		Recidivism Rate	Percent Difference *				
Female Low Risk Residential							
Rilla White Foundation Family Homes-Female	22	18%	-2%	\$15,105	Effective	Low	81
STEP II-Female	48	21%	-1%	\$4,792	Effective	Low	79
Leaf Group Treatment Home-Female (Closed)	15	27%	0%	\$6,544	Average	Low	77
Vision Quest-Low Risk-Female	130	25%	0%	\$17,785	Average	Low	74
Male Low Risk Residential							
Forestry Youth Academy	39	31%	-6%	\$44,068	Highly Effective	High	83
Jonathan Dickinson Short-Term Offender Program Camp	65	34%	-3%	\$10,739	Effective	Low	83
Eckerd Youth Conservation Academy	62	32%	-4%	\$35,078	Highly Effective	Moderate	81
Alligator Short-Term Offender Program Camp (Closed)	77	36%	-2%	\$8,830	Effective	Low	81
STEP I-Male	172	41%	0%	\$5,349	Average	Low	77
Blackwater Short-Term Offender Program Camp (CSC)	39	46%	0%	\$14,485	Average	Low	76
Withlacochee JRF (Global Redirections) (Provider changed)	59	44%	0%	\$10,647	Average	Low	76
South Pines-Low Risk	71	41%	0%	\$23,270	Average	Low	74
Rilla White Foundation Family Homes-Male	55	49%	1%	\$20,227	Below Average	Low	72
Brevard Group Treatment Home	37	54%	4%	\$24,398	Below Average	Low	65
Escambia River Outward Bound	76	63%	7%	\$15,067	Least Effective	Low	60
Peace River Outward Bound	37	68%	13%	\$28,681	Least Effective	Moderate	47

Program Expenditures

The following table provides total state versus federal expenditures for low-risk residential programs and include self-reported federal expenditures from private provider organizations. The source documents from which these amounts were derived are as follows: FLAIR Report at Level 2 for period July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006; Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005; 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.

Low-Risk Residential State and Federal Expenditures FY 2005-06

CONTRACT PROVIDER PROGRAM NAME	Contract #	STATE EXPENDITURES			FEDERAL EXPENDITURES				TOTAL State + Federal Expenditures
		DJJ Contract Expenditures	Other State Expenditures	Total State Expenditures	Medicaid/ BHOS	National School Lunch	Other Federal Expenditures	Total Federal Expenditures	
Center for Drug Free Living, Inc. Brevard Group Treatment Home	S8F01	929,776	0	929,776	239,466	25,149	18,101	282,716	1,212,492
Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc. Eckerd Academy	G9005	1,485,368	417,834	1,903,202	576,534	76,943	19,163	672,640	2,575,842
First Step Adolescent Services, Inc. First Step Group Treatment Home IV	G8026/S8G01	370,285	0	370,285	81,732	12,170	0	93,902	464,187
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Forestry Youth Academy	H5E02	1,509,494	237,381	1,746,875	0	40,538	0	40,538	1,787,413
Henry and Rilla White Foundation, Inc. White Foundation Family Homes ¹	D3E02	1,367,256	0	1,367,256	371,133	0	0	371,133	1,738,389
Miami River of Life, Inc. Miami-Dade Group Treatment Home	K6H02	311,357	0	311,357	0	0	0	0	311,357
Outward Bound Discovery Escambia Outward Bound	A7022	1,129,182	0	1,129,182	0	45,460	0	45,460	1,174,642
Peace River Outward Bound	L7G02	1,048,977	0	1,048,977	0	41,050	0	41,050	1,090,027
Project STEP ²	D3E03	1,243,085	0	1,243,085	0	21,212	0	21,212	1,264,297
Psychotherapeutic Juvenile Services South Pines Academy ³	R3H01	1,284,481	0	1,284,481	0	0	0	0	1,284,481
Three Springs, Inc. Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility	E5E03	318,852	0	318,852	0	0	0	0	318,852
Vision Quest Vision Quest - Warrington	T8F01	1,989,246	0	1,989,246	322,632	0	23,745	346,376	2,335,622
Youth Services International Southeastern, Inc. Blackwater STOP Camp	A6106	578,599	0	578,599	0	0	0	0	578,599
Programs that closed									
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Alligator Creek STOP Camp	NA	671,150	0	671,150	0	0	0	0	671,150
Global Redirection Services Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility	E5E03	324,815	did not report	324,815	did not report	did not report	did not report	0	324,815
YouthTrack Inc./Rescare Jonathan Dickinson STOP Camp	I4F10	687,828	0	687,828	0	0	0	0	687,828
TOTAL		\$15,249,751	\$655,215	\$15,904,966	\$1,591,497	\$262,522	\$61,009	\$1,915,027	\$17,819,993

Sources: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Management and Budget.
Provider self-reported funding excluding DJJ Contract expenditures.

Table 8-11

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

¹ White Foundation Family Homes received \$957,079 for male offender beds and \$410,177 for female offender beds.

² Project STEP received \$860,215 for male offender beds and \$382,870 for female offender beds.

³ Program received DJJ Expenditures for moderate risk beds. The expenditure is included in the moderate risk chapter.