

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. 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 2006-07, 1,209 youth received services by low-risk residential programs and 911 youth completed services the previous year.

Of those youth who received services within FY 2006-07:

- 78% were male
- 60% were non-white.
- 62% 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 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.
- At the time of this report there were 9 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 2006-07.

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Low-Risk Residential Programs

	AGE					Youth Served
	0-7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	0	10	398	750	51	1,209
Percentage	0%	1%	33%	62%	4%	100%

	GENDER/RACE						Youth Served
	Male			Female			
	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other	
Statewide	367	572	8	114	147	1	1,209
Percentage	30%	47%	1%	9%	12%	0%	100%

Program Listing by Judicial Circuit

The following tables provide a listing of the nine 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 2007 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 2005-06.

Low-Risk Residential Listings by Judicial Circuit

Circuit	County	Program Name	Contract Provider	Total Beds	Specialized Beds & Funding Source
Female					
19	Okeechobee	Vision Quest - Warrington	Vision Quest	62	62 BHOS
Subtotal				62	
Male					
2	Leon	Seminole Work and Learn Center	Youthtrack, Inc./Rescare	24	None
5	Hernando	Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility ¹	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	30 BHOS
Subtotal				209	
Female/ Male					
4	Duval	White Foundation Family Homes	The Henry & Rilla White Youth Foundation, Inc.	44	44 BHOS
4	Duval	Project STEP I and II	Outward Bound Discovery	33	None
Subtotal				77	
Low-Risk Residential Programs				348	

Bed capacities based on the October 2007 JJIS bed capacity - all beds are subject to change.

¹ 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 recidivism, cost, and effectiveness.

Quality Assurance Performance

The following table ranks the low-risk residential programs based on their 2007 QA performance score. The Seminole Work and Learn Center received the highest performance rating with a 78%.

Residential QA Performance Rankings

Ranking	Circuit	County	Program Name	Specialized Beds ¹	QA Score
Low-Risk Residential Programs					
1	2	Leon	Seminole Work and Learn Center	None	78%
2	8	Levy	Forestry Youth Academy	None	77%
3	12	DeSoto	Peace River Outward Bound	None	73%
4	4	Duval	White Foundation Family Homes	Specialized Beds	67%
5	18	Brevard	Brevard Group Treatment Home	Specialized Beds	65%
5	11	Miami-Dade	Dade Group Treatment Home	None	65%
6	19	Okeechobee	Vision Quest - Warrington	Specialized Beds	61%
7	9	Orange	Eckerd Academy	Specialized Beds	60%
8	5	Hernando	Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility ²	None	49%
-	4	Duval	Project STEP I and II ³	None	-

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).

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

³ This program was slated to close and did not receive a QA review.

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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 2005-06.

Low-Risk Residential: Program Profile Summaries and Outcomes on Youth Completions FY 2005-2006

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	Recidivism Rate
			N ³	Percent							
Female											
First Step Adolescent Services Group Treatment Home ²	24	17%	16	67%	0%	38%	6%	15.0	10.5	151	25%
Project STEP II - Female	62	0%	58	94%	0%	52%	3%	16.6	9.1	31	19%
Vision Quest - Warrington	133	0%	123	92%	0%	62%	7%	15.5	8.9	161	24%
White Foundation Family Homes - Female ²	25	16%	21	84%	0%	71%	10%	15.5	7.7	120	48%
Subtotal	244	3%	218	89%	0%	58%	6%	15.7	8.9	122	25%
Male											
Blackwater Short Term Offender Program ²	50	4%	45	90%	100%	71%	2%	16.8	14.7	132	53%
Brevard Group Treatment Home	41	17%	40	98%	100%	60%	10%	13.4	17.1	159	58%
<i>Dade Group Treatment Home</i>	16	13%	10	63%	100%	70%	0%	13.2	22.1	245	70%
Eckerd Academy	67	10%	63	94%	100%	51%	19%	15.5	14.9	265	49%
Escambia River Outward Bound ²	86	9%	73	85%	100%	62%	3%	15.6	11.3	128	45%
Forestry Youth Academy	39	18%	27	69%	100%	30%	7%	16.8	18.0	342	26%
Jonathan Dickinson Short Term Offender ²	90	2%	79	88%	100%	65%	9%	16.4	11.7	86	41%
Peace River Outward Bound	53	6%	38	72%	100%	55%	16%	14.3	14.6	203	42%
South Pines Academy - Low ²	89	3%	83	93%	100%	66%	14%	16.3	15.0	147	37%
Project STEP I - Male	138	0%	136	99%	100%	50%	7%	16.6	11.9	31	41%
White Foundation Family Homes - Male ²	59	7%	52	88%	100%	58%	0%	14.9	11.9	166	40%
Withlacoochee JRF - Global Redirections ²	37	3%	27	73%	100%	56%	4%	16.3	8.9	127	44%
Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility - Three Springs, Inc. ²	23	0%	20	87%	100%	45%	0%	16.6	12.2	116	45%
Subtotal	788	6%	693	88%	100%	57%	8%	15.9	13.4	138	44%
Low-Risk Residential Programs	1,032	5%	911	88%	76%	58%	8%	15.8	12.3	134	39%

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 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 Program Accountability Measures 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 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 2005-06, and followed for recidivism through June 30, 2007. All Program Accountability Measures tables and outputs can be found at: www.djj.state.fl.us/

**Low Risk Residential: Program Accountability Measures (PAM) Performance
Youth Completions FY 2005-06**

Program Type/Program Name	N	Observed Recidivism Rate	Percent Difference ¹	Cost per Completion	Effectiveness Category	Cost Category	PAM Score
Female Low Risk Residential							
Project STEP II - Female	58	19%	-1%	\$6,714	Effective	Low	79
First Step Adolescent Services Group Treatment Home ²	16	25%	0%	\$29,012	Average	Moderate	72
Vision Quest - Warrington	123	24%	0%	\$18,989	Average	Low	74
White Foundation Family Homes - Female ²	21	48%	15%	\$24,834	Least Effective	Low	41
Male Low Risk Residential							
Forestry Youth Academy	27	26%	-8%	\$66,200	Highly Effective	High	84
South Pines Academy - Low ²	83	37%	-1%	\$21,523	Effective	Low	74
Project STEP I - Male	136	41%	0%	\$6,433	Average	Low	76
Jonathan Dickinson Short Term Offender Program (STOP) ²	79	41%	0%	\$9,501	Average	Low	76
Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility - Global Redirection Services ²	27	44%	0%	\$12,030	Average	Low	75
Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility - Three Springs, Inc. ²	20	45%	0%	\$15,943	Average	Low	75
White Foundation Family Homes - Male ²	52	40%	0%	\$23,401	Average	Low	73
Peace River Outward Bound	38	42%	0%	\$28,685	Average	Moderate	72
Escambia River Outward Bound ²	73	45%	0%	\$16,091	Average	Low	73
Eckerd Academy	63	49%	2%	\$40,886	Below Average	High	65
Blackwater Short Term Offender Program ²	45	53%	5%	\$12,858	Least Effective	Low	64
Brevard Group Treatment Home	40	58%	7%	\$30,312	Least Effective	Moderate	55

¹ Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole percent.

² Program either closed, changed names, changed providers or had a structural programmatic change.

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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, 2006 - June 30, 2007, Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, 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 2006-07

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	State + Federal Expenditures
Center for Drug Free Living, Inc. Brevard Group Treatment Home	S8F01	1,025,939	0	1,025,939	296,367	37,251	27,658	361,276	1,387,215
Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc. Eckerd Academy	R2009	1,589,765	368,387	1,958,152	407,214	64,891	82,234	554,339	2,512,491
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Forestry Youth Academy	X1343	1,604,831	348,473	1,953,304	0	45,341	0	45,341	1,998,645
The Henry and Rilla White Youth Foundation, Inc. White Foundation Family Homes ¹	D3E02	1,475,269	0	1,475,269	366,341	0	52,596	418,937	1,894,206
Miami River of Life, Inc. Dade Group Treatment Home	K6H02	336,047	0	336,047	0	0	0	0	336,047
Outward Bound Discovery Peace River Outward Bound	L7G02	1,122,513	0	1,122,513	0	46,404	0	46,404	1,168,917
Vision Quest Vision Quest - Warrington	T8F01	2,129,460	0	2,129,460	499,100	0	9,787	508,887	2,638,347
Rescare Seminole Work and Learn Center	B5D01	683,291	0	683,291	0	0	0	0	683,291
Programs that closed									
First Step Adolescent Services, Inc. First Step Adolescent Services Group Treatment Home	S8G01	384,680	0	384,680	20,332	9,213	0	29,545	414,225
Outward Bound Discovery Escambia River Outward Bound	A7022	1,120,016	0	1,120,016	0	33,021	0	33,021	1,153,037
Project STEP ²	D3E03	1,307,634	0	1,307,634	0	18,893	0	18,893	1,326,527
Psychotherapeutic Juvenile Services South Pines Academy ³	R3H01	1,377,488	0	1,377,488	515,523	0	0	515,523	1,893,011
Three Springs, Inc. Withlacoochee Juvenile Residential Facility	E5E03	686,240	0	686,240	0	0	0	0	686,240
Youth Services International Southeastern, Inc. Blackwater Short Term Offender Program	A6I06	97,863	0	97,863	0	0	0	0	97,863
TOTAL		\$14,941,036	\$716,860	\$15,657,896	\$2,104,877	\$255,014	\$172,275	\$2,532,166	\$18,190,062