**DYS Initiative:**
State-wide Risk/Need Assessment Process

**Identified Problems:**
- A recent study indicated lower risk offenders do better in the community while higher risk offenders are served better in secure facilities.
- The Ohio juvenile justice system lacks a uniform way of determining risk and need for delinquent youth
  - Courts are using at least 77 different assessments tools.
  - More than a quarter of the juvenile courts do not use any risk/needs assessment.

**Proposed Solution:**
- Develop a State-wide Risk/Need Assessment Process that will be available by every Ohio court to more consistently assess each youth’s risk/need level.

**Method for Development:**
- The research and development of this project will be conducted by the University of Cincinnati (UC).

**Expected outcomes:**
- **COURTS:** The assessment process will assist courts in determining adjudication and probation, ensuring continuity of care and effectively delivering treatment services to youth.
- **INSTITUTIONS:** DYS will receive youth who are shown to benefit most from a secure facility setting.

**Timeline:**
- State-wide Risk/Need Assessment Tool ~ Summer 2009