Helping Youth Get on the Right Track through Competitive RECLAIM

New community programs funded: The juvenile courts, their community partners and DYS have created a new way to serve the right youth, in the right environment, with the right treatment. We’re calling it “Competitive RECLAIM,” and it will help juvenile courts and communities meet the needs of their young people. This performance-driven DYS grant program will provide $2.2 million annually to fund 29 unique programs in 24 counties.*

Competitive RECLAIM programs will keep kids from going further into the juvenile justice system, reducing the need for placement in a DYS facility, Community Corrections Facility (CCF), or other residential placement. This new effort will support juvenile courts and local communities so they can develop research-backed services to meet the needs of youth and families.

With help from juvenile courts, DYS will collect data and study trends from programs and specific interventions funded by Competitive RECLAIM to determine what works and what does not work. In addition, several universities will evaluate the new program’s success annually, which will include measuring admissions to DYS, CCFs, and other out-of-home placements; rates of delinquency and recidivism; and the number of youth diverted from the juvenile justice system to more appropriate services and supports.

Assisting youth and families to access services so they can make more informed decisions is a much better investment than holding youth in a residential placement when it is unnecessary. Competitive RECLAIM will make a way for many at-risk teens and their families to get on a better path.

*Counties include Allen, Ashtabula, Athens, Clermont, Erie, Fairfield, Franklin, Gallia, Geauga, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Meigs, Montgomery, Morrow, Muskingum, Scioto, Summit, Trumbull, and Wayne