

IDAHO DHW REGION 2 COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

Evaluation Summary Fact Sheet, December 2002

The Region 2 Community Resources for Families Program served more than 600 families during the 2001-02 school year. Referrals came from school principals, counselors or teachers.

1. Family Characteristics:

- 77% of the families in this study had not had TAFI (cash assistance) from state, federal, or tribal funds prior to referral to the program.
- 55% of the families were two-parent families or families with two adults in the home.
- 43% the families were single parents.
- 74% of the families surveyed earned less than \$15,480 per year.
- 78% of the families had employment as a presenting issue or service issue.
- Families averaged 2.7 children per family.
- 68% of the families had housing needs at the time of referral.

2. Service Needs

- 37% of referred families had financial needs
- 23% of families had housing needs
- 21% of referrals were for major schooling issues
- 17% of referrals were for health needs

3. Program Effectiveness Findings

Summary of Child Safety and Well-Being Measures:

- Increased ability of parents to help their children participate in school/community activities.
- Increased access to health insurance.
- Increased ability of families to meet the basic physical and emotional needs of children.
- Increased and continued parent connection to community agencies to get their family's basic emotional, physical, and recreational needs met.

Summary of School Readiness Measures: Teacher reports showed that:

- In 71% of the cases, children improved or maintained school performance.
- In 61% of the cases, children increased their school attendance.
- In 87% of the cases, children improved their classroom behavior.
- In 29% of the cases, educational staff predicted that the program precluded special education or special programs needs, thus potentially saving districts up to \$60,000 per year.
- Building principal interviews indicated that the program is seen as supporting the school mission and school improvement plans.
- The percent of failing grades out of total grades decreased significantly ($p > .001$) from 38% of grades to 20% of grades for those children who had failing grades as a referral issue.

Summary of Self-Reliance Measures:

- 33% of those families referred for employment purposes found new employment.
- 23% increased their employment situation as a result of services.
- 95% of those families needing housing accomplished that goal.
- 27% of the families needing housing reported that their housing situation was upgraded as a result of services.
- 100% of the families without health insurance applied for insurance either during or after service.
- Families averages 2 community contacts after services had ended, with 61% of those contacts relating to self-reliance needs.

Evaluation Summary Data show that the Region 2 Community Resources for Families program effectively met its goals by delivering services that were aligned closely with 1) the needs of families; 2) the learning readiness and safety needs of referred children; and 3) the needs of schools to leave no child behind in school success because of unmet basic needs.