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news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Joint program for female offenders and their children wins \$4.8M grant *\$4.8 million over five years will enhance probation services*

DENVER – The Denver Juvenile & Family Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (DJFJ TASC) project announced today it has won a \$4.8 million federal grant that will be used to enhance probation services to substance-abusing female offenders and their children.

The grant, from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, will be delivered to the project over a period of five years beginning Nov. 1, 2008

With the grant, officers of the Colorado Judicial Department's Probation Services and officials of the Denver Juvenile Probation Department will focus on reducing criminal recidivism for substance-abusing female offenders and enhancing services for drug endangered children (those children endangered by parents' drug use or abuse). The funds also will be used to improve public health related to substance abuse.

“This funding will help us not only to reach people that state and local agencies often have difficulty identifying and serving, but also to enhance probation services to them” said the Hon. Karen Ashby, presiding judge of Denver Juvenile Court. “Such collaborative projects will help add to our body of knowledge in providing prevention and treatment services and improve those services.”

The award is based on a five-year-old collaboration among the probation department and TASC, the Denver Police Department, the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Denver Department of Human Services.

Projects under the grant will use proven prevention and treatment services to increase offender accountability and provide aggressive outreach designed to engage “hard to reach” offenders who frequently resist treatment and probation processes.

The Denver Probation Department supervises more than 5,200 adults and approximately 1,000 juveniles. DJFJ TASC serves more than 700 families annually.