

CRESTON CLUSTER DECATEGORIZATION PROJECT
ADAIR, ADAMS & UNION COUNTIES
ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE & JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES PLAN
FY2008

OVERVIEW AND UNDERSTANDING

The Creston Cluster Decategorization Project has been in existence since 1998 and is comprised of Adams, Adair and Union Counties. The core structure has changed very little over the past several years. Community partners are committed to building a prevention, intervention, and sanction service system that promotes healthy families.

The Creston Cluster Decategorization core values are:

“We believe that partnerships bring together concern, caring and support from many parts of our community and enhance our success in helping families help themselves.”

The Creston Cluster Decategorization Project purpose statement is:

“We partner together to enhance and promote child safety & family stability.”

A description of the community planning used in developing the annual plan. This description should include information on the community members and organizations that were invited to and actually participated in developing the plan. Community participation can be achieved through strategies such as community forums, community education events, and community focus groups.

The Steering Committee is comprised of four representatives from each county. Recruitment is ongoing & members are identified through individual county interagency groups. Steering Committee members represent a vast array of agencies as well as community partners such as ISU Extension, community action agency, Empowerment, community college, crisis center, juvenile court liaison, schools, Boys & Girls Club, Head Start, etc. Meetings are held monthly.

The Decat Governance Board is comprised of a Board of Supervisors representative from each county, the DHS Community Liaison & the Juvenile Court Services Supervisor. The Governance Board has been a great resource for community involvement & information. Governance Board meetings are held at least bi-monthly.

Update - The Shared Decision-Making Team (SDMT) (Steering Committee) continues to struggle with regular attendance by county representatives. The SDMT is extremely valuable to assist the Decat Governance Board in making funding decisions when funds are available.

A description of the decategorization project's efforts to network and coordinate with other community planning initiatives [i.e. school improvement plans, Community Empowerment Areas, Community Partnership for Protecting Children projects, United Way, etc.] affecting children and families within the boundaries of their project.

As the Decat Coordinator I attend Interagency, Empowerment & Child Abuse Prevention Council meetings within each county as well as other meetings that focus on the development of youth. Adair County does not currently have an Interagency group. The Steering Committee members attend these meetings as well as other meetings within their respective county. Plans are on-going to partner with school representatives

& law enforcement. The Creston Cluster Decat Project has become a Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC) site in 2007. The focus of our CPPC efforts took a lot of discussion & brainstorming. In July the group determined the best use of our first year funds was to determine the strengths, needs, resources & gaps in service with the tri-county area by using focus groups, community meetings, surveys, etc. With this information we could begin to be more proactive than reactive if money was to become available or if a grant opportunity was announced. The Creston Cluster CPPC area was awarded an AmeriCorp Worker who will be the Program Coordinator for the initiative. We believe the AmeriCorp Program Coordinator will be vital in pursuing a positive direction for CPPC. The community planning event held in September of 2006 offered information as to what individuals felt their communities & county needed. However, follow-up throughout the year was lacking.

Update - The AmeriCorps worker was extremely valuable to raising awareness about the CPPC Initiative & child abuse awareness. Community planning continued throughout the year. Information received from the focus groups & community meetings were used when making funding decisions mid-year. This information allowed us the opportunity to try to make an impact on the needs/gaps identified in those meetings.

A description of any community needs assessment process and/or data [child welfare outcomes data, need indicator data from other systems such as health, education, community empowerment, etc.] that was used in developing the annual plan to enhance child welfare and juvenile justice service systems in the area.

Contracts already in place were maintained; therefore a specific needs assessment process was not utilized. However in the future, information from the annual community planning event as well as data from the Iowa Youth Survey, the Juvenile Delinquency Annual Statistical Report, Empowerment, etc. will be used to prepare a plan for the upcoming year.

Since additional community members have started learning about Decat & CPPC there interest has increased. Due to this increased interest there are more people who want to become more involved and/or want to know the funding process.

Update – Information was gathered through focus groups, community meetings & surveys. Area Iowa State University Extension staff assisted with the process to aid in gathering the most pertinent information.

Greenfield participated in the Horizons program that is funded by the Northwest Area Foundation. The program's mission is to help communities reduce poverty. The program targets communities with a population of 500 - 5,000 & a poverty rate of 10% or greater. This program includes multiple phases. This information was also utilized during the focus groups & community meetings. We anticipate having multiple sources for current data & information.

A description of the project's specific and quantifiable short term plans and desired results for the state fiscal year; as well as a description of how these short term plans align with the project's longer term goals for improving outcomes for children and families.

During FY08 increased community planning efforts will be completed. Individual

County planning as well as Cluster planning will continue. The geographic area of the Cluster is sometimes an obstacle since needs vary between each county. Overall Cluster needs as well as individual County needs will be identified & prioritized. Community collaboration & needs identification is a priority. With the identification of needs within each county, children & families will have a better opportunity to receive the services they need.

Update – Through the use of the focus groups, community meetings & surveys we were able to receive valuable community input on the needs within their particular area. We felt that ongoing review & update of this information will assist in making future decisions.

A description of the project's proposed plans to use funding available within their decategorization services funding pool during the fiscal year, including plans to use their available carryover funds- resulting from decategorization operations during the previous fiscal year- by the close of the current state fiscal year.

The Creston Cluster Decat Project will continue to fund programs that have already been in place including; Crisis Child Care, Family Team Meeting Facilitation, Summer Youth Program, Community Collaboration, Restorative Justice, Family Assistance, PSSF & Decat Coordination. The Tri-County Youth Program & Youth Development contracts were terminated for FY08 and in order to be more cost effective the Family Team Meeting Facilitation, Restorative Justice, Family Assistance & Decat Coordination contracts are shared with the Leon Cluster Decat Project. Planning will be done within each County & the Cluster to identify the needs then implement programs to address those needs.

The legislated allocation for the Creston Cluster Decat Project is minimal. The new legislation allowing carryover for only one additional year has had a huge impact on programming. We must now rely on DHS support in order for programs to be funded for the entire FY08. The carryover we had in the past helped to maintain status quo & did not allow for expansion of existing projects or implementation of new services. The new legislation has not only not allowed us the ability to expand or implement new services but we may have to end contracts mid-year due to lack of funds.

Update – Mid-year DHS was able to transfer funds to our area. We requested proposals from agencies/individuals within our three county area, 18 proposals were received & 15 received funding and one project was able to utilize another funding source in order to complete the project. Programs were required to utilize funds prior to the end of the fiscal year depending on their funding source, Decat or CPPC. CJJP has decided not to allocate funds to Decat areas beginning FY09.

A description of the project's plans to track results and outcomes achieved by funded programs during the year.

Each contract will be monitored quarterly by the Decat Coordinator, Steering Committee & Governance Board by reviewing quarterly reports in comparison to the Scope of Service of the contract. The Decat Coordinator will also conduct on-site visits at least semi-annually. On-site visits will ensure that client files are in order & appropriate documentation is included.

Update – Programs submitted quarterly reports & visits were made to programs. Reports were shared with the SDMT & the Decat Governance Board.

A description of the project’s plans to monitor and maintain fiscal accountability during the year [fiscal accountability includes monitoring the performance and results of contractors receiving funding and monitoring expenditures for decategorization services during the year].

Each contract will be monitored quarterly by the Decat Coordinator, Steering Committee & Governance Board by reviewing quarterly reports in comparison to the Scope of Service of the contract. The Decat Coordinator will also conduct on-site visits. On-site visits will ensure that client files are in order & appropriate documentation is included.

On a monthly basis each contract holder will submit vouchers for payment. Each voucher must contain the appropriate documentation for the amount being requested. Vouchers will be reviewed by the Decat Coordinator & tracked on a budget spreadsheet for each contract before being submitted to Payments & Receipts. If questions arise during the voucher review process, vouchers will be held until the issue is resolved. If during the contract period performance measures are not being met, payments will be decreased per the Compensation section of the contract.

Update – The Decat Coordinator reviewed vouchers monthly & tracked the information in spreadsheets & shared the information with the Decat Governance Board & Shared Decision-Making Team.

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Below is a list of programs and/or services that will be administered through the Decategorization Project for 2008 utilizing several unique funding streams.

Eligibility for Programs Listed Below

All programs listed below serve any youth and/or family between the ages of 0-18. Each agency approves eligibility per the contract with the Decat Governance Board. DHS must approve all Decat contracts. Each agency will accept referrals from all sources in every county except the following:

- Summer Youth Education Program – Adams County Only
- Time Limited Reunification Project - DHS Referral Only
- Family Assistance - DHS Referral Only
- Restorative Justice – JCS Referral Only

Community Collaboration Project Southwestern Community College – 641.782.1417	\$6,500
--	---------

This collaborative project will address issues of middle school youth by providing education and social change norms in the form of a middle school conference and gender specific programming. The goal is primary prevention to increase healthy lifestyle choices and youth perceptions of student norms. Serves Adair, Adams & Union Counties.

Update – Young Women’s Conference – Available to area high school females. Event was held in October 2008 with Erin Kiernan, WHO-TV News, as the keynote speaker. Attendees had 14 breakout session options such as: College Bound – What You Need to Do; Is He the One?;

Music Madness. 80% of attendees who completed the conference evaluation would recommend the sessions they attended to others. 26% of the attendees who completed the evaluation felt that the sessions they attended would help in their decision making. 45% felt the sessions attended would help their relationships with parents, family, friends & peers. The Young Women’s Conference utilized \$1,655.01 of Decat funds.

Middle School Conference – Available to middle school students in Adair, Adams & Union counties. Five schools were represented with 184 student attendees. Attendees had 21 breakout session options such as: Smart Credit/Smart Decisions; Video Gaming Addiction & More; Because...It’s the Law; More than Moody; It’s Not Just Fun & Games; Respect, Protect, Perfect. 89% of attendees who completed the conference evaluation would recommend the sessions they attended to others. 20% of attendees who completed the evaluation felt that the sessions they attended would help their relationships with friends/peers & felt they were able to explore safe & fun activities. 54% of attendees who completed the evaluation felt they gained information on understanding themselves better, decision making & planning for the future/setting goals for themselves. The Middle School Conference utilized \$1,642.10 of Decat funds.

Rough Tough Stuff – Available to middle school boys in Adair, Adams & Union counties. The over-night was held at the Corning Armory & sessions were held that promoted teamwork, leadership & education. Attendance this year was lower than in past years. The Rough Tough Stuff event utilized \$1,414.67 of Decat funds.

Community Partnership for Protecting Children Iowa State University Extension – Union County	\$20,000
---	----------

Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC) is an initiative rolled-out across the state of Iowa. The four strategies include Shared Decision-Making Team, Policy & Practice Change, Neighborhood Networking & Individualized Course of Action (Family Team Meetings). CPPC is dedicated to identifying issues, resources and creative solutions by networking and collaborating with community partners. Serves Adair, Adams & Union Counties.

Update – Victoria Brammer was hired as the CPPC AmeriCorps Program Coordinator. Victoria was able to work with each county to raise awareness about the CPPC Initiative & child abuse. CPPC funds were utilized for the AmeriCorps position & operating expenses (\$9,442) as well community projects (\$10,558) including Web site development, Adams County Summer Park Program, Extraordinary Educational Adventure, Community-Based Complementary Education, Community Conference, support of community planning meetings & a speaker at Creston High School regarding the need for action on destruction decision of students.

Web site CPPC AmeriCorps Program Coordinator - Victoria Brammer – 641.202.6319

The Web site was created for community partners to have access to information. The Web site provides information on groups & activities within Union, Adams and Adair Counties. Partner information currently available includes Decat, Shared Decision-Making Team, Empowerment, Interagency, Community Meetings and Child Abuse Councils. The Web site also includes a Community Partners Calendar and be updated each month with meetings, events, and contact information. The Web site is www.iowacommunitypartners.org. A total of \$470 of Decat funds & \$240 of CPPC funds were utilized for the project.

Adams County Summer Park Program
Kid Care Council – Chris Heimke – 641.322.6283

This is a summer park program for children 5-12 years old that gives parents breaks from the stresses of parenting and increases the amount of positive adult supervision children receive during the summer months.

There were 56 children registered to participate in the Summer Park Program. An average of 18 children attended daily. Activities included trips to the vet clinic, Alegent Health Hospital, Lake Icaria to go fishing & presentations such as bike & ATV safety, “The Ugly Gardener”, fitness & nutrition. Of the ten evaluations returned eight indicated they would send their child again next year, one said they would probably send their child next year & one would not send their child next because he/she would be too old. A total of \$1,790 of Decat funds & \$3,150 of CPPC funds were utilized for the project.

Extraordinary Educational Adventure
Iowa State University Extension – Union County

This conference supports an area conference targeting those youth and adults, volunteers and paid staff, who work with children 0-5th grade in our area. Topics and speakers are selected based on their ability to provide skill building tools and knowledge focused on positive youth development principles. In our rural area, national conferences are cost prohibitive for front-line staff to attend. Through collaboration nationally recognized speakers with hands-on learning can be brought to the area. Ninety adult & fifteen youth attended the event. A total of \$2,250 of CPPC funds were utilized for the project.

Community-Based Complementary Education
Iowa State University Extension - Union County

The project will bring schools, after school program providers, youth serving organizations and community sectors together to create community-based out of school time programming that supports school day learning and aligns with local standards and benchmarks. Businesses and organizations will create or expand existing learning programs in which they have specific interest or concerns and offer these extended learning opportunities in a planned and cohesive format as a way to better meet the needs of the families we serve. This program was not fully implemented & specific outcomes were not reported. A total of \$1,551.76 of Decat funds were utilized for the project.

Mobilizing Communities to Strengthen Families Conference
CPPC AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, Leon Cluster - April Youngs

A 2nd Annual Mobilizing Communities to Strengthen Families Conference was held in Osceola in May. The keynote speaker was Naomi Haines-Griffith. The approximate 150 attendees were able to choose from 12 breakout sessions throughout the day. Breakout sessions included topics such as Positive Youth Development, Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development, Signs & Symptoms of Substance Abuse, NetSmartz, Community-Based Family Team Meetings, Teen Depressions, etc. Conference evaluation results indicated 94% of attendees responding, rated the variety of workshop topics as good or excellent & having increased my knowledge of strategies that can be used in working with children, youth & their families. A total of \$6,655.65 of Decat funds, \$3,000 Clarke County Development Corporation funds, \$2,250 of Creston Cluster CPPC funds were utilized for the project.

Crisis Child Care
 Southern Iowa Resources for Families, Inc. – 888.782.2661 \$22,548

Crisis Child Care is designed to provide a temporary, safe environment for children whose parents/caretakers are unable to meet their needs due to overwhelming circumstances or emergencies in their lives, free of charge. Crisis Child Care is to be utilized for emergency situations and provide safe nurturing care for children. Families will be accepted by self-referral or by referral from human services agencies, law enforcement and other entities. Crisis Child Care will be provided by paid registered in-home family or group day care providers and be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Parents may voluntarily place their children in crisis care for up to 72 continuous hours per admission and may not to exceed 30 days in any year. Serves Adair, Adams & Union Counties.

Update – Due to budget constraints & realignment of staff Southern Iowa Resources for Families, Inc. (SIRF) laid off the Crisis Care Coordinator in February 2008. The Coordinator continued to provide services on a part-time basis until she found other employment. In May 2008 SIRF sub-contracted with the Rural Iowa Crisis Center for services through the end of the contract year.

In FY08 Crisis Child Care was utilized by 15 families (duplicates reported) (Quarterly reports are only available for the 1st & 2nd quarters. Data/information was not reported after that time).

- 59 children benefited from Crisis Child Care (duplicates reported)
- 2002.75 hours of care were utilized
- children were in placement an average of 33.95 hours
- 8 providers are utilized
- of surveys received, 100% of families noted a decreased in stress level & were satisfied with the service
- calls received that did not end in placement were given additional resources & referral services
- average costs: \$5.78 per hour of care, \$196.33 per child, \$772.24 per family & \$3,861.19 per county
- utilized \$4,329.57 of Decat funding & \$7,254 of Iowa Respite & Crisis Care Coalition funding.

Time Limited Reunification Project
 Department of Human Services \$9,899

The PSSF project will fill existing service gaps and will assist families in achieving stability and permanency. These funds may be used only for Time-Limited Family Reunification Services. The funds can be utilized for services and activities that are provided to a child who is removed from the child's home and placed in a foster family home or a child care institution, and to the parents or primary caregiver of such a child, in order to facilitate the reunification of the child safely and appropriately within a timely fashion, but only during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child, pursuant to section 475(5)(F), is considered to have entered foster care. Serves Adair, Adams & Union Counties.

Update - PSSF funds were utilized for services such as rent deposit & parenting assessment. Two families utilized funds.

Adair	Adams	Union	Total
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,023.75	\$1,023.75

Family Assistance

Department of Human Services

\$35,000

Family assistance is designed to prevent out of home placement, support to adoptive families, and provide assistance for family reunification. Goals include: maintain children in the home, maintain children in least restrictive setting and transition children from a more restrictive to a less restrictive setting and meet the needs of the family which do not fit traditional categorical services. Serves Adair, Adams, Union, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Lucas & Clarke Counties.

Update - Family Assistance funds were utilized for services such as drug testing, attorney fees for guardianship, rent, DNA testing, childcare, baby supplies, birth certificates, clothing, school supplies, court summons, dental services, interpretation services, mental health evaluations, substance abuse evaluations, counseling, camp fees, food, utility bills, transportation, medical bills, prescriptions for 77 families.

Decatur	Clarke	Lucas	Ringgold	Wayne	Total
\$4,394.25	\$7,672.63	\$2,020.20	\$2,270.65	\$4,872.12	\$21,229.85

Adair	Adams	Union	Total
\$1,926.93	\$406.36	\$5,795.63	\$8,128.92

Family Team Meeting Facilitation

Lisa Parrish – 641.414.5512

\$111,878

The Department of Human Services (DHS) child welfare focus is on serving families with children at serious risk of harm from abuse and neglect. Building teams at the time of crisis to support families where there is a risk of serious harm to the child has been identified as a means to address the factors that threaten the child's safety, establish permanency for the child and promote well being - central expectations in the provision of child welfare services.

Family Team Meetings (FTM) are used to enhance the core casework functions of family engagement, assessment, service planning, monitoring and coordination. When properly applied, FTMs support trust-based relationships, facilitate family engagement and sustain the family's interest and involvement in a process of change. FTMs promote unity of effort and provides an opportunity for all helping professionals and other family supports to develop a shared understanding of the family's situation - which are critical elements in attaining positive results. FTMs should be a proportional response to the needs of the child and family that is coordinated across systems involved with the family.

Priority will be given as follows:

- Department of Human Services (DHS) cases with founded child abuse in children 0-5 years old
- Other DHS cases as well as Juvenile court referred cases
- Community referrals

The FTM Facilitator will also coordinate activities for part-time facilitators including but not

limited to certification, co-facilitation & facilitation. Serves Adams, Adair, Union, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Lucas & Clarke counties.

Update – One full-time & two part-time Family Team Meeting facilitators conducted 194 Family Team Meetings. Five meetings were not held with families due to family non-cooperation, unable to locate family, family not attending meeting or worker canceling the meeting. Four meetings were conducted in Madison & Marion counties while they were in transition to find a new Family Team Meeting Facilitator.

Meetings held per county are shown below:

Decatur	Clarke	Lucas	Ringgold	Wayne
30	31	36	13	31

Adair	Adams	Union
12	4	31

Total funds utilized were \$105,708.26.

Restorative Justice Project

Juvenile Court Services - 515.993.5805

\$47,807

This project works to hold juveniles accountable for their offense through the use of graduated sanctions which best meets the needs of the juvenile and needs of the communities. It has a strong component of restitution to victims, community service, and providing appropriate graduated sanctions to keep juvenile offenders in their home while maximizing public safety. Criminal & Juvenile Justice (CJJP) dollars will be waived from the Adair, Adams & Union County Decat Project, to the Boone/Dallas Decat Project and the Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Lucas & Clarke County Decat Project. Serves Adams, Union, Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Lucas & Clarke Counties.

Update - Restitution - 26 cases were closed with 100% of restitution being paid. 2 cases were closed with \$4,082.84 remaining. Total restitution collected: \$9,263.67. At least 29 juveniles paid restitution. Community Service - 132 community service cases were closed with 100% of the hours completed. At least 8 cases were closed with 134.5 hours remaining. 3,272.75 hours of community service was completed. At least 155 juveniles worked community service hours. Paid Community Service - 3 cases were closed with 100% of restitution being paid. Total paid community service collected: \$ 1,001.04. 2 juveniles are currently utilizing the paid CS program with the possibility of another juvenile this quarter. This program will no longer be funded through Decat & CJJP in our area. The service will continue through the Restorative Justice Coordinator in Boone & Dallas counties & the local Juvenile Court Officers. A total of \$41,665.21 of Decat funds & \$8,150 of CJJP funds were utilized for the project.

Saturday Sanctions

Lisa Parrish – 641.414.5512

\$11,946

This project works to hold juveniles accountable for their offense through the use of Saturday sanctions which best meets the needs of the juvenile and needs of the communities. It is offered one or two Saturdays per month based on referrals. Juveniles perform community service for eight hours per Saturday sanction. Referrals are made from Juvenile Court Services & the Tracking & Monitoring program. Serves Adams, Union, Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur,

Wayne, Lucas & Clarke Counties.

Update – There were 13 Saturdays that Saturday Sanctions was held with 92 youth serving. Three individuals were referred to Saturday Sanctions twice. Projects included cleaning county courthouses & schools, painting & debris removal from parks, buildings, lawns, etc. A total of \$10,999.78 was utilized for the project. This was a partial year project.

Adams	Clarke	Decatur	Lucas	Ringgold	Taylor	Union	Wayne	Total
2	19	17	10	4	0	31	12	95

Intensive Assistance Program

Corning Community School – Mike Wells – 641.322.4242

The Corning Community Schools will provide intensive assistance for K-12 students after school and in the summer for students who are non-proficient. This program will also provide families with educational materials and training so they can provide assistance for their children. Teachers reported satisfaction with the extra assistance students received. Three kindergarten students were identified as needing additional assistance. No students were staffed into special education. One student was retained due to moving out of the district for six months & not attending school during that time. A total of \$9,825 of Decat funds were utilized for the project. This was a partial year project.

ASPIRE Program (After School Program Integrating Recreation & Education)

East Union – Tammy Ross – 641.347.8777

The program 1) provides a safe environment where students engage in age-appropriate hands-on educational and recreational activities that inspire lifelong learning; 2) teaches personal and social responsibility helping children to develop positive character traits to achieve success. In April & May average daily attendance is 20-25 students in kindergarten through 5th grade. During this time student activities included: Ag in the Classroom; Homework Help & Tutoring; Big Buddies; & Guest speakers including a representative Iowa State Patrol discussing bike safety; Creston Animal Rescue Effort discussing animal care. One student in attendance was not interested in reading & was not going to reach her accelerated reading goal during regular school hours. Her teacher started coming to ASPIRE & featured a different country each week with popular phrases, traditional foods & customs, information about geography & climate. The girl became very interested in the countries & cultures & began checking out books to learn more information about the countries they discussed. She was able to meet her reading goal!

The 4-week Summer Safari had an average of 15 students attending each day & 30 students enrolled. Students met daily from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Students explored unique countries, climates, animals & rain forests around the world. Students were also given the opportunity to prepare their own snacks such as jungle bread & banana butter, dirt cups & rainforest trail mix. Students also had the opportunity to go on weekly trips to the Gibson Memorial Library in Creston to participate in the summer reading program. Other trips included traveling to 3-Mile Lake where Union County Conservationists taught the students important skills needed to fish, students also traveled to the Afton Care Center to share stories about what they learned in the program with the residents. The month ended with a family trip to the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines. Parents were surprised about all the geography, math, literature, music, culture, science & art their children experienced during the 4-week Summer

Safari.

A total of \$10,601.65 of Decat funds were utilized for the project. This was a partial year project.

Corning Gun Club

Barb Fuller – 641.322.3184

Involvement of upper elementary and middle school youth in safe, organized, and supervised shooting sports. Individual and team activities will be offered to all youth, but may include those who may not always be involved in activities outside of school. Funds were awarded for three adults to attend the Shooting Sports Leadership Training. A total of \$360 of Decat funds were utilized for the project. This was a partial year project.

Money Matters

Iowa State University Extension – Adams County - 641.322.3184

The Adams County Money Matters Program will refine and teach the Money Matters course developed in 2007. The six classes teach good money management skills to 5th graders in the Corning and Prescott Schools. Classes include the following topics: 1) Wants vs. Needs, 2) Menu Math, 3) Making Change, 4) Budgeting allowance, 5) Saving for the Future, 6) Shoplifting Costs, 7) What's in an Ad? 8) It all adds Up 9) Goal Setting and 10) Decision Making. This program is to be ongoing each year with the goal of increasing money resources, self-sufficiency and reducing poverty in families in the Adams Community. Sessions were held for the 5th grade classes in Corning & Prescott. A 24.78% increase from the pre to post test was identified which indicates a growth in knowledge and skills. 100% of parents returning the parent survey indicated that the program should be used for future classes. 100% of parents returning the parent survey indicated their child shared information about the program with them at least once, 57% shared information with their parents at least 3 times. A total of \$2,413.20 of Decat funds were utilized for the program. This was a partial year project.

Youth in Action

Prevention Concepts – Wendi Boswell – 641.745.0116

Youth in Action is a program of the Creston Police Department to reduce underage drinking in the community. Current project involves sponsoring of alcohol free activities and acquisition of materials and equipment necessary to educate the kids about dangers of drug and alcohol use and help them make the right choices about destructive decisions. These programs will demonstrate that young people can have fun and enjoy life without involvement of alcohol and/or drugs.

Activities completed included:

- Middle School Bowling - 100 students attended
- Creston Middle School Dance – more than 150 students attended
- High School Bowling – 90 students attended
- Craig Hillier Breakthrough Leadership training – 65 area students attended
- Afton Fun Day & Creston Middle School Fun Day – 325 individuals attended
- Youth in Action Year End Picnic – 14 individuals attended

Videos were purchased to be used in the Choice program presented to 6th grade students. The Drunk Buster pedal cart was purchased to be used in youth drunk driving prevention programs. 99.5% of students indicated that fun is possible without the use of alcohol/drugs.

Approximately 99% of students participating in the Drunk Buster pedal cart demonstration found it useful in reducing driving under the influence. Twenty students were recruited for the youth coalition. At the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year the youth coalition became a SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) group. A total of \$6,073.63 of Decat funds were utilized for the program. This was a partial year project.

Triple Play Fitness

Boys & Girls Club of Central-Southwest Iowa – Heidi Blomquist – 641.742.3119

The Triple Play Fitness program goals are to increase members' knowledge of healthy habits, good nutrition and physical fitness & increase the number of hours that members participate in physical activities. During the program 72% of Club members increased knowledge as assessed by the Healthy Habits survey, 76% of Club members self-reported an increase in daily activity & 65 youth attended a 4 hour sports leadership camp. A total of \$5,135.91 of Decat funds were utilized for the program. This was a partial year project.

Emergency Fund

Iowa State University Extension – Adair County – 641.743.8412

The purpose of the Basic Needs Fund is to provide financial assistance to children 6-18 to meet basic human needs related to uncovered health care needs including medical care, mental health care, eye care, dental care, prescriptions or medical required devices, and transportation for medical care. Information about the program was distributed to all four school districts, targeted at principals & guidance counselors, in Adair County. Potential service providers within Adair County were also notified of the program. Four children received critical health services through this program with an average assistance per child of \$114. 100% of requests were processed within 24 hours. Two families received help in applying for health insurance coverage for their child. 100% of families were referred to additional services to help meet their children's basic needs. A total of \$1,112.09 of Decat funds were utilized for the program. This was a partial year project.

Family Rewards

South Central Youth & Family Services Commission – 515.961.8421

The purpose of the Family Rewards Program is to provide education and incentives for exhibiting healthy choices for expecting and new families in Adair County in order to increase the health of prenatal and newborn babies in Adair County. A part-time coordinator was hired to manage the program. There were 29.25 hours of direct service provided. A total of 25 families were served & 7 group parent education meetings were held. 8% of children 0-3 while enrolled in the program were referred to Early ACCESS services. There were 19% of denied enrollments due to the child being over 6 months of age.

At exit interviews, parents reported the following:

- 76% of parents increased parent confidence and competence in their parenting abilities
- 43% of families increased healthy informal support systems
- 17% of families increased their ability to enhance the health, growth, and development of their children
- 78% of parents gained pregnancy knowledge
- 78% of parents had improvement in nutrition knowledge
- 63% of parents have increased awareness of health/safety issues related to pregnancy and parenting
- 86% of knowledge gained due to parent professional development

A total of \$6,725.58 of Decat funds were utilized for the program. This was a partial year project.

PK-Middle School Positive Youth Development
Iowa State University Extension – Adair County – 641.743.8412

The purpose of this project was to provide 250 students PK-8th grade with non-competitive positive youth development experiences outside of school and to engage their parents as partners. Students in all four districts in Adair County will be served with the PK-5th grade programming. The focus of the PK program is early literacy development. Programming for elementary students will focus on hands-on learning experiences to explore their world using math, science, and reading skills. Middle school students in Adair, Adams, and Union County and their parents will be able to explore career opportunities and gain skills in the career development process.

Update – Fourteen students participated in the 12 session summer pilot project (Jump Start). 100% of the students either maintained or increased scores on Marie Clay letter identification, sound identification & letter/word connection. The average letter recognition increased from 17.6 to 20.8 or 3.2 letters. The average sound recognition increased from 12.8 to 15.6 or an average increase of 3.2 sounds. The average word score increased from 9.5 words to 14.1 or an average increase of 4.6 words. Increased networking opportunities between parents of children entering kindergarten occurred. 100% of the families attended at least one networking event. 58% of families attended the family fun night/network session prior to the start of Jump Start. 93% of families attended the celebration event at the conclusion of Jump Start.

Middle School students were given one-on-one & small group tutoring. One student was given intensive tutoring (three times per week) & improved decoding skills. Six students enrolled in a weekly summer book club & improved their fluency & comprehensive skills.

Career exploration experiences were provided to middle school students & their parents in Adair, Adams & Union counties.

- Science and Technology Trip to ISU : workshop options included: food science, germ investigation (biology), horticulture, textiles, conservation, genetics, agricultural engineering, DNA mapping. Each student attended two workshops. Sixty-five students attended with 15 adult volunteers including 3 parents. 100% of students were able to identify new career opportunities. 86% of students identified the need for taking math and science classes in high school to be prepared. 92% of students set personal goals ranging from studying for 2 hours in the next week for tests to enrolling in both math and science classes all 4 years in high school.

- Super Sitter Workshop: Nine students attended with 2 adult volunteers. 100% of students were able to identify careers in child care, parent education, and pediatric health care. All students reported mastering new skills in the areas of ages and stages of children and positive guidance techniques.

- Food Smarts: Three students attended three days with lab time including food prep and trip to Culinary Arts Department at DMACC and Des Moines Marriott with two adult volunteers. 100% of students mastered new skills in food preparation including following recipes and basic measuring. All students tried new foods as part of the experience. 100% of the students reported learning new info about academic programs designed to train chefs and the value of

cooking at home and trying new recipes.

- Sports Medicine: Four students attended two days including lab time conducting demonstrations related to good health choices and trip to Simpson College and D.M. Orthopedic with five adult volunteers. Increased awareness of careers in medical careers including physician, physical therapist, x-ray technician, and sports trainer. 100% of students indicated they now intend to take 4 years of science in high school and 75% indicated they intend to take 4 years of math. 100% of participants also reported they learned how to improve health through healthy eating habits.

- Storm Chasers: 12 students attended 2 days including conducting experiments, field trip to KCCI with 4 adult volunteers. Increased awareness of careers in meteorology and reporting. 12 or 100% understand math is required for careers in meteorology and 50% now plan to take physics. Mastered skills in measuring climate forces and making own weather devices.

- Speak Out for Agriculture: 11 students attended 2 days with career stops related to environment, engineering, livestock production & energy development. Four teen leaders donated 40 hours assisting in planning and conducting the program along with 18 volunteers. 100% of students reported increase in knowledge in careers in animal science, horticulture, natural resources, and engineering. 62% of students reported increased understanding of high school course required.

- Springbrook Overnight: 21 youth attended for 2 days & learned about careers in natural resources and mastered new skills in wildlife management. Three teen volunteers donated 45 hours total along with 2 adult volunteers. 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt welcome and included. 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they learned new skills and gained information (examples of knowledge gained included: need to take biology, predator's role in environmental management, fly fishing). 100% agreed or strongly agreed they had demonstrated personal responsibility by meeting program expectations and showing respect for others (independence).

- Ag Career Adventure: 30 youth attended one day & traveled to ISU to learn about careers in agriculture. Three teen volunteers donated 24 hours along with 3 adult volunteers. 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they learned new skills and gained information (requirements for vet medicine, science is super important, need to set goals, how bio-diesel is made, ag engineering is more than designing tractors).

There were a total of 209 programming days, 111 unduplicated middle school students served representing 5 school districts & 2 students home schooled.

There were a total of 49 adult volunteers. Ten teens volunteered 119 hours.

A total of \$10,59.75 of Decat funds were utilized for the program. This was a partial year project.

Building Youth Leaders

Adair County Hot Shots - 641.221.0184

Enhancing a youth-adult partnership focused on building self-confidence in youth as they master basic safety in shooting sports & developing & using leadership to make their

community a better place to live & grow. Funds were awarded for instructors to attend the state Shooting Sports Instructor Certification training. Instructors were certified in wildlife skills, archery & muzzleloader. A total of \$480 of Decat funds were utilized for the project. This was a partial year project.

Childcare Center
YMCA of Adair County – 641.743.2881

To provide high quality child care and to connect parents with community resources that allow them to help their child/ren and family thrive. In order to achieve this, the center will focus on professional development for staff, enhancing health and safety at the center, enhancing the environment at the center, and forming community and family partnerships. Funds were used to purchase a variety of equipment & supplies such as two baby cribs, evacuation base for crib, blocks, manipulative toys, sand/water table, riding toys, gym balls & cones, toddler sized chairs, toddler sized table, large motor toys, soft play gym for infants, etc. At report time there were 15 preschool aged children enrolled in the program and 5 infants. A total of \$4,000 of Decat funds were utilized for the project. This was a partial year project.

Decat Coordination & Project Administration

Lisa Cook – 641.202.1522

\$62,382

Contracted coordination services to administer the Decat project as well as to coordinate and facilitate the planning/collaborative efforts undertaken to effect change. The overall objective is to reduce duplication of services, improve communication and enhance collaboration. This service is shared between two Decat projects serving Adair, Adams, Union, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Lucas & Clarke Counties.

Update - The Decat Coordinator traveled 16,363 miles throughout the year. Empowerment, interagency & child abuse council meetings were attended within each county. Community Partnerships for Protecting Children meetings were attended as well as grant writing training. The Decat Coordinator serves as the Human Services Representative on the Decatur County Empowerment Board as well as the Decat representative on the Fifth Judicial District Children's Justice Initiative Team. The Decat Coordinator also received a registration scholarship from the Iowa Department of Human Services to attend the Iowa Grant Symposium that is held every other year. The Decat Coordinator provided monitoring & oversight on 34 contracts. A total of \$56,046.71 of Decat funds were utilized for the project.

CRESTON CLUSTER DECATEGORYIZATION PROJECT STRUCTURE

