

Fresh Start

GRANTEE: Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF)

LOCATION OF GRANT ACTIVITIES: Baltimore, MD and southwest Washington, DC

AMOUNT: \$1,697,173

VALUE OF MATCH AND OTHER LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$360,000

POPULATION SERVED: Youth ages 14-17 that have been involved in the juvenile justice system

KEY PARTNERSHIPS: Patterson High School; the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment and Development; the DC Department of Youth and Rehabilitative Services; the Maryland State Departments of Parole and Probation, Public Safety and Correctional Services, and Division of Corrections; and One World Lab

KEY STRATEGIES: LCF will expand its Fresh Start program to two new locations: the East Baltimore neighborhood of Madison/East End/McElderry Park and southeast Washington, DC. In these sites, LCF will replicate its current program which provides individualized vocational training, academic remediation, pre-employment/work maturity skills development, educational opportunities, life skills instruction, and work experience. The program will place a special emphasis on helping youth to gain skills needed for the construction trades, obtain a GED, and develop healthy self-esteem through leadership development, team building, and cultural enrichment activities. LCF will teach broad-based employability skills by placing students in small groups with an instructor serving as a work crew supervisor and challenging them with real life carpentry or metalworking training and work experience through partnerships and internships in the program area. The program will also incorporate a service learning component during which students will complete service learning projects to strengthen their sense of self-value and reaffirm a positive connection to their community. Additionally, the program will include a character building and self awareness segment in which students will conclude each day with a recognition ceremony to acknowledge positive accomplishments and their challenges, and a self-evaluation to grade their punctuality, cooperation, motivation, professionalism, and work quality as a primary character education tool.

PROPOSED OUTCOMES: Under the expansion, Fresh Start will serve 50 students at each of the two new sites during the first year, for a total of 100 new students. This will include five cohorts of 10 students each that would cycle through the program at each site. When the expansion sites fully mature, the program will serve 70 students per year at each site, for a total of 140 students served.

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