



## *Open Door*

**GRANTEE:** School District of Philadelphia

**LOCATION OF GRANT ACTIVITIES:** Philadelphia

**AMOUNT:** \$1,000,000

**VALUE OF MATCH AND OTHER LEVERAGED RESOURCES:** \$211,200

**POPULATION SERVED:** Youthful offenders returning from incarceration

**KEY PARTNERSHIPS:** Department of Juvenile Justice; Department of Probation, Department of Human Services; grassroots organizations; and other youth-serving organizations.

**KEY STRATEGIES:** The proposed Open Door Project will establish a new alternative school that will provide academic instruction and career training for at least 100 youth offenders returning from correctional facilities. The school day will run from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., keeping youth off the streets during the times when they are most likely to get involved in risky behaviors. During the first part of the day, an accelerated academic program will be provided using a proficiency-based rather than seat-time curriculum, which is key for students who are behind academically and who enter at various times during the year. In the afternoon, students will be engaged in hands-on Career and Technical Education with the idea of youth receiving both a diploma and an industry certification. The program will focus on three employment areas in high demand in Pennsylvania: construction trades, automotive technology, and hospitality/culinary arts. The Open Door Project will be defined by high expectations, proficiency-based advancement, integrated curriculum, and a caring and respectful environment.

The School District will use the grant dollars to get the 100 new slots in the new Open Door School open and operating with one of their alternative school providers. After the grant ends, these 100 slots will roll into the multi-year educational contract with the provider using state average daily attendance funds. These contracts are already in place and the model proposed here will be able to be fully funded from average daily attendance funds after federal funds cease.

**PROPOSED OUTCOMES:** Philadelphia is building a data infrastructure that will provide important information for the success of this and other projects. The Department of Human Services is building a collaborative data base designed to collect and analyze data for all youth who go to county-funded delinquency placements. Data will be collected from Family Court, the School District, the delinquent placement and reintegration providers, the Philadelphia Youth Network, and the adult criminal system. The grantee will have the capacity to provide recidivism data on both juvenile and adult arrests, school attendance and completion, participation in job training, and job placement.



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