

SILVER STAR RESOURCE CENTER - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

The Silver Star Resource Center (SSRC) is a multi-agency collaborative of co-located prevention and early intervention services for at-risk youth and their families in Monterey County. Its mission is to avert youth from entering the criminal justice system and prevent gang association by providing services which reduce the negative impact of at-risk behavior, provide support, build resilience, and generate positive outcomes for program participants.

Problem or Challenge

Street violence and homicide rates in the County, and particularly its seat, Salinas, have been historically high, due to the presence of rival gangs who fight for the illegal drug trade and control of neighborhoods. Two state prisons are also located in the county, and gangs within them have a strong influence on street activity in the local communities. Further, these gangs are very active in their recruitment efforts toward vulnerable youth, as young as elementary and middle-school age. A variety of social, economic and cultural factors contribute to negatively affect youth and families' access to multi-services that can build safer and healthier communities.

Solution

The Silver Star Resource Center (SSRC) is a nationally recognized model which utilizes co-location and a multi-disciplinary team approach to assess the needs of youth and families and provide services tailored to their individual needs. The overall strategy include: a) identifying youth engaging in at-risk behaviors; b) utilizing evidence-based practices and programs; c) providing services that reduce risk factors and build resiliency; d) reducing recidivism and increasing resiliency of youth; and e) sustaining safe and healthy communities. To mitigate the cumulative effect of multiple risk factors, many program participants receive services from multiple agencies, who work together on a collective case plan.

SSRC, as a "one-stop-shop" family service center, manages about 800 referrals a year to provide a variety of services to youth and families: education through an on-site school operated by the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE), truancy abatement, parenting and family support, life skills, counseling, culturally competent curricula under the La Cultura Cura framework, trauma-informed care, substance abuse, anger management, gang awareness and outreach, and employment services. SSRC staff works with families to reestablish positive family dynamics and to create better links and coordination of services in the community. SSRC also facilitates organizational change and development by

coordinating various agencies from different disciplines, working together and sharing expertise and information to better serve at-risk youth, and facilitating access to all services available in the community.

Budget/Costs/Savings

Originally created with a federal appropriation in 2005, SSRC continues to operate by leveraging and blending funding from several public and private/non-profit sources. Programs are located in a county facility, which has been rehabbed to allow for office, meeting and activity areas. Increased productivity and efficiency is generated by the co-location of services, enhanced sharing of information, the multi-disciplinary approach to case plans, and the easy one-stop access by the participants and the public to promote positive youth development.

Program results continue to show positive changes in terms of: a) increased school attendance and higher academic achievement; b) job placement; c) improved resiliency and family communication; and d) reduced recidivism rates for program participants.

Project or Program Contact Robert Reyes, Probation Services Manager
Monterey County Probation Department, 855 E. Laurel Dr., Bldg. H, Salinas, CA 93905
(831) 796-1321 / reyesrt@co.monterey.ca.us

Optional Submission: Silver Star Resource Center brochure