



TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director   
Judith Simpson, Program Manager, Pinellas Safe Start 

**Requested Action**

The Board is requested to allocate Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds up to \$20,000 in FY 99-00 and up to \$15,000 in FY 00-01 to the University of South Florida to conduct Phase I (Assessment and Planning) of a multi-year evaluation project titled "Local Evaluation of the Pinellas Safe Start Initiative".

**Options**

1. Approve the request.
2. Deny the request.
3. Any other action as determined by the Board.

**Recommended Action**

Allocate up to \$20,000 in FY 99-01 and up to \$15,000 in FY 00-01 to the University of South Florida for Phase I of a multi-year evaluation project titled "Local Evaluation of the Pinellas Safe Start Initiative".

**Source of JWB Funds**

FY 99-00 and FY 00-01 Contracts and Grants funds received from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for Phase I of the Pinellas Safe Start Initiative. No JWB funds will be used.

**Fiscal Impact**

FY 99-00 (beginning budget) Safe Start funds would be reduced from \$120,279 to \$100,279. FY 00-01 (beginning budget) Safe Start funds would be reduced from \$431,754 to \$416,754.

**Narrative**

In April 2000 the Board approved the receipt of funds and implementation activities for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Pinellas Safe Start Initiative. This is a five and one half-year, multi-site demonstration project intended to prevent and reduce the impact of exposure to violence on young children. The approved application

for this award specified that the University of South Florida (USF) would provide the required local evaluation during the assessment and planning period (May 1, 2000-April 30, 2001), and set aside up to \$25,000 for evaluation during this period. It was further specified that a principal evaluator, and an evaluation team would be recommended by the USF Research Collaborative for Children, Families and Communities, subject to approval by JWB and OJJDP.

Dr. Marti Coulter, Director of the Harrel Center for the Study of Domestic Violence was identified as the principle evaluator and overall coordinator for evaluation of this project. Based on recommendations from the Information System Design task group, a component is being added to the evaluation plan: a preliminary assessment of local data systems and a report on developing electronic data sharing among Safe Start collaborators. This increased coordination between information system planning and evaluation design planning appears to have potential to enhance effective tracking of project outcomes and impact. Funding of up to \$10,000 for this additional component of the Phase I evaluation will come from the unallocated consultant services category of the Safe Start budget.

The Safe Start budget includes up to \$25,000 for consultant services related to data systems analysis and planning. OJJDP has approved the use of up to \$10,000 of this amount to expand the evaluation services provided by USF to include data systems assessment during JWB FY 99-00. This will increase the total allocation for evaluation services to \$35,000, of which \$20,000 is requested for FY 99-00 and \$15,000 is requested for FY 00-01. The unallocated amount remaining for data systems consultation will be reduced to \$15,000. It is anticipated that a request to allocate the remaining \$15,000 for data system consultation will be made prior to April 30, 2001, based on findings of the preliminary assessment and recommendations from the interagency task group working on Information System Design for Safe Start implementation.

Staff resource persons:  
Marshall Touchton  
Vicki Sprague

## **Attachment: Products of Phase I Safe Start Evaluation**

The following products will be completed during Phase I of this evaluation project:

- A written status report on the progress of the process evaluation, including a description of key informant interview and focus group questions and protocols, an updated timeline for Phase I evaluation activities, and preliminary recommendations for process indicators and measures, due September 30, 2000.
- A written status report on the development of a local logic model for the Safe Start initiative, including a preliminary draft of the logic model, due September 30, 2000.
- A preliminary report on the assessment of local data systems, including descriptive information about the data base architecture and data sharing capacity of potential local Safe Start partners relative to implementing an integrated identification, referral and support system and shared data base for tracking of Safe Start results, due September 30, 2000.
- An interim Phase I evaluation report, due December 30, 2000 that includes:
  1. An evaluation plan for Phase II and Phase III that meets criteria established by OJJDP for the January 31 project deliverables. The evaluation plan shall include:
    - A research design that specifies short term and long term indicators to measure effectiveness of the Pinellas Safe Start Initiative and a plan to collect and analyze related data.
    - Proposed measurement tools and methods for data collection and analysis.
    - A logic model and theory of change for Safe Start implementation.
    - Other information required for coordination with the national evaluation plan.
  2. A final report on the assessment of local data systems, including recommendations for data systems integration and electronic data sharing solutions for Safe Start implementation.
  3. A report on preliminary findings and recommendations about the planning process, based on a review of project records, observations, key-informant interviews, and focus groups.
- A final Phase I report that includes findings and recommendations about the planning process, revisions to the evaluation plan for Phase II and Phase III that incorporate recommendations from OJJDP, and updated recommendations about training and technical assistance required for providers to implement data collection during the implementation evaluation, due April 30, 2001.