

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director 
Marshall Touchton, Program Consultant, Research & Evaluation 

Requested Action

The Board is requested to approve up to \$12,000 for a project titled "Pinellas Girls Data Quest Initiative."

Options

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

Recommended Action

Allocate up to \$12,000 to the University of South Florida on behalf of the Girls Data Quest Workgroup for the project titled "Pinellas Girls Data Quest Report" for FY 1999-2000.

Source of JWB Funds

FY 1999-2000 Research & Evaluation Unallocated Funds.

Fiscal Impact

The FY 1999-2000 Research & Evaluation Unallocated Fund would be reduced by \$12,000 from \$43,310 to \$31,310.

Narrative

Formed in 1998, the Pinellas Girls Initiative Steering Committee is a partnership composed of staff from multiple public and private agencies in Pinellas County. Membership includes staff from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, The Pinellas County School Board, The Juvenile Welfare Board, The Pinellas County Commissioners Office, the Office of Justice Coordination, Florida Mental Health Institute, Pinellas Cares, and Operation PAR. Under the direction of the Girls Initiative Steering Committee, a Girls Data Quest Workgroup was formed in the fall of 1999 to identify relevant data that could be used for advocacy for programs and policies that would benefit girls in Pinellas County who are in need of services.

The Girls Data Quest Workgroup has been compiling demographic and social indicator data about Pinellas County girls between 10 and 17 years of age who have already entered, or are at high risk of entering, Pinellas County's multiple systems addressing delinquency, truancy, mental health, substance abuse, and family safety. The primary purpose of the report is to inform legislators and other local policy makers prior to the

Legislative Session to influence policy and impact budget decisions and program development. A secondary purpose of the report is to influence local program development.

The report will focus on data from the 1999 calendar year for October 2000 dissemination. Many of the partners in the Data Quest Workgroup have contributed data from their respective agencies and other sources, and all members have contributed in-kind support of the project. The completion of the report requires more resources than members of the workgroup can provide. The requested funding would be utilized to fund final data collection, writing and editing of the report, and publication and copying costs. The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida shall act as fiscal agent for the funds.

The Girls Data Quest Concept Paper is attached.