



FACT SHEET: Invest In Kids

REQUEST: Maintain current level of funding

What is Invest In Kids (IIK)?

- Local tax levy funding for positive youth development programs administered by Westchester County Youth Bureau.
- In 2009 Westchester county Youth Bureau supported and monitored 38 programs serving over 4,000 youth.
- IIK supports programs in the following categories: family life and development (22); education (10); employment (2) and health (2)
- 9 programs are countywide and 25 are in the cities of Yonkers, White Plains, Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle.

Funding History

- In 1993 Westchester County Executive O'Rourke established the Urban Youth Initiative.
- In the 1994 Budget, the Board of Legislators added \$850,000 to establish Invest in Kids to support community based preventive youth services. The two programs were later combined to serve at-risk youth under 21 in 11 urban communities.
- In 2009: \$ 2,034,399; 2008: \$2,034,399; 2007: 1,975,145

Program Outcomes

- Programs use positive youth development models focusing on providing opportunities for youth to actively acquire the skills and abilities needed to grow up to be competent, caring and healthy adults.
- Performance and achievement of program outcomes are evaluated on a quarterly and annually basis. Examples include improving academic performance, increasing leadership skills and decreasing contact with juvenile justice system.

Cost Effectiveness and Savings

- Preventive youth programs keep youth out of more costly systems like corrections, psychiatric hospitals and foster care.
- IIK programs keep youth safe during the afterschool hours when research shows this is a time youth are most likely to engage in risky behaviors.
- IIK provides opportunities and supports to help young people develop their full potential.

Future Directions

- Continue to focus on critical areas such as youth violence prevention, teen pregnancy prevention; and insuring young people are in school and have opportunities to reach their potential.