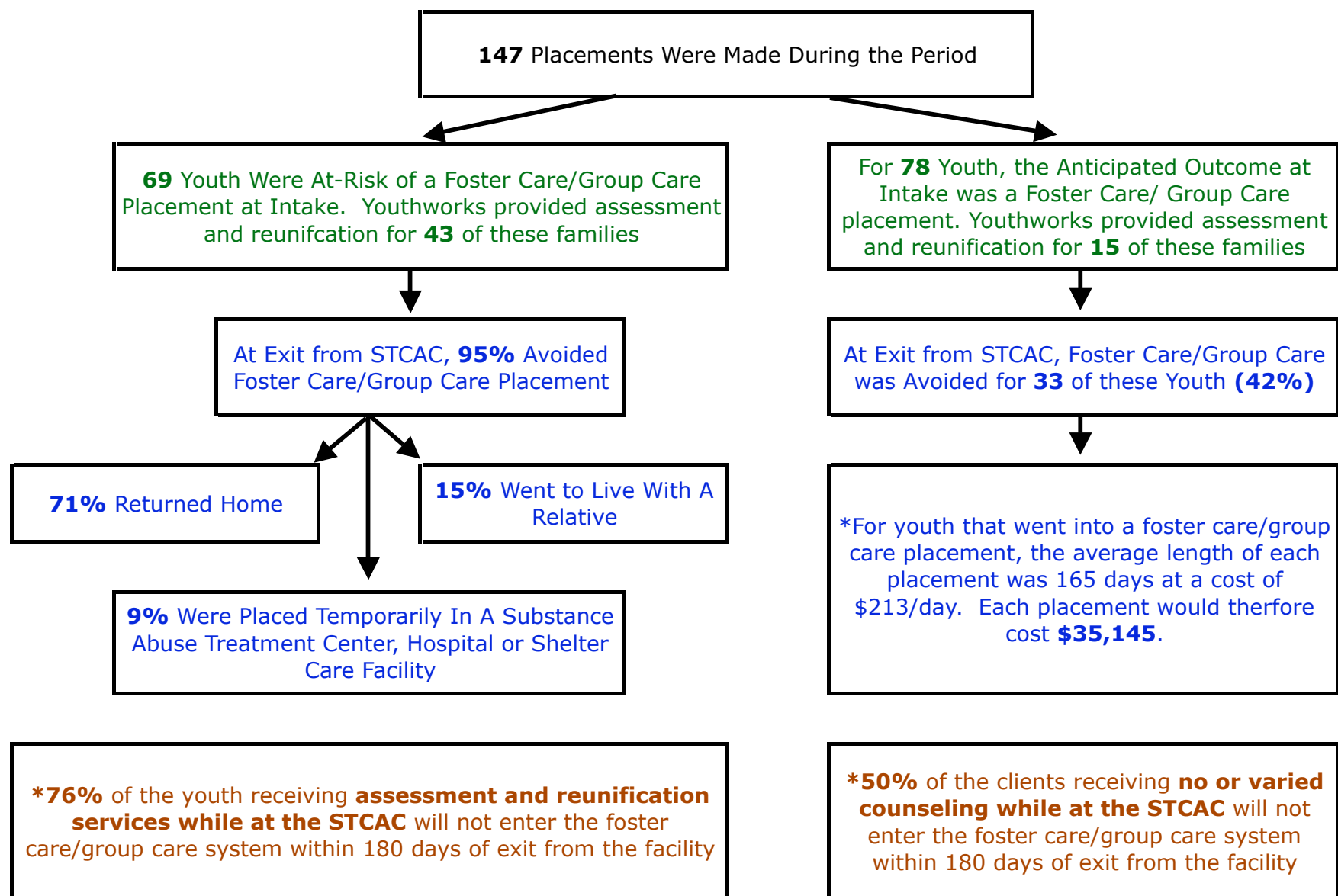


# Youthworks Short-Term Care and Assessment Center Flow Chart

Shelter Care Placements Between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010

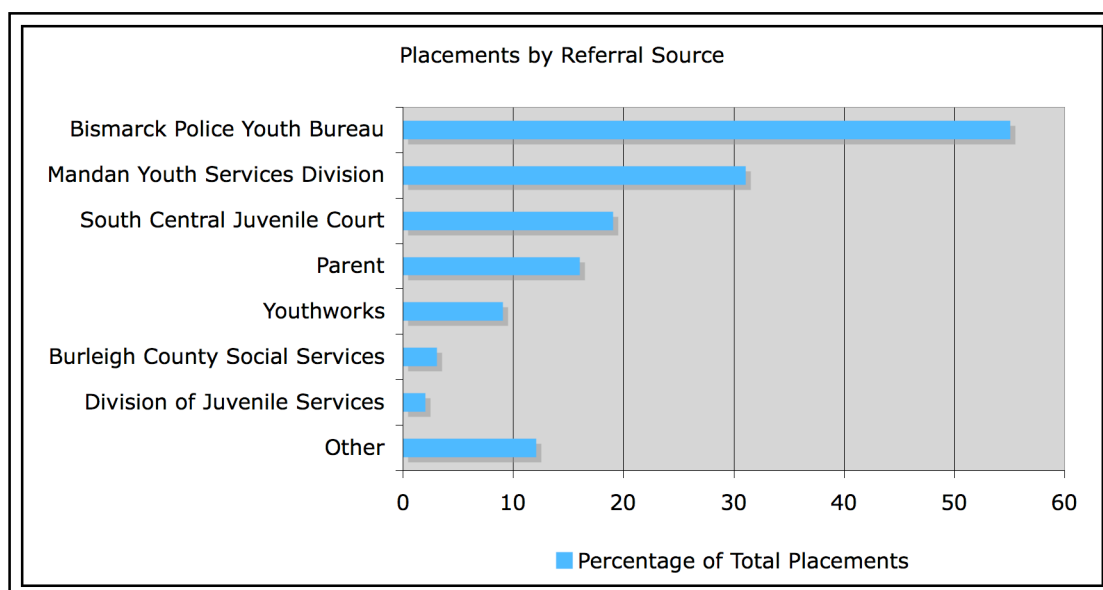


\*According to a study by the ND Dept. of Human Services for clients who were served at the STCAC from July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

## Youthworks Short-Term Care and Assessment Center Statistical Summary for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

The project has supported 147 shelter care placements in the twelve months beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010. The facility also provided shelter for 87 clients under the Attendant Care program and 15 clients under the Runaway program. The data/charts below reflect services provided only to clients through the Shelter Care program which is funded by the North Dakota Department of Corrections.

- ✓ The average length of all placements was 52 hours.
- ✓ The agency provided 24-hour access to assessment and reunification services provided by master's level counselor. Fifty-eight (58) of the 147 families served received assessment and reunification services from the agency.
- ✓ Following shelter services, 28 families participated in follow-up services at the agency. Services included: individual and family counseling, anger management training, one-on-one mentoring and after-school programming.
- ✓ Referral Sources:

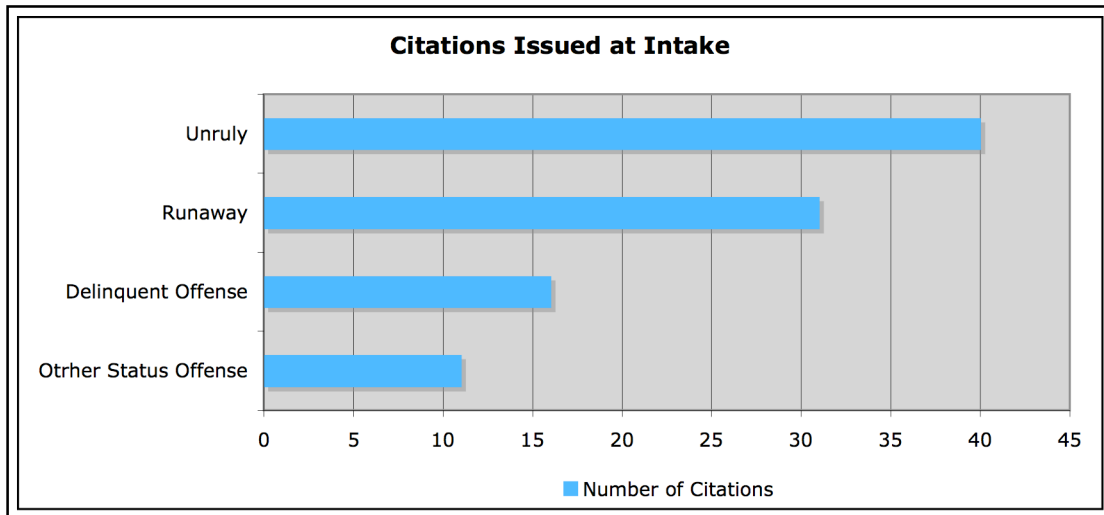


- ✓ Residence of Clients:

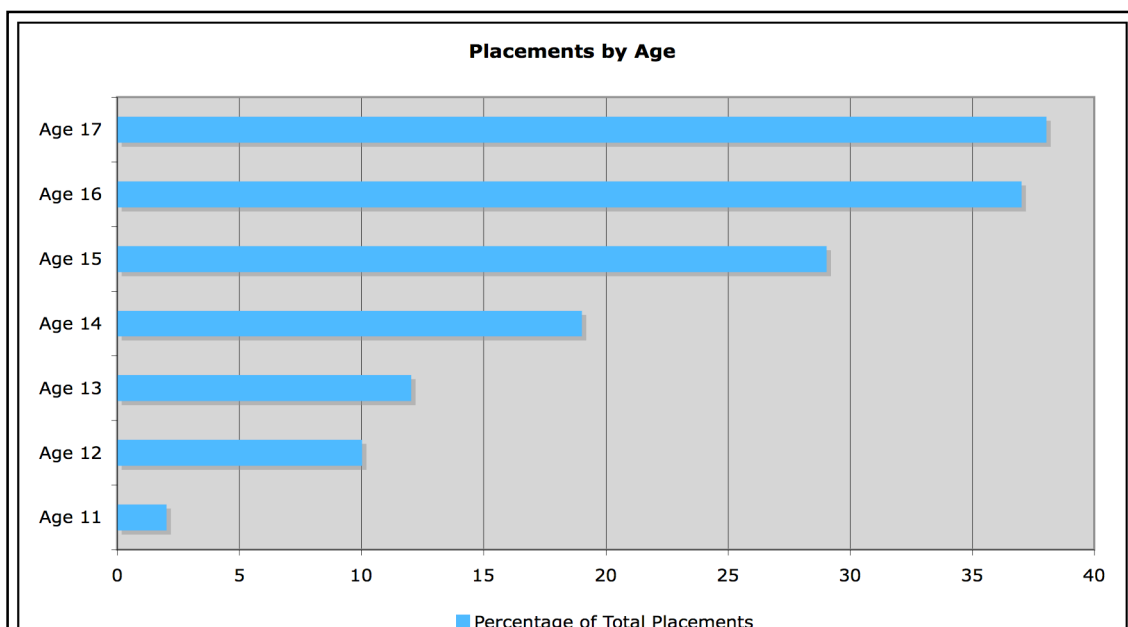
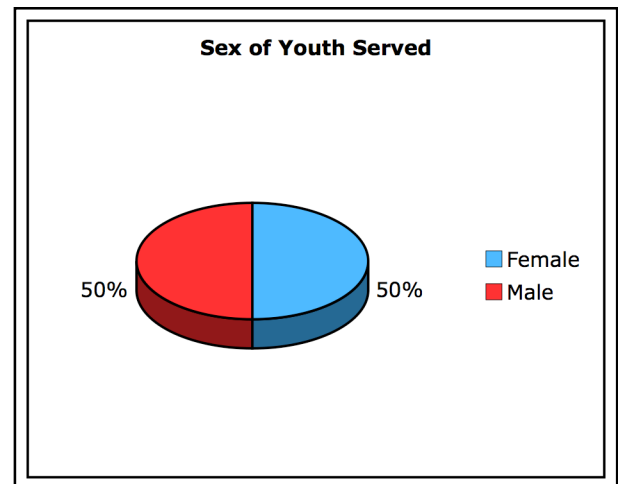
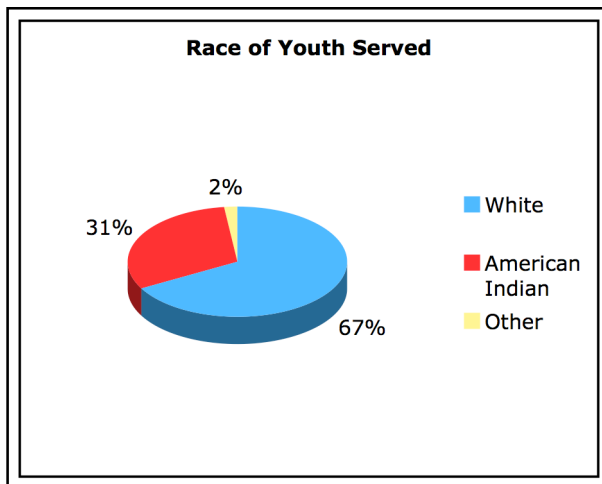
Bismarck	83	Dickinson	1
Mandan	47	Driscoll	1
New Salem	2	Fort Yates	1
Center	2	Glen Ullin	1
Garrison	2	Hazen	1
Belcourt	1	Menoken	1
Beulah	1	New Town	1
Devils Lake	1	Other State	1

Total 147

- ✓ Sixty-six percent (66%) of the clients had been cited by law enforcement at intake. Delinquent offenses included: Domestic Assault, Terrorizing, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest.



- ✓ Client Demographics:



## ***FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)***

### ***Short-Term Care and Assessment Center***

#### ***What is a Short-term Care and Assessment Center?***

A Short-Term Care and Assessment Center (STCAC) is a facility that provides short-term shelter for youth that cannot be immediately returned to their home and are generally placed with the consent of the parent. The overall mission of a STCAC is to provide professional intervention to prevent placements in the foster care and corrections systems. Assessment and reunification services are provided to insure that youth can be safely returned to their home. Generally the placements are less than 96 hours. A Short-Term Care and Assessment Center also provides shelter for youth awaiting longer-term placement. Placements are voluntary and the facility is not locked. A STCAC operated by Youthworks in Bismarck has been serving the South Central region since December of 2006. Much of the information contained in the FAQ comes from the Bismarck STCAC.

#### ***How is a Short-Term Care and Assessment Center different from group care licensed by the Department of Human Services?***

A Short-Term Care and Assessment Center is not licensed, but is designated by the Juvenile Court as the attendant care and short-term shelter for the judicial district. The designation is required by existing statute. Parents maintain custody and make the ultimate decisions regarding the need for longer-term care. The Center must meet all local health and fire standards. Licensed facilities generally do not accept youth placed with the consent of parents. Most group care placements are authorized by the Juvenile Court.

#### ***Who is served at the Short-Term Care and Assessment Center?***

The following types of youth are served:

- Youth arrested (or citable) that cannot be immediately, or safely, returned to their home without further assessment and reunification services (Attendant Care).
- Youth whose parents say they can no longer manage their child's behavior and need immediate and professional intervention.
- Youth awaiting placement in a longer term facility.
- Youth that have run away from home and are being served outside of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems (Runaway Youth Services).

#### ***What services are provided?***

In addition to a safe place in a crisis, the Short-Term Care and Assessment Center provides:

- crisis intervention on a 24-7 basis
- professional assessment regarding safety
- mental health screening
- immediate family counseling and reunification services
- liaison with other providers working with the family
- recommendations and referrals regarding the need for other services (anger management, peer support, etc.)
- follow-up that generally includes brief family therapy

#### ***How many youth have been served at the Short-Term Care and Assessment Center?***

The Youthworks' STCAC served 220 youth in 2009 and 704 placements have been made since December of 2006. Approximately 55% (119 placements) of the youth referred were at risk of placement and could not be immediately returned to their homes without professional assessment and reunification services. Typically these youth could not be returned home due to serious conflict between adolescents and their parents.

## ***FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)***

### ***When youth are at risk of placement, and receive assessment and intervention services, how effective is the STCAC in returning youth to their homes within 96 hours?***

In the 12 months ending June 30, 2009, 97.5% of clients were able to avoid long-term out-of-home placement with:

- 87.8% returning home,
- 9.7% placed temporarily with a relative and
- 2.4% were placed longer term.

### ***When the plan for youth referred to the STCAC is placement, is it ever avoided?***

Approximately 45% (101 placements) of the youth referred in 2009 were held pending longer-term placement. Placements provide the time necessary to develop the most cost-effective and appropriate longer-term placement plan. However, it is important to note that of these 101 youth, 41 (40.6%) did NOT go into long-term placement at discharge from this facility.

### ***Is active follow-up provided to families?***

Active follow-up is available when serious parent-child conflict is the presenting issue or when placement decisions have not already been approved. Of those families that participated in assessment and reunification with Youthworks, 64.5% were referred to receive on-going services with the agency.

### ***What does it cost to operate a Short-Term Care and Assessment Center?***

The budget for Youthworks' Short-Term Care and Assessment Center (operating 24 hours per day, seven day per week) is approximately \$200,000 per year. Half of the cost (\$100,000) is coming from ongoing partnering agencies that benefit directly from the shelter and services provided and from the operating agency-Youthworks. In 2009-11, half of the funding (\$100,000) is provided by the Legislature as a pilot program funded through the Department of Corrections. This funding must be maintained to continue operation of the Short-Term Care and Assessment Center.

### ***What entities can share the cost?***

The funding partners included Morton and Burleigh counties and county social services, West Central Human Services (shelter care), State Attendant Care Program (attendant care), Children's Services Coordinating Committee (start-up for 2006-07) Youthworks (Runaway Center) and the Department of Juvenile Services, as appropriated by the North Dakota legislature. Attendant care and shelter care pay only for the placement, not assessment, reunification and follow-up services. There is no additional funding available for shelter care or attendant care. The city of Bismarck using CDBG funding has assisted the STCAC to meet building, health and fire standards and to make the facility handicap accessible.

### ***Does a Short-term Care and Assessment Center save money?***

Short-term shelter, assessment and reunification services:

- (1) Provides an immediate placement option and crisis intervention for parents outside of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems,
- (2) Provides law enforcement with an immediate option allowing them to return to policing,
- (3) Reduces placement hearings for the juvenile court (including legal costs for assigning an attorney),
- (4) Reduces placements in foster or group care,
- (5) Reduces the caseload for the court, county social services and corrections.

The savings are considerable, if only the cost of placement is considered. Placement in licensed group care is expensive, typically costing \$6478 per youth per month-\$77,745 per year. If only 20% of the 128 youth at risk of placement were placed for 90 days, the cost would total \$490,752. This is more

## ***FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)***

than twice the cost of the program and a savings (\$290,752) of more than a quarter of a million dollars. While difficult to estimate, the increases in caseload, juvenile court costs, and law enforcement expenses must also be substantial.

### ***Is it the right thing to do?***

The state must hold youth in the least restrictive environment. Ungovernable youth cannot be held in secure settings and could be diverted and served outside of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems. Placements authorized by the parents that provide a "time out" in times of crisis coupled with immediate intervention and follow-up is the right thing to do. Research consistently shows that early intervention and the active engagement of parents during a crisis can keep youth in their own homes, in school, and in the community

## **FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)**

### **Youthworks' STCAC Evaluation**

#### ***Was an evaluation of the Short-Term Care and Assessment Center conducted?***

An evaluation was conducted for youth placed at the STCAC between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. This is the period immediately preceding funding authorized by the Legislature..

#### ***How was the study conducted?***

The study provides data on placements following discharge from the STCAC. The study tracks youth placed following shelter care for a minimum of one year, and in some cases nearly two years. All of the youth were at high risk of longer-term care when referred to the STCAC. In many cases a shelter care hearing had been scheduled or held. The number of youth involved in the study was 103 youth. The Department of Human Services provided placement data from their CWIPS (Comprehensive Welfare Information and Payment System). Youthworks' STCAC provided data on youth placed during the one-year study period and segmented the data into three subsets:

- Youth served whose family was significantly involved in reunification with STCAC family counselors,
- Youth served where others were involved with the family,
- Youth served on multiple occasions with varied involvement of STCAC counselors or other agency counselors.

#### ***How many youth remained with their parents for a period of a least 180 days following discharge from the STCAC?***

When STCAC counselors were involved with the family (optional) 76% {28 youth} remained at home for a period of 180 days. When Youthworks has little or no involvement with the family, 50% of the youth remained at home for 180 days.

#### ***What happened during the one-year follow-up period to youth placed in alternative care?***

Two youth were in foster care when placed in the STCAC. Forty-one {41} youth were placed as planned at discharge from the STCAC or within 180 days. The average length of stay for the 29 youth discharged by the end of the study period was 165 days and the total days of alternative care was 4785 days. Twenty-two (22) youth were in placement at the end of the study period.

#### ***What would be the cost savings if those youth remaining at home had been placed for the average length of stay of those placed and then discharged during the study period?***

If the 61 youth remaining at home for at least 180 days in the care and custody of their parents had been placed at an average of 165 days and at an average cost of \$213/day the cost of these placement would be in excess of 2.1 million dollars. **The net savings would be approximately 2 million dollars after subtracting the operational costs for the facility.**

#### ***How many youth served by the STCAC would have to remain at home for a period of a least one year for the STCAC to break even?***

Based on the study, the average cost of a placement is \$35,145. The \$161,040 budget can be met when 4.6 youth at risk of placement remain at home.

# SHORT TERM CARE AND ASSESSMENT CENTER - BISMARCK

Organization Name: Youthworks

Budget Period: FY 2009-10

<b>Department of Corrections (State)</b>		<b>100000</b>	<b>50.0%</b>
<b>SUPPORT</b>	"Ongoing Commitments"		
	Burleigh County	23463.00	11.7%
	Morton County	9659.00	4.8%
	Burleigh County Soc Ser	6000.00	3.0%
	Morton County Soc Ser	3000.00	1.5%
	Runaway Youth Services	14825.00	7.4%
	West Central Human Services	12000.00	6.0%
	Juvenile Justice-Title II (Attendant Care)	31053.00	15.5%
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF SUPPORT</b>		<b>200000.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Personnel &amp; Fringe</b>		
	Administrative and Clerical	13468.00	
	Social Workers & Counselors (Assessment, Family Reunification, Crisis Intervention)	21500.00	
	Child Care Staff (includes fringe)	92000.00	
	Short-Term Care Coordinator	24266.00	
	Fringe Benefits	15451.00	
	<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
	Travel & Staff Development	1000.00	
	Office Supplies & Postage	1977.00	
	Food & Shelter Supplies	4300.00	
	Flex, EAP & Retirement Fees	100.00	
	Liability Insurance	437.00	
	Training Stipends	2500.00	
	Office Furniture & Equip Lease	624.00	
	Occupancy (Rent, Utilities, Insurance, Maintenance)	20247.00	
	Accounting/Audit/Acc' Software	1600.00	
	Laundry	350.00	
	Licensure & Background Checks	180.00	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>200000.00</b>	

Youthworks  
221 West Rosser  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
(701)255-7229

