

Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville
Project THRIVE

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COLLABORATORS: Kent School: Erin Beth Moran; Other: Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children & Goodwill Industries of Kentucky

BACKGROUND: Project THRIVE, a partnership project in the Louisville Metro area, provides opportunities for self-sufficiency among homeless youth ages 16-26, with emotional and learning disabilities. The project links youth, who have limited independent living skills and unstable living conditions, with mentors from the local community. The project assists youth with access to resources for education, vocational training, job placement, and supportive services.

Project partners include Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children, the administrator of the grant, The Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville, who will assist in recruiting mentors and will assess and evaluate the effectiveness of Project THRIVE, and Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, who will assist with workforce development needs of the youth involved in the project. This collaborative effort is a pooling of community agency resources to meet the needs of challenged youth.

Project THRIVE is federally funded with a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education over a five year period (10/2004-9/2009).

METHODOLOGY:

- Assessment & Evaluation tools have been developed to track youth who enter the mentoring program, their education and workforce advancements, the relationship between the mentor and mentee and the overall success of Project THRIVE.

KEY FINDINGS: Findings have not yet been gathered as the funding cycle has just begun.

USEFULNESS TO CABINET:

- The assessment and evaluation of this population of youth and their ability to succeed in an educational setting would benefit the Cabinet in their efforts to assist foster children in the Independent Living programs.
- It also allows the Cabinet to have data on a very elusive population of young people who might otherwise fall through the cracks.