



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

July 16, 2002
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Winder
(605) 773-3478

State Awarded \$1.9 Million To Reintegrate Juvenile Offenders Back Into Communities

(Pierre)-The South Dakota Department of Corrections has been awarded nearly \$2 million in a federal grant program designed to help juvenile offenders transition back into the community following completion of a correctional program.

The state will receive \$1,999,705 from the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, designed to address the various stages an offender goes through when returning to the community including:

- o Education, parenting instruction, vocational training, treatment and life skills programs while in a correctional program;
- o Services and supervision as they reenter the community; and
- o Networks of agencies and individuals to support offenders as they become productive and law-abiding members of their communities.

The grant will help develop programs that build upon reentry efforts already in place in juvenile corrections programs in South Dakota while increasing services and supervision for youthful offenders . It will also expand the involvement of the youth and their family as well as local service providers in developing and implementing a comprehensive reintegration plan.

"The effort to reintegrate the juvenile back into the community starts in our facilities," says Doug Herrmann, Division Director of Juvenile Corrections. "That effort continues as they transition back into the community and includes services such as employment training and treatment for those with substance abuse and mental health issues."

Target areas for the program include Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Rapid City and the Black Hills. However, all juveniles in the care of state correctional programs will benefit because the Reentry Initiative will also be made part of the Performance Based Standards on reintegration.

The Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative is a collaboration between the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor and Veterans Affairs.