

2008 Innovations Awards Program APPLICATION

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ID # (assigned by CSG): 08-S-11FL

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: Florida – Department of Children and Families

Assign Program Category (applicant): Children and Families

1. Program Name

Florida Learning System

2. Administering Agency

Department of Children and Families

3. Contact Person (Name and Title)

William H. Janes, Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health

4. Address

Department of Children and Families
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office
1317 Winewood Blvd., Bldg 1, Room 207
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700

5. Telephone Number

(850) 414-9064

6. FAX Number

(850) 922-4996

7. E-mail Address

Bill_Janes@dcf.state.fl.us

8. Web site Address

Not applicable

9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.

The Florida Learning System is a strategic management system that enables the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program to continuously review statewide service trends, needs profiles, service delivery, monitoring results/trends, performance outcomes, and resource utilization. The implementation of the Florida Learning System ensures that the systems of care and administrative oversight process operate efficiently and effectively.

10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 1, 2008 to be considered.
The program was launched in 2006.

11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?
The program was designed to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the publicly-funded substance abuse and mental health program in Florida. The goals of the program include:

- Strengthening client access to, and retention in substance abuse treatment services, and
- Increasing efficiency of services.

12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order.

- The Department pursued two grants, including the Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention – State Implementation (STAR-SI);
- The program was launched in 2006;
- The Florida System Model was developed;
- State level outcomes were developed and provided to all participants;
- The State partnered with provider agencies and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association to implement process improvement models.

13. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method?
The model was used to improve real issues impacting individuals and families served in the public substance abuse and mental health services system. Primarily, it was used to address the linkages between individual's contacts in the system to enhance results.

14. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for the program staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.)

The state received two grants that support this program, the Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention – State Implementation (STAR-SI) and the Robert Wood Johnson – Advancing Recovery grants. Training and travel were paid by these grants. The system used existing staff for implementation.

What are the program's annual operational costs?
To be determined. These are new projects. The Department will be reviewing this issue.

15. How is the program funded?
The program is funded through the two grants, STAR-SI and RWJ.

16. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number.
The program did not require the passage of legislation.

17. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?
The use of evidence-based practices is strengthened by the Florida Learning System, a strategic management design that enable the program to continuously review statewide service trends, needs profiles, service delivery, monitoring results/trends, performance outcomes, and resource utilization.

18. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Yes, Stephenie Colston, Substance Abuse Director, DCF, Substance Abuse Program, 1317 Winewood Blvd, Building 3, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700, (850) 921-2495, Stephenie.Colston@dcf.state.fl.us This was created by the State's new Substance Abuse Director during emergence of a learning community, and embraced by the providers.

19. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?

No.

Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?

Initial implementation has generated goals in three areas of system linkage. The use of the Florida Learning System will be enhanced with additional implementation of the model.

20. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.

Results of the use of Florida Learning System has enhanced linkages for individuals served in Florida's public system abuse treatment system.

21. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?

This is a new program.

22. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?

The use of a structured Plan, Do, Check, Act system of reviewing activities address current activities, identify trends and change as a result of new information requires strong leadership, commitment, time and patience among the participants.