



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2001

Contact: Ken Pompei, Ph.D.
(412) 208-4000 x. 215
Charlie Thomas, Ph.D.
(352) 219-5339

FOUNDER'S TRUST AWARDS GRANT TO THE ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE CORRECTIONAL AND TREATMENT ORGANIZATIONS (APCTO)

APCTO to Conduct Policy Research on "What Works" for At-Risk Youth and Juvenile Offenders

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Joyce O'Connor, executive director of Founder's Trust, announced the approval of a \$310,000 grant to the Association of Private Correctional and Treatment Organizations (APCTO) to conduct research focusing on programs and services provided to at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

The two-year study—the largest research grant ever awarded by Founder's Trust, a non-profit foundation created to respond to the needs of at-risk youth and juvenile offenders—will include the following:

1. A multi-disciplinary examination of existing research on the impact of intervention strategies and treatment programs; and
2. The identification of jurisdictions that have proven records of success to discern the fiscal, legal, organizational, and service delivery arrangements that best foster short- and long-term success.

The project will cover a broad range of initiatives, including those implemented in community, residential, and institutional settings. A separate dimension of the research will provide an in-depth examination of whether transferring juvenile offenders from juvenile to criminal courts achieves the goals of those who favor prosecuting juveniles in criminal court.

(Cont'd on page 2)

“The critical problem is that we have too little information on policy-oriented research about which forms of intervention work and for whom they work best,” said O’Connor. “Juvenile court judges across the nation often dispose of cases based too heavily on personal experience, guesses, and intuition. They need and want objective guidance about the value of the options that are or should be available to them. We are confident that the APCTO project will be a meaningful step in the right direction.”

“APCTO was formed by private correctional and treatment organizations that are committed to providing the highest possible quality of services to juveniles and adults who move into our justice systems,” said APCTO President Steve Logan. “While APCTO represents the interests of private employees and firms globally, the research proposal we submitted to Founder’s Trust makes it clear that to focus only on private programs and services for juveniles would be inappropriate.”

The research will begin immediately. APCTO is in the process of finalizing working relationships with nationally recognized research groups at two prominent universities.

Logan also made a commitment on behalf of APCTO and all of its member organizations. “APCTO’s Research Committee, which includes members who have published research on juvenile justice issues for many years, will be actively involved in every aspect of this project from beginning to end,” said Logan. “In addition, APCTO member organizations have long been at the cutting edge of efforts to develop quality juvenile services, and our members are enthusiastic about this research project.”

APCTO is a non-profit industry trade association formed to represent the interests of private correctional and treatment providers. Its membership includes service and product providers, government officials, and individuals who share APCTO’s commitment to deliver quality correctional and treatment services that meet or exceed applicable constitutional, legal, and professional standards, while doing so in a cost-effective manner.