



For Immediate Release  
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### **Delaware Children's Department Receives Juvenile Justice Prevention Grant**

WILMINGTON—The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families was recently awarded a federal grant in the amount of \$473,444 by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This grant will be used to employ two new re-entry probation officers for the Comprehensive Aftercare Program (CAP) in Kent and Sussex Counties over the next three years.

The goal of the grant is to reduce recidivism rates of juvenile offenders by providing an increased level of supervision for youth re-entering their communities, while working with their families, to increase the likelihood of a successful transition.

“The CAP is one of our most successful community-based programs here in Delaware,” said Perry Phelps, director of the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services. “One reason CAP demonstrates success is the manageable caseload size. Providing more one-on-one contact with our youth and getting the families engaged not only helps with the transition back into the community, but also fits in line with the System of Care philosophy embraced by our entire Department.”

The specialized CAP unit is currently comprised of three senior probation officers and one probation and parole supervisor. The addition of two re-entry probation officers will help further reduce caseload sizes while increasing the number of face-to-face contacts between workers and youth.

“I’m a firm believer in the old adage that it takes a village to raise a child,” said Cari DeSantis, Secretary of the Delaware Children’s Department. “By further engaging the families and communities and giving our staff the ability to have more one-on-one time with the kids in their care, we’re exponentially increasing the likelihood that these youth will succeed.”

On any given day, the Delaware Children’s Department provides services to approximately 9,000 children, who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, have mental health or substance abuse problems or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. Over 22,000 children receive services each year through the Children’s Department. Thousands more Delaware children received services from the Department through home, community or school-based prevention and early intervention programs and child care licensing. For more information, please visit [www.kids.delaware.gov](http://www.kids.delaware.gov) or [www.thinkofthechildfirst.com](http://www.thinkofthechildfirst.com).

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