

2007 NAHRO AWARDS

AGENCY AWARDS OF MERIT IN HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM INNOVATION: RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Butler College For Kids

1. **SUMMARY OF PROGRAM:**

Butler College For Kids is an innovative summer program for 4th-6th grade public housing youth. This program is a collaboration between the Boys and Girls Club, Fort Worth Housing Authority and Tarrant County College. Instructors, Boys and Girls Club staff and volunteers provide youth with academic enhancement classes focusing on reading, writing and math. Classes reinforce what the students are learning in school with a fun twist. Students take weekly field trips and receive a free lunch daily. At the end of six weeks, students have a graduation ceremony that includes awarding a certificate and back-pack with school supplies.

2. **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:**

The transition from summer to the new school year for many youth has proven to be difficult. With little reinforcement of academics over the summer, some youth find themselves struggling for the first six-weeks of school and may find themselves falling behind their classmates. As a result of the difficult transition for some students, the Butler College for Kids program was developed to address the academic needs of public housing youth. Through collaboration between the Fort Worth Housing Authority, the Boys and Girls Club and volunteers, this six-week program provides academic enhancement in the areas of reading, writing and math. The objective of the program is to provide an academic program that reinforces what students are learning during the school year. Through this program, students can make an easy transition from summer to the new school year. The Fort Worth Housing Authority administers this program which was implemented in the summer of 2005.

3. **THE RESULTS/SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM:**

The Butler College For Kids program has proven to be very successful. The program has the capacity to serve 30 youth from public housing and the Fort Worth Housing Authority graduates an average of 28 youth per summer. All students maintain their academic standing after completing the program.

4. **THE COST/FINANCING OF THE PROGRAM:**

The cost to administer the Butler College for Kids program is minimal. For the six-week program, a total of \$1,000.00 is expended for supplies, incentives and the graduation ceremony.

5. INNOVATION:

The Fort Worth Housing Authority consistently demonstrates an ability to partner with agencies that can provide public housing residents with the opportunities to enhance self-improvement. The collaborative partnership with the Boys and Girls Club and Tarrant County College has enabled the Fort Worth Housing Authority to implement the Butler College for Kids program that combines learning and fun to achieve academic success.