



Making a Difference for Youth, Families and Communities

4465 N. Oakland Avenue, Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Phone: 414.332.0050
Fax: 414.332.0090

www.centerinc.org

Contact: Johnna Scott

Phone: 414.704.9031

jscott@mosaic-wi.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2011

The Center for Self-Sufficiency Awarded Wisconsin Personal Responsibility and Education Program (PREP) Grant

MILWAUKEE, WI – The Medical College of Wisconsin announced today that the Center for Self-Sufficiency (CFSS) will receive a \$100,000 Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Grant. Designated to fund education for adolescents that is designed to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, PREP will target African American and Latino young people as well as runaway and/or homeless youth in Milwaukee, Racine and Beloit. Additionally, CFSS will include programming that will educate students in navigating healthy relationships, financial literacy and personal educational plans.

Partnering with St. Rose's Youth and Family Center and Wisconsin Community Services, CFSS will utilize a variety of proven successful curricula to address the specific needs of the targeted populations – including those within the juvenile justice system, as well as those living out-of-home including **Street Smarts – Choice HIV**, originally developed for runaway and homeless youth; **Making Proud Choices**, a program for African American, Hispanic and Caucasian adolescents (11-13 years-old); **Love U2: Relationship Smarts PLUS** for low-income high school youth; and **Love Notes**, for at-risk students ages 16-24, will be implemented during the term of this grant. These curricula teach youth the skills they need to delay or postpone sexual relationships and, for those who are sexually active, to consistently use contraceptives.

“At the Center for Self-Sufficiency it is our mission to encourage and nurture the healthy growth and maturation of young people. It is a privilege to be selected by the Medical College of Wisconsin to work in partnership with both St. Rose's Youth and Family Center and Wisconsin Community Services to address the needs of Southeastern Wisconsin's most vulnerable youth” says Angela Turner, President and CEO of CFSS. “We look forward to working with these organizations to make a positive impact in the lives of young people.”

-MORE-

Non-profit community-based organization St. Rose Youth & Family Center serves more than 400 youth annually, while Wisconsin Community Services serves more than 300 each year. By accessing youth through a combination of residential care and day treatment programs, CFSS will collaborate with these established agencies to effectively identify and reach targeted youth.

CFSS has implemented a strong collaborative model for success in the metro Milwaukee area, which incorporates encouraging student program completion for at-risk youth. Personalized care plans that address individual needs and risks are also unique programs that support CFSS's successful administration.

Contracted by the State of Wisconsin, Division of Public Health, the Medical College of Wisconsin currently serves as the lead agency to discharge the federal **PREP Grant** for five years. The three targeted Wisconsin communities (Racine, Milwaukee & Beloit) include areas of the highest teen birth rates and populations most at risk of dropping out of high school or that have already dropped out, as well as those youth that have been placed in out-of-home care, or are runaways or homeless.

For more information about the Center for Self-Sufficiency, including program topics, upcoming events, community partner locations and how to get involved, please visit www.centerinc.org or call 414-332-0050.

Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and founded in 1997, the Center for Self-Sufficiency, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that promotes and facilitates the design, delivery, and growth of high-impact programs and partnerships that increase self-sufficiency of individuals, families, organizations, and communities.

###