



ROCKDALE COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
June 12, 2018**

Contact: Teresa Gordy, Programs Administrator
Rockdale County Juvenile Court
(770) 278-7763

Rockdale County Juvenile Court Receives More Than \$2.6 Million in Grants

CONYERS, Ga. – The Rockdale County Juvenile Court received approximately \$2.66 million from seven federal, state and local grants that are designed to enhance program and service offerings for youth, parents, and their families.

The Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has awarded the Rockdale County Juvenile Court an annual \$409,886 grant for five years to enhance services for parents enrolled in the Family Treatment Court Program and their children. That totals up to \$2,049,430.

Family Treatment Courts use a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to serve families who require substance use disorder treatment and who are involved with the Department of Family and Children Services. Family Treatment Courts bring together substance use disorder treatment, child welfare services, mental health, and social services agencies in a non-adversarial approach. Family Treatment Courts seek to provide safe environments for children, intensive judicial monitoring, and interventions to treat parents' substance use disorders and other risk factors. Family Treatment Court outcomes include higher rates of participation and more effective substance use disorder treatment, family reunification, and less time for children in foster care.

The Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has awarded Juvenile Court with three grants, including \$65,625 in continuation funding for the Family Treatment Court Program, \$124,287 in continuation funding for the Juvenile Drug Court Program, and \$291,696 in continuation funding to serve medium-to-high risk youth and their families with Functional Family Therapy. For the sixth year in Rockdale, the Functional Family Therapy program offers in-home therapy for youths who are at risk of being committed to the Department of

Juvenile Justice. Rockdale County youth who complete the Functional Family Therapy Program have recidivism rates of 19%, while youth who are held in a detention center have recidivism rates of 70%.

Locally, the Hospital Authority of Rockdale County awarded Juvenile Court with a \$30,000 grant to assist with the Family Treatment Court Program this year. The Truancy Intervention Project also awarded Juvenile Court a \$3,000 grant to assist with truancy interventions for court involved Rockdale County students.

Lastly, Juvenile Court received a grant of \$100,000 from the State of Georgia Department of Human Services to continue the Rockdale Encouraging Student Health, Abstinence and Parent Engagement (RESHAPE) program. RESHAPE focuses on abstinence, decision making, life skills and preventing teen dating violence. The program is in its eighth year in Rockdale and serves 90 children annually.

In addition to its grant-funded programs, Juvenile Court provides numerous other programs to court-involved youths including Project GLOW (Girls Learning Our Worth), Anger Replacement Training, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Triple P Parenting, Mentoring, Evening Reporting Center, Teen Court, and Community Service.

For more information about Juvenile Court and its programs, please contact Teresa Gordy at 770-278-7763 or teresa.gordy@rockdalecountyga.gov.

###