

News Release
September 27, 2007

Contact: Steve Davis, Court Communications Officer, (515) 725-8058

Iowa Receives Federal Grant for Family Drug Courts

Des Moines, September 27, 2007— A new federal grant will help fund three new family drug courts and expand two existing family drug courts in Iowa. Family drug courts emphasize treatment for drug addicted parents so they have a better chance of keeping their families together. Administration for Children, Youth and Families Commissioner Joan Ohl will present the grant award to Chief Justice Marsha Ternus, Saturday, September 29 at 10:30 am in the Judicial Branch Building, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines.

The grant will fund judge-led collaboratives that are centered on family drug courts. The program will focus on the welfare of children with parents who have substance abuse problems, specifically, methamphetamine addiction. Representatives from United States Senators Charles Grassley and Tom Harkin's offices along with state officials will attend the ceremony.

Family drug courts offer a comprehensive approach to treating substance-abusing parents, while maintaining the goal of reuniting the family. The project will ensure that the children have immediate access to the appropriate services necessary to build stronger family units while the parents are in family drug court and that the parents continue to receive support and monitoring after the treatment is complete.

The Judicial Branch will work with the Iowa Department of Human Services, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Office of Drug Control Policy to implement the program in seven Iowa counties. The grant will fund *Parents and Children Together (PACT): A Family Drug Court Initiative* in Wapello, Polk, Linn, Scott and the Sioux City Tri-County area—Woodbury, Cherokee and Ida counties.

Joan Ohl, Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, a Division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will present the award.

Ohl will also present a grant to Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc., a regional partnership formed by nine rural northwest Iowa counties. The partnership will

use the grant funds to build regional capacity so that child welfare, substance abuse, and community support services can increase access, availability, and outreach programs. The services will provide for the well-being and permanency for children who are in out-of-home or at-risk of placement as the result of parent's or caretaker's methamphetamine or other substance use.

Each grant recipient will receive \$500,000 a year for five years. The grants were awarded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau and is entitled: Targeted Grant to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for Children Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse.

#

2007

Iowa Supreme Court
1111 East Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
515-281-3952