

Oregon

State Office for Services to Children and Families

SEE US AT THE
CAREER FAIR ON
NOVEMBER 5!

Mission: To protect Oregon's abused and neglected children and to provide them with safe and permanent families.

Seeking Social Service Specialists/ Caseworkers

The State Office for Services to Children and Families (SCF) is seeking talented individuals to fill current Social Service Specialist vacancies within our agency. These positions are located throughout the state of Oregon in county-based branches.

Social Service Specialists are case-carrying positions. These positions may be assigned to:

- Protective services units to conduct child abuse and neglect investigations
- Foster Care units
- Permanency and Adoption units

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR POSITIONS

or have questions, please contact:
Janet Williams, Staff Recruiter, 503-945-6388; e-mail:
Janet.Williams@state.or.us
or Jim Pettyjohn, 503-945-5694
FAX 503-378-2249

For State of Oregon Employment Application Information on the Internet, see: <http://www.dashr.state.or.us/jobs/>

**PERSONS WITH BILINGUAL AND BICULTURAL SKILLS
AND PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.**

Youth: Program offers learning opportunities

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provide services important to the success of youth in the program.

Cockrell said the program is considered controversial because skeptics doubt whether it has any real effect on delinquents. Those in favor of the program say it's common for students to raise their classroom grades from Ds to Bs in as little as six months.

Cockrell said the program is a pilot program used for crime-prevention reasons, meaning that groups in other areas of the state and across the country are watching to see if it succeeds.

Another service for at-risk youth in the Eugene area is the Delinquency Diversion Class sponsored by the Looking Glass Counseling Program.

The class is another option for youth who want a fresh start.

Chris Rubin, who puts on the one-time, six-hour class along with Mark Nowicki, said the class is for kids arrested or referred to Looking Glass after being found guilty of stealing, vandalizing, trespassing or other forms of criminal mischief.

"The purpose is to help the kids look at their decision-making," Rubin said. He and Nowicki try to get youths to look at their motivations and decide "why they did what they did."

Rubin said reasons they give for committing crimes include peer pressure, social acceptance and family problems. They are asked to weigh the consequences of their actions and the results for them and others around them.

Rubin said thinking errors are also discussed, including rationalizations such as "it's only a candy bar," or "it's only a big corporation,

they won't be missing this."

The instructors don't stand in front of the class and talk the whole time, Rubin said. Instead, they allow students to confront each other about the wrongs they have done. Because of class confidentiality, they feel free to tell the others how they feel.

"We challenge them to think about things in a different way," Rubin said.

Since it began about five years ago, the class has had a 100 percent success rate in participants finishing the course.

For youth who don't have a place to call home and are not necessarily in trouble with the law, the New Roads School for Homeless Youth is a place for them.

Funded by the Eugene School District, the school, located on West 11th Avenue, provides an opportunity for youth to get an education that was previously unavailable to them.

Mindy Ball, one of two teachers at the school, said there are 30 students between the ages of 11 and 21. Students are usually referred to the school by other agencies, Ball said. Middle-school age students are required to stay from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., while older students working toward a General Education Diploma are free to come and go as they wish.

The students receive breakfast and lunch at the school at no cost, as well as bus tokens, Ball said.

Each day the teachers create three goals for each of the younger students to work on, depending on what areas students feel need improvement, Ball said. The curriculum, which the teachers developed, includes work on the Internet.

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