

# State grant to aid fight against juvenile crime

By Deborah Kohen  
Sentinel-Voice

A \$757,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant will be distributed to state programs aimed at reducing youth violence and delinquency, Sens. Harry Reid and Richard Bryan said in a statement released last Friday.

The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services will distribute the funds, which can be used to improve cooperation and coordination among juvenile justice systems, to provide improved educational and vocational opportunities for Nevada youth and to

develop and enhance gang prevention and control activities.

"Last year, approximately 50 percent of all serious violent crimes were committed by teens against teens," Bryan said. "Even schools have been the scene of tragic shootings over the past few months ... across the country. Although these tragedies did not occur in Nevada, they could have."

Bryan said the grant "will help the Nevada Department of Human Resources improve programs for Nevada's young people and help them stay out of trouble."

The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention directs money to states and U.S. territories through recipient agencies designated by their respective governors. Those agencies in turn allocate the funding to worthy programs. Federal rules stipulate that each state must "subaward" at least two thirds of its funding to local and private providers.

To qualify for the program, states must demonstrate compliance with four delinquency prevention guidelines: removal of

juveniles from adult jails and lockups, sight and sound separation of juveniles and adults in secure facilities, reduction of minority over-representation in secure facilities and deinstitutionalization of status offenders and nonoffenders. ("Status offenders" are juveniles picked up or arrested for noncriminal behavior that is only illegal for minors, like truancy or running away.)

According to Larry Carter, juvenile justice specialist for the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, this year

judicial districts were targeted for a lion's share of the federal dollars. Approximately \$380,000 will be split among the state's nine judicial districts for use in probation departments and deterrence programs. Each district will receive a base funding of \$15,000 plus additional amounts determined by the size of their student populations.

Approximately \$32,000 is automatically set aside for operating the Nevada Juvenile Justice Commission, which examines and sets policy; \$200,000 is earmarked to cover

administrative costs of compliance with the grant program, including salaries, inspections and supervision; and \$105,000 will go to local policing efforts.

Private, nonprofit deterrence programs that could use financial aid may be eligible for allocations under this and other programs. Those interested can contact Carter's office in Carson City at 702-687-5911 to get on the mailing list for Requests for Proposals, or call Kirby Burgess, director of Clark County Family and Youth Services, at 455-5200.

## Rose Awards

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were the moderators. The men of Mohammad Mosque #75 served as escorts and ushers for the program which included an art display, modeling of ethnic clothing, music, information on breast cancer and banquet. Each recipient was presented a plaque along with a long stem rose.

Wilda Chevers, who has a doctoral degree, was recognized in the academic achievements category. North Las Vegas City Manager Linda Hinson earned honors in the area of economic business achievements. Dee Hicks, a registered nurse, was recognized for her community volunteerism and Delshanna Jones received the outstanding student role model award.

Federal Judge Johnnie Rawlinson presided over presentations for six of the recipients. She praised the event.

"The Rose Awards give women of color an opportunity to shine and be spotlighted," said Rawlinson, who was recently sworn into a lifetime federal judgeship. "It is such a positive illustration of what the community has to offer."

The following is a list of women honored as role models for their volunteerism and vocational excellence: Diana Lynn Byrd, Janis Adrienne Carter, Linda Gipson, Lisa Margerum, Karen Sherod-Godbolt, France Holland, Nadia Jurani, Anita Laruy, Lynette Boggs McDonald, Patrice Norman and Tanya Patrice Flanagan.

Flanagan, social services and community affairs reporter for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, was thrilled to be honored.

"This is a wonderful event," she said. "I am truly honored to have this opportunity to have been recognized. I will continue to give back to the community."

Said Willette Ballard, chairwoman of this year's event: "People can walk away from this event and say we definitely have role models in this community," she said. "We could not have asked for a more beautiful, articulate and professional group of women of color."

## Zeta

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Conflict Resolution and Anger Management has become one of Zeta's major initiatives focusing on what she considers the "very serious national problem" of teenage violence. A major component of Zeta Phi Beta's 78th National Leadership Conference, scheduled for Atlanta July 18-24, is leadership and service, with a series of workshops on finding practical solutions to real problems.

"My own vision for the sorority is one of growth, not only in numbers, but in terms of the creative and innovative work of our chapters in public service, dealing directly with people and the problems that affect us all."

Carter's emphasis on community service is also reflected in her professional and family life. At Southern University, one of her major innovations was making community service a required three credit-hour course where students volunteer 60 hours.

"I am accustomed to time management and organization," Carpenter said. "I have a good staff at Southern University, a wonderfully supportive family and an excellent staff at Zeta headquarters in Washington."

Carpenter desperately wants to empower black women.

"When I ask sisters, both inside and outside of Zeta, how they would like to see themselves, many tell me that they would like to become the type of strong female that poet Maya Angelou describes as a 'phenomenal woman'," Carpenter said.

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