

**Governor Carcieri's FY08 Supplemental Budget Request:
Implications for the Rhode Island Training School**

On January, 17, 2008, Governor Donald L. Carcieri released his proposal for a Supplemental Budget for state Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008). This proposal is aimed at closing Rhode Island's projected \$151 million budget gap at the end of state Fiscal Year 2008. The General Assembly is expected to vote on the FY08 Supplemental Budget before the end of March, 2008.

In his budget proposal, Governor Carcieri suggested the following cap for the Rhode Island Training School (RITS). There are no projected savings in 2008 from this cap. Of the projected \$2.4 million savings in FY 2009, half will be used to support community-based programs for youth offenders and half would be returned to the state's general fund.

FY08 Supp.	Proposal	Projected FY 2008 Savings	Projected FY 2009 Savings
Article 13	The proposal would limit the population of the RITS to 160 (148 boys and 12 girls), effective April 1, 2008. This cap would enable DCYF to produce savings by operating fewer buildings.	\$ 0.6 million	\$2.4 million (\$1.2 million to be returned to the state's general fund and \$1.2 million to be used for community-based programs)

Savings from the Proposed Change:

Due to the time it would take to establish the necessary community-based services to effectively implement this cap, the actual savings may not be available for a few months after the April 1, 2008 implementation of the cap.

Background on the Rhode Island Training School:

The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) operates the Rhode Island Training School, the state's residential detention facility for adjudicated youth and youth awaiting trial. A total of 1,122 youth (80% male and 20% female) were in the care and custody of the Training School at some point during calendar year 2007. On January 1, 2008, there were 158 youth on the grounds at the Training School, 22 under current capacity.

Research in Support of Increasing the Use of Community-based Alternatives to Incarceration:

The Rhode Island Training School is an important resource for the rehabilitation of youth who commit serious offenses and who pose a danger to themselves or the community. However, for youth who do not pose a danger to themselves or others, expanding Rhode Island's capacity to provide effective community-based alternatives to incarceration is essential.

National research indicates that high-quality research-based alternatives to incarcerating youth are more successful in preventing recidivism and significantly more cost-effective. Recent research has also shown that peer influences are often a significant factor in the development of antisocial behavior and that placing delinquent youth together may reduce positive program impacts and even lead to negative outcomes in some cases.

Successful diversion efforts are comprehensive, community-based and family-focused, with intensive counseling and treatment. Programs that offer transition services for reintegration into the community are important as well. For some wayward and delinquent youth, community-based alternatives that include components such as family involvement, community service, restorative justice, or diversion to drug court or substance abuse treatment can be more effective at reducing re-offending than incarceration.