

Sun Shines on I-Can in Florida Governor Charlie Crist Signs Legislation to

By Dean Renfrow, *President,
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The State of Florida has raised its hand and said ICan! On May 24, 2007, the Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, signed legislation that put into operation the Life Management Skills curriculum and the deployment of I-Can Peace Squads in 4 areas: Tampa, Manatee County, Fort Lauderdale and Melbourne, Florida. One of the driving forces in this historic accomplishment was Mitch Needleman (R), Florida State Legislator from Melbourne, Florida. The scope of the contract includes Life Management Skills training for 1,120 high school and middle school students living in high crime communities. 14 schools will participate in the program. The Peace Squads will be deployed to reduce gang violence in those target areas and employ gang intervention techniques. We will hire and train Facilitators and Peace Squad Leaders from the local communities. The Facilitators will teach the

curriculum while the Peace Squad Leaders (who will be selected and trained from the cadre of local "Shot Callers" in these neighborhoods) will be responsible for changing behavior in the urban core through mentorship and recruitment of Peace Squad memberships. We will employ a fulltime Facilitator at each school, and a Peace Squad Leader for each community (10-15 kids in each Peace Squad); there will be as many as 10 Peace Squads in areas surrounding the schools that will consist of 180 youths.

The students who participate at the 14 schools will experience a comprehensive engagement with the Amer-I-Can Program. In addition to learning how to apply the curriculum, they will take part in our after care services that links them to local resources. We will create profiles based on an individual needs assessment and track their subsequent performance. This 'performance based operation' will be implemented via our 'case management system'. Our case management system consist of tracking (1) grades, (2) attendance and (3) disciplinary actions – before and after the training. The training period will be 18 weeks (one semester) with approximately 80 kids per school.

As you read this edition of our paper, you will discover the vast network of dedicated, results-producing individuals that are part of the Amer-I-Can Program. Our diversity is our strength. There is room for YOU on the Amer-I-Can Locomotive. . . ALL ABOARD!!!! Contact us at: Amer-I-Can Program, Inc., 2410 Gibsonwoods Court, NW, Salem, Oregon 97304 (phone: