C-CORE Mentoring Program
(Construction-Coaching Opportunities to Reach Employment)

C-CORE is a community program developed in partnership with the Home Builders Institute (HBI) that facilitates mentoring and skills training for underserved, at-risk and court-involved youths. Florida State has the charge of delivering mentoring services to approximately 200 youths over a fourteen month period.

To do this, FSU will actively seek out, train and match mentors to underserved, at risk and court-involved youths. Mentors will also provide periodic assessments of the mentees’ progress throughout the program. The program will be evaluated on its ability to connect youth with primary labor market opportunities, as well as its ability to reduce the delinquency risk of participating youths.

Professor Eyitayo Onifade, principal investigator, received an intermediary agreement for the disbursement of $60,000 to FSU by the Home Builders Institute (funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) to initiate operations. Also, a partnership has been forged with 21st Century Research and Evaluation, Inc., headed by Dr. Randy Nelson.

MISSION
The purpose of this program is for the Florida State University to strengthen its community involvement activities, and C-CORE is a major avenue to facilitate this mission. The program falls under the FSU College of Social Work (CSW) and is among several initiatives undertaken by the College that focuses on community science and practice.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES
• Increase outreach to the local community.
• Increase capacity building within vulnerable populations as this related to economic development, delinquency prevention, education and community mental health.

COLLABORATION
The Home Builders Institute (www.hbi.org), the driving force behind the program, has trained and placed thousands of youths and adults for careers in residential construction. As a continuation of its efforts to enrich the lives of youths, HBI embarked specifically on a C-CORE program, which is an industry-sponsored mentoring program for youths with promise and untapped abilities. The program is funded by a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. It aims to match 5,000 youths aged 16 to 18 with over 1,600 industry mentors recruited.

HBI C-CORE program has extended its resources to FSU as a means of expanding HBI’s initiative to create meaningful relationships between adults and youths through industry-sponsored mentoring. The expected outcome is to provide positive role-models, foster improved decision-making and to reduce high-risk behaviors using career focused activities and outcomes as means to positive youth development.

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