

news release

Child and Family Center/University of Oregon

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University of Oregon's Child and Family Center (CFC) has been awarded a 2-year, \$946,906 Challenge grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Funding for Challenge grants was provided earlier in the year by the Obama administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. NIH received more than 20,000 proposals addressing 15 Challenge topics relevant to specific areas of scientific and health research. CFC's award is among approximately 200 that were funded.

The newly funded research, for which Dr. Beth Stormshak is principal investigator and Dr. Tom Dishion is coinvestigator, seeks to improve the implementation effectiveness of the Family Check-Up (FCU), CFC's ecologically based child and family intervention designed to reduce child and adolescent substance use and problem behavior, and coercive family interactions. It will involve collaboration with mental health providers and schools to improve their services for families by designing and implementing a technologically enhanced and updated version of the FCU model. This project will complement four individual, currently funded randomized trials that are testing the FCU in community systems. Fifty practitioners will receive a 4-day workshop about the FCU and training in implementing the model. Measures will be collected from practitioners that assess fidelity of implementation with families and practitioner skills at baseline, after the training, and postassessment. Training and support will include access to a new Internet-based service infrastructure, which will provide support for all facets of the intervention most relevant to mental health service settings and schools. The long-term goal is to create a sustainable website and Internet support system that will increase dissemination and uptake of this evidence-based practice in real-world communities. Consistent with the goals of the Recovery Act, this research will support the employment of current staff at the Child and Family Center and several new staff who will develop the website and analyze outcomes.

For more information about this grant award or other research conducted at the Child and Family Center, contact CFC researchers Dr. Beth Stormshak or Dr. Tom Dishion at 346-4805.

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