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Butte County Obtains Federal Funding For Important Programs

News Release

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Oroville, CA – Butte County officials announced that they have obtained federal funding for two important programs to help the residents of the County. For the past few years, Butte County officials have sought funding to better assist children who are exposed to illegal drugs and also to improve literacy in the County. With the assistance from Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, funding for these two programs was included in the recently approved federal appropriations bill. As a result, Butte County will receive \$400,000 for its Drug Endangered Children (DEC) program and \$150,000 for its Literacy is for Everyone (LIFE) program.

The focus of the DEC program is to rescue children who are living in homes where illegal methamphetamine is being manufactured and used. Every year in Butte County, an average of 300 children are removed from deplorable living situations where they are exposed to illegal drugs and the associated violence, neglect, and abuse. While law enforcement focuses on handling the investigation and arrests associated with the drug cases, the DEC team ensures that the needs of the children rescued from these drug homes are met, including their immediate safety, medical needs, emotional support and protective services. The County will work with the U.S. Department of Justice over the next few months to determine the scope of the DEC program.

The LIFE program promotes literacy skills development by addressing various barriers to learning and by enhancing and expanding already available services. The program targets at-risk children and families with low-literate adults in Butte County. The County will work with the U.S. Department of Education over the next few months to define the scope for the LIFE program.

Butte County recently adopted federal and state legislative platforms for 2010, and will continue to work closely with legislators to address various funding needs of the County.

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