

## Overview

The START program began in Los Angeles County in 1997 in an effort to reduce the numbers of dependent youth entering the delinquency system. The program is a collaborative venture of four county departments that share a common interest in the welfare of our children and youth. The program has offices in four geographical regions of the county and accepts referrals from children's services workers, dependency attorneys, and others who work with dependent youth.

## START Partners

Participating County Departments include:

- Department of Children and Family Services
- Department of Mental Health
- Probation Department
- Los Angeles Unified School District



## START Team

Youth accepted into the program are assigned to a START team that includes a children's services worker, a psychologist, an educator, and a probation officer. The team works together, along with care providers and other stakeholders, to produce a comprehensive assessment and a shared intervention plan to address problem behaviors.



A history of abuse or neglect as a child increases the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59%. (National Institute of Justice, 2001)

## Referral Criteria

The START program seeks to intervene with those dependent youth most at risk of delinquency. In general, youth must meet the following criteria.

- Dependent per WIC 300
- Under age 18
- Medi-Cal eligible
- Placed in Los Angeles County
- Not in level 12 or above placement
- Voluntary participation

### *Legal History*

*(One of the following)*

- WIC 241.1 Assessment
- Dual Supervision (300/600)
- Delinquency Petition
- Traffic Court Citation

### *Behavioral Problems*

*(Three of the following four)*

- Repeated aggression
- Property destruction
- Lying and theft
- Chronic Rule violations

*For a referral form, contact the nearest START office.*

START PROGRAM Headquarters  
550 South Vermont Avenue  
Fourth Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90020

**START  
TAKING  
ACTION  
RESPONSIBLY  
TODAY**

A delinquency prevention  
program for dependent children  
in Los Angeles County

- ◆ *Reduce the risk of delinquency*
- ◆ *Promote permanent placements*
- ◆ *Enhance academic achievement*
- ◆ *Improve emotional and behavioral functioning*



**START Office Locations**

**START EAST**

532 E. Colorado Boulevard, 8th floor  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Waltraud Leif, Ph.D.  
(626) 229-3805

**START WEST**

3075 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Bradley Bryant, Ph.D.  
(213) 639-4697

**START SOUTH**

2325 Crenshaw Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90501  
LaFaune Gordon, Ph.D.  
(310) 972-3182

**START NORTH**

28490 Avenue Stanford, Suite 100  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355  
Bradley Bryant, Ph.D.  
(213) 639-4697



**For program information, contact:**

Sam Chan, Ph.D.  
District Chief, Department of Mental Health  
(213) 738-3201

Gregory Lecklitner, Ph. D.  
Program Head, Department of Mental Health  
(213) 351-7734