

City of Jacksonville Florida

In 2003, Reverend Jackson launched the Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families in order to strengthen marriage and families in Jacksonville. He pulled together community leaders, city government officials, social service providers, and faith-based organizations to discuss what could be done to make a difference for families and children in their city.

FranklinCovey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families* and *8 Habits of a Successful Marriage* curricula were chosen as the foundation of the effort.

FranklinCovey partnered with Reverend Jackson to build the coalition and develop the materials and proposals needed to qualify for Federal funding under the Child Support Enforcement 1115 Waiver program. FranklinCovey has been a key partner in executing the initiative since it was launched.

Perhaps some of the most compelling evidence of the effectiveness of the Franklin Covey marriage and family-strengthening curricula and the efforts of such community initiatives is the impact on economic stability of attending families. **“Despite low wages, the average participant experienced considerable growth in employment and wages over the 7 quarters between 2005 and 2006...”**¹

Lag Measures

- The Jacksonville results are at or near the top of all the sixteen Child Support Enforcement 1115 Waiver programs nation-wide in all measured categories.
- 81 facilitators have been trained
- 6-10 training sessions are held every month, on average
- 2,265 people have participated in one or more sessions
- 1,874 have graduated (attended all four sessions and a graduation event)
- 49% of the graduates have been men
- 78% of all participants have graduated
- **93% of Graduates indicate using the 7 Habits has made a positive difference in their life. (7% said they weren't sure.)**

Lead Measures

A current longitudinal study in Jacksonville to assess the program's effectiveness reports significant positive evidence. In a sample of 139 response sets to pre-course and post-test (on 14 items) and based on the difference of means test, these researchers have noted that a strong improvement has been shown with relationship to these surveyed items:

4. I lose my temper with my children.
6. I set personal goals, which have definite completion dates.
7. I stress about things I can't control.
9. We make decisions and set goals as a family.
10. We have family meal times together.

Researchers conclude, “The implication of the above test outcome is that the program has been successful in helping the participants to:

- **abandon unhealthy behaviors,**
- **increase planning skills,**
- **enhance family well being** (as measured by increased number of family meal times), and
- **be proactive.”**

For more information contact your FranklinCovey client partner or call 1-88-705-1776 to be put in touch with someone in your local area who can answer your questions.

¹Excerpted with permission from Implementation Report prepared by RTI for ACF publication