



eCornerstone

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Selection of eCornerstone Pilot Sites

The purpose of "beta testing" or "pilot" is to assess how a new system will operate in the "real world" with "real users". Even though the eCornerstone system will go through rigorous testing prior to pilot, it is not possible to recreate in a test environment all situations that occur normally during daily use of the system. When conducting a pilot of a new system, every attempt is made to maximize use of as many different characteristics of the user environment as possible. Because eCornerstone will be web-based, the type of Internet access being used is an example of an important environmental characteristic that must be assessed. Listed below are criteria that were identified by the Implementation Committee by which to assess agencies for selection as a "pilot" site:

- 1) Existence of current Cornerstone at the site. One of the pilot agencies, Westside Association for Community Action, met this criteria.
- 2) Internet access currently used. The early site readiness surveys that were completed showed us that a variety of methods are being used to access the Internet. Therefore, it is important to incorporate as many of the different methods into the pilot as possible, in order to give us feedback as to how eCornerstone will perform under each of the different methods. Selected pilots gave us the variety of Internet accesses needed to assess performance.
- 3) Youth Services programs offered at the site. As with Internet access, agencies were selected so that as many of the individual programs as possible would be represented. This will allow the system to be fully utilized by each Youth Services program prior full implementation.
- 4) Current YASI pilot site. A very large module of eCornerstone is the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI). An early decision was made to pilot and implement the YASI sites first. Two non-YASI sites were specifically selected as part of the pilot so that we could assess the differences in training curriculum development and structure when eCornerstone users have not yet been introduced to use of the YASI assessment tool.

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5) Site representation in each of the five DHS regions. Past experience with implementation of the current Cornerstone system has shown us that there is a great deal of variation in how agencies provide service delivery for the same programs. To gain maximum feedback and evaluation as to how eCornerstone will perform, it is necessary to pilot in different parts of the state.

Using the criteria outlined above, the following agencies were selected for pilot:

- OMNI Youth Services (Buffalo Grove)
- Westside Association for Community Action
- Martin Luther King Jr. Center (Freeport)
- Grundy County State's Attorney
- Childrens Home Association of Illinois
- Youth Service Bureau (Springfield)
- Tri-County Counseling Center
- Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois (Granite City)

It is anticipated that the pilot will occur in two "phases", beginning January 21, 2003 and going through February of 2003. Once pilot is complete, implementation of the remaining 29 YASI pilot sites will begin and go through June of 2003.