

Poughkeepsie, NY -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined Dutchess Community College and local leaders to announce \$380,000 in new federal funding he secured from Congress for 10 non-profit organizations to run programs that provide mentoring, job training and counseling services for at-risk youth in Dutchess County.

"These federal funds will help provide positive outlets for children in Poughkeepsie and throughout Dutchess County that will help keep them off the streets, foster their academic and social growth, provide job training, and ultimately help them become positive, productive members of the local community," Hinchey said. "Time and again we've seen that young people are at the greatest risk of getting into trouble in the after-school hours while their parents and guardians are at work. The programs we are funding and that are being administered by Dutchess Community College are all focused on early intervention and productive, educational activities to keep kids on the right path. This funding will pay off for the city of Poughkeepsie in the short and long-term."

"We're honored that Dutchess Community College's reputation as a catalyst for change was recognized, and that we were selected to administer this important grant," said Carol Stevens, Ph.D., DCC's Vice President and Dean of Community Services and Special Programs. "We look forward to working with these 10 deserving organizations that engage at-risk youth and provide effective and meaningful intervention and preventive services. These projects truly can change young people's futures, save lives and enhance and strengthen our communities."

Hinchey used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to secure the funding as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget. Dutchess Community College is administering the funds and overseeing the 10 organizations and schools that are operating various programs to help keep local kids off the streets and provide them with new learning opportunities.

The \$380,000 in federal funds Hinchey secured will go to the following entities serving Dutchess County:

* New Hope Community Center -- After-school and summer programming for up to 130 children ages 5-14 years old, which will include homework assistance, recreational activities, job training, as well as a separate youth leadership program for ages 15-19 and parenting classes.

- * Real Skills at Family Partnership -- Three-tier mentoring, mediation, and leadership training program serving up to 110 youths, ages 6-17 years old.

- * Project Thunder at Vassar College -- Tutoring and mentoring by college students and adults, workshops, enrichment trips, college preparation, and guest lecturers designed to serve 30 youths between 9-16 years old.

- * Children's Media Project DROP (Direct Revolution of Programming) Media Lab -- The program will teach youth ages 14-19 years old media production and technology skills and provide them with an opportunity to exhibit their work.

- * Mill Street Loft -- Three job skills and empowerment programs that fall under Project ABLE+ and focus on arts education and life skills; gender-specific issues for girls; and a program for Hispanic and Latino teens.

- * Summer Camp and Afterschool Programs at the Salvation Army -- Day camp and after-school programs serving 45 youths ages 5–12 years old, focusing on homework, tutoring, music instruction, conflict resolution, computer skill, cultural awareness and understanding peer pressure.

- * New Directions YouthBuild Mentoring Project at Nubian Directions -- Mentoring program for an additional 13 students ages 16 – 18 who participate in the YouthBuild training program.

- * Re-entry Program at Christ Church -- Provide guidance and support to presently and formerly incarcerated parents and their children, ages 11-21 years old.

- * Protect the Dream After-School Program -- Dream Keeper is a tutoring and mentoring program focused on personal enrichment and job readiness for up to 20 teens, ages 14-18 years old.

* KidCityArts: Dance for Joy and Performing Arts Camp at Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center -- Day camp for 40 youth 4-17 years old; art programs for teens up to age 16; and afterschool ballet for children 7-10 years old.

* Summer Camp at Christ Church -- Scholarships for summer camp for 12 children whose parents are incarcerated.

The U.S. Department of Justice is going through a final review process for each of the programs and expects to release the funding later this summer.