

to statewide at the present level that the original four are at.

SENATOR ROBINSON: So it would be just the phase-one at the expansion then.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That is correct.

SENATOR ROBINSON: And the original ones would stay at phase-one, is that...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That is correct.

SENATOR ROBINSON: What's the evaluation of the first year, of how that's going?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Well, the evaluation, so far, has been very positive. The contracts have been signed. The hardest part that OJS had, Senator Robinson, was getting the regions together and getting the contracts signed, getting everyone organized so that they were ready to do it. Now that process is over and the contracts have been signed and they're working on...they're getting that going now. The nice thing about the expansion part is that we now don't have to go through that first, initial organization, that's all done now, so they will come on line very quickly. So my feeling is by next year, when we get to the biennial budget, we're going to have some real solid numbers as to what effect that's going to have.

SENATOR ROBINSON: So they're really just starting to work with the individuals.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That's correct. See, the evaluation program was going to be eliminated, assuming that we were going to fund all of the community-based programs at the same time. We decided not to do that because it was going to take a while to get that agency going and we decided let's don't put...give them too much work, let's do what they can handle, and then we'll give them the extra later, and that's what we're doing now.

SENATOR ROBINSON: What's the ballpark figure of the number we're working with? You got any idea?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The number of kids?