



OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS GROUP LLC

ENABLING DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

WELCOME

JULY 2007

QUICK LINKS



Public and social policy work is meaningful and important, and it is our hope that the work we do is making a difference for the better. Therefore, it is appropriate that we take the time to reflect and remember that what we do affects the lives of real people, and ultimately benefits us all.



Optimal Solutions Group (Optimal) is proud to report its progress and achievements while providing insight and updates on policy and research that is underway. This newsletter focuses on our work on policy research as well as our efforts to be socially responsible and to support our surrounding community. We hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter.

Mark D. Turner, Ph.D., President and CEO
Tracye Turner, Vice President

- [More About Optimal Solutions Group](#)

IN THIS ISSUE...

- [SPOTLIGHT](#)
- [OPTIMAL NEWS](#)

Questions or Comments?

Contact us for more information:
301-306-1170 or
info@optimalsolutionsgroup.com

SPOTLIGHT



Central High School Provides Interns for Supplemental Educational Services Project

Dedicated, reliable, and hard working students from Prince George's County Central High School interned for two weeks at Optimal to assist with a Maryland State Department of Education parent survey. Optimal Research Analyst Michelle Blair worked with the students to assemble nearly 10,000 survey packages. While working at Optimal the students learned about public policy research and pursuing career and financial goals.

(pictured above, front row) Shawntae Samuels, Michelle Blair, Shanae Samuels, (2nd row) Mark Turner; Krystal Noble, Shaquonda Samuels, Terry Gamble, Larry Dolan, (not pictured) Melvin Miles, and Marquan Andrews

SAMHSA Selects Professional Services Firms for IDIQ

Optimal's Health Policy Research Center (HPRC) conducts quantitative and qualitative research and policy analyses about key health policy issues from determining the potential effects of new initiatives and policies on key stakeholders to evaluating outcomes and impacts of existing programs. The HPRC looks forward to working with HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as part of a new IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery - Indefinite Quantity) contract in four different domains. [Click here](#) to read more.



New HUD Progress Report

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 602 Non-

Profit Disposition Program sells HUD-held single-family homes at discounts to local government and non profit organizations for rehabilitation and resale. It provides homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate- income households and revitalizes economically troubled urban spaces. In its report, Optimal and Abt Associates, Inc. recommended an evaluation methodology and strategy that could be implemented to measure the extent to which the 602 Program has achieved its objectives. [Click here](#) to read more.

Courtesy of PD&R / HUD USER

OPTIMAL NEWS

University of Maryland Incentive Awards Program

Optimal is committed to supporting the University of Maryland's (UMD) Maryland Incentive Program, www.umincentiveawards.umd.edu, by hiring its outstanding graduates from Baltimore City and Prince George's County Maryland High Schools. These students have overcome adverse circumstances and have demonstrated outstanding leadership and academic abilities. As a result, they are recipients of fully paid scholarships at UMD. As a supporter of the scholarship program, Optimal was recently invited by UMD President, Dr. C. D. Mote to participate in the Annual Awards Program Spring Reception.

Support the eCycling Effort - Go Green

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), increasing technological advances are spurring the trend to recycle obsolete electronics. Reportedly, there will be over 40 million units of electronic equipment recycled in 2007. Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) like Compaq, Dell, Gateway, HP and IBM are partnering with the EPA to offer both leasing and "take back" services of used equipment.

Visit these sites to find out how you can support the eCycling effort:

Recycles.org - www.recycles.org

The National Cristina Foundation - www.cristina.org

Dell - www.dell.com

Apple - www.apple.com/environment/recycling

HP - www.hp.com/recycle

Another way to recycle is to "buy green" or purchase products and services that are environmentally

friendly. Find out more about the Buy Green Program by visiting www.fedcenter.gov/programs/buygreen.

Diversity Enhances Optimal Research

The diversity of Optimal's staff is one of its greatest assets. For instance Optimal researchers have translated French, Spanish and Creole for various projects. To accurately measure important policy outcomes it is imperative that researchers appreciate

Optimal recently added the following staff members: Senior Research Associate David Lopez; Research Associate Amel Toukabri; Research Analysts Christopher Hill, Alexander Kyerematen, Brandon Newbury and Veronika Peleshchuk; Communications Assistants Deanna Bussard and Beatrice Raheem; Communications Specialist Tarnika Bell; and Financial Analyst Jacqueline Vaughn.

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