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HIGH RISK YOUTH INTERVENTION PROJECT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This proposal seeks funding in support of a high risk youth intervention project initiated by Safe Streets. The project initially targets youth in the african-american cause of a number of socio-economic factors, are at a higher risk than other ethnic groups of becoming victims of gang violence and abuse. Expansion of the project to other ethnic communities will be implemented as the project develops and funding becomes available.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROPOSAL

Purpose

The purpose of this project is twofold: (1) provide a framework for reducing the violence suffered by Pierce County high risk african-american youth; and, (2) establish an alternative mechanism for fostering an atmosphere

Statement of Need

of goals/objctives which give youth a sense of self worth, high expectation and investment in their families, schools and communities.

Goals/Objctives

Project Descriptions

Project Descriptions

The project seeks to provide experiential and developmental activities to attract youth in high risk conditions, (i.e. poverty, abuse, communities with a high incidence of criminal activity and limited educational opportunities). It initially targets youth in the Hilltop and will provide them opportunities

Recruitment Plan

through performance based workshops and outdoor enrichment activities to have fun while

Project Evaluation Plan

developing the skills needed to make better life choices.

Budget

Furthermore, based upon an informal survey among youth in the Hilltop community, the project is activities directed. The activities will address two identified survey needs: (1) provide fun but developmentally beneficial opportunities for black youth; and (2) establish a safety net which keep these youth off the streets and away from gangs. In this regard the project seeks to reduce violence in the target community within the Hilltop by 25% (percent) between August '93 and January '94.

SAFE STREETS HIGH RISK YOUTH INTERVENTION PROJECT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This proposal seeks funding in support of a high risk youth intervention project initiated by Safe Streets. The project initially targets youth in the african-american community, who, because of a number of socio-economic factors, are at a higher risk than other ethnic groups of becoming victims of gang violence and substance abuse. Expansion of the project to other ethnic communities will be implemented as the project develops and funding becomes available.

The purpose of this project is twofold: (1) provide a framework for reducing the violence perpetrated and suffered by Pierce County high risk african - american youth; and, (2) establish an alternative mechanism for fostering an atmosphere of caring and support which give youth a sense of self worth, high expectation and investment in their families, schools and communities.

The project seeks to provide experiential and developmental activities to attract youth living in high risk conditions, (i.e. poverty, abuse, communities with a high incidence of criminal activity and limited educational opportunities). It initially targets african-american youth in the Hilltop and will provide them opportunities through performance based workshops and outdoor enrichment activities to have fun while developing the skills needed to make better life choices.

Furthermore, based upon an informal survey among youth in the Hilltop community, the project is activities directed. The activities will address two identified survey needs: (1) provide fun but developmentally beneficial opportunities for black youth; and (2) establish a safety net which keep these youth off the streets and away from gangs. In this regard the project seeks to reduce violence in the target community within the Hilltop by 25% (percent) between August '93 and January '94.

The urgency of addressing this need is further supported by the following :

- the rise in the number of injuries and loss of life to combatants and innocent bystanders during recent drive-by shootings and gang turf wars.
- greater and more effective recruitment of young people across ethnic lines into gangs/ the gang lifestyles.
- increased reliance of youth on gang related drug activities for support.
- an increase in the number of minority and african-american youth who dropout of school and remain jobless because of illiteracy and poor job skills.

SAFE STREETS HIGH RISK YOUTH INTERVENTION PROJECT

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this project is twofold: (1) provide a framework for reducing the violence perpetrated and suffered by Pierce County high risk african-american youth; and, (2) establish an alternative mechanism for fostering an atmosphere of caring and support which give youth as sense of self worth, high expectation and investment in their families, schools and communities.

Statement of Need

The primary focus of youth violence and drug prevention programs, to date, have been on prevention strategies which emphasized education rather than direct intervention. The fear of dealing with high risk and gang involved youth is a possible explanation for this. However, with the current proliferation of gang and youth violence, much of it associated with the drug trade in Pierce County, the need to focus efforts towards more direct intervention is clear.

Because of a great many factors, primarily socio-economic ethnic lines, young African-american males in particular, and more recently african-american females, have visibly increased their identification and affiliations with gangs. Of primary concern are their activities, including the participation in violence and other crimes associated with the gang lifestyle. Gang related homicides are steadily on the rise, evidencing the need to rethink previously tried strategies in favor of more direct intervention.

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- increased reliance of youth on gang related drug activities for support.
- an increase in the number of minority and african-american youth who dropout of school and remain jobless because of illiteracy and poor job skills.

The targeting of high risk african american youth in the Hilltop as an initial emphasis is merited by the fact that crime, despite beefed up law enforcement efforts and community mobilization, remains a problem. Drive by shootings and illegal drug activity in this community remain significantly higher than in other locations. This is also true with regard to the consequences. Typical victims of such criminal activity are frequently innocent bystanders, almost always young and of african-american heritage.

Moreover, on a per capita basis, the Hilltop has a significantly high unemployment rate, arguably one of the highest in the county. Combined with the increased rate in teenage pregnancies and the previously mentioned problems, this becomes a key concern as it feeds into the problem and the continuing cycle of poverty which feeds crime.

The need for this approach is also supportive by technology and economic considerations. Violence and crime are expensive, not only because of fiscal decisions and personal loss they force upon us, but also because of the impact they have on our very competitiveness as a nation.

In the era of shrinking tax revenues, rising health costs, emerging technologies and the global market place, we can ill afford the continued and rising expense or loss of profit potential incurred when a significant part of our future population is allowed to be and remain nonproductive and problematic..

A great many criminals, many of whom are juveniles, school drops, and the perpetually unemployed, lack the skills, knowledge and or motivation to compete in this new and highly demanding, technical and global economy. Consequently, the likelihood of them finding employment, without some form of intervention is slim.

This project, in collaboration with the community, provides an opportunity to positively impact this problem. To do so, it takes into account the realization that: (1) there is no single solution; and (2) that no single entity can do it alone. Using public and grass roots resources within the community concerned, it seeks to stimulate that long needed dynamic and atmosphere of caring and support for youth. workshops, which are separate and distinct entities, are in: theatre/acting; comedy; music and personal enrichment. All four workshop will run simultaneously beginning in August '93. The workshops are the initial seeds to developing youth resiliency characteristics, and greater community participation and involvement in the lives of youth. Each workshop head will be selected based upon a demonstrated desire and proven ability to mentor and work with high risk youth.

Goals/Objectives

Timeline: Each workshop will be held for a period of six weeks. Some overlap is with the resumption the fall public school schedule is anticipated.

The following goals and objectives of the project were established based upon the needs identified in the Hilltop, and the Resiliency Model described by the Western Regional Center for Drug-free Schools and Communities.

as performers and mentors to schools and youth in the target community.

Through this will attract of the substance which will transform the project into a program beyond its January '94 lifespan. Upon completion, each participant will receive a certificate.

- Reduce gang violence in the Hilltop by 25 percent (%) over the life of the project
- Provide youth a creative outlet for channeling their boredom, frustration and anger

Awards/prizes: Friendly competition within each workshop will be encouraged and prizes awarded.

- Help equip youth with self-esteem, self discipline, social competence problem solving and self-learning skills that will aid them in school and other aspects of their lives

Family support: Family reconciliation and support mechanism will be included and exercised at the discretion of the project directors/mentors.

- Foster the development of youth resiliency factors which protect them through the economic, social and personal challenges they will encounter throughout their lives

When they take youth, them and the encounter throughout their lives connect while creating deeper appreciation and greater family /parental involvement in the project.

- Establish a caring and support structure which help youth develop high expectations, autonomy and a sense of purpose and the future through mentors and community volunteers

Recruitment: variety of organizations, community block organizations, youth groups, youth in the Safe Streets

- Train and develop youth for peer mediation and peer mentorship roles

B.L.I.N.D. Project churches, the Tacoma Urban League, Metropolitan Parks, community centers, business groups.

To accomplish this, the project incorporates a series of strategies in the form of workshops. An overview and description of these workshop follow.

its community organizers and the individual workshop directors, will engage in direct recruitment and verbal appeal during visits to these groups.

Project Description

Evaluation Plan. To ensure ongoing project implementation and success, Safe

Overview: This project highlights the first phase of Safe Streets' front line high risk youth intervention strategy. It incorporates a youth developmental component in the form of three performances and one personal enrichment workshop. The four workshops, which are separate and distinct entities, are in: theatre/acting; comedy; music and personal enrichment. All four workshop will run simultaneously beginning in August '93. The workshops are the initial seeds to developing youth resiliency characteristics, and greater community participation and involvement in the lives of youth. Each workshop head will be selected based upon a demonstrated desire and proven ability to mentor and work with high risk youth.

Timeline: Each workshop will begin in August '93 for a period of six weeks. Some overlap is with the resumption the fall public school schedule is anticipated. To deconflict workshops will be held after normal school hours when required. Youth who complete the workshops will be given the opportunity to enter the second phase of the project in which they will take their acquired skills on the road as performers and mentors to schools and youth in the target community. Through this process it is hoped that these youth will become the magnet which will attract other youth, and the substance which will transform the project into a program beyond its January '94 lifespan. Upon completion, each participant will receive a certificate from Safe Streets.

Awards/prizes: Friendly competition within each workshop will be encouraged and prizes awarded to youth achieving the highest score in selected categories.

Family support and reconciliation: A family reconciliation and support mechanism will be included and exercised at the discretion of the project directors/mentors. When warranted they will, using funds set aside in the budget for this purpose, take youth, youth participants and their families out for pizza or dinner to give them and their families the opportunity to reconnect while creating deeper appreciation and greater family /parental involvement in the project.

Recruitment Strategy. Youth for the these activities will be recruited through a variety of organizations and individuals: volunteers, community activists, community block organizations, youth groups, youth in the Safe Streets B.L.I.N.D. Program, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Hilltop Action Coalition, the YMCA, churches, the Tacoma Urban League, Metropolitan Parks, community centers, businesses and schools. Safe Streets will print flyers highlighting the project and distributed to these groups for dissemination. In addition, Safe Streets, through its community organizers and the individual workshop directors, will engage in direct recruitment and verbal appeal during visits to these groups .

Evaluation Plan. To ensure ongoing project implementation and success, Safe Streets will meet weekly with each contractor to determine the status of the project and or required assistance /corrective action. Anecdotal information will be collected. A comparative analysis of of the incidence of crimes committed by youth before and over the life of the project will be conducted. This analysis will also identify external factors that may have impacted the success of the project.

SAFE STREETS HIGH RISK YOUTH INTERVENTION PROJECT
BUDGET

	WORKSHOP 1	WORKSHOP 2	WORKSHOP 3	WORKSHOP 4
Salaries:	\$10,900.00	\$10,240.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,520.00
Mentors/Directors	(4,000.00)	(4,000.00)	0	(3,000.00)
Assistant Directors	(2,400.00)	0	0	0
Teachers	(4,500.00)	0	0	(525.00)
Youth Assistants	0	(6,240.00)	0	0
Administration:	400.00	1,000.00	200.00	1,000.00
Office/ Facility Rental	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00
Equipment	750.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Other	2,475.00	2,475.00	1,975.00	3,700.00
Food	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)
Prizes	(275.00)	(275.00)	(275.00)	0
Transportation	0	0	0	(2,000.00)
Miscellaneous	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)
Contingency Fund	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(500.00)	(500.00)
Total	15,525.00	15,715.00	6,175.00	10,220.00

Overall Total \$47,635.00

Safe Streets Youth Intervention Project (Budget) Pg2

Legend:

Workshops: 1 = Acting/Theatre, 2 = Comedy, 3 = Music, and 4 = Youth Enrichment

Notes:

1. Budget reflect individual costs of workshops, which will be run independently by each of the directors.
2. Contingency Funds were included as a stop gap for unforeseen expenses/problems only. Unused portions will rollover to post summer intervention activities in both schools and communities.