

Title:

YOUTH UNLIMITED DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT SERVICES

Areas addressed:

1. Continue to grow Austin's Economy by Investing in our Workforce, Education Systems, Entrepreneurs and local Businesses
2. Grow and invest in Austin's Creative Economy

Dollar amount:

1. \$280,660

Priority area:

1. Yes

Targeted area:

1. Low-income, at risk youth

History of the Organization:

Since the 2006-2007 academic school years, the YU program has been providing group motivational mentoring services in schools, during the school day, mostly to African-American and Latino males (and now females). The program has been implemented in five Central Texas independent school districts. In Austin ISD, this program has been implemented in: LBJ High School, Garcia and Covington Middle Schools and is presently in the Alternative Learning Center and Eastside Memorial High school. It has also been implemented in Manor, Hearne, Del Valle and Gonzales ISD's.

To date, YU has benefited over 700 students, making a difference in their lives by teaching them the value of education and character. This program has made significant impacts in the reduction in the number of referrals for inappropriate behavior, increased TAKS/STAAR and class test scores, as well as in the attitudes and behaviors of the participants. (see attached letters)

Youth Unlimited received their Federal IRS, 501(c)3 status, December 2014. Letter attached.

Project Summary:

To empower and provide At-Risk Students via a Group Motivational Mentoring program the necessary tools to build esteem and confidence, develop positive peer relationships, and incorporate team concepts in every aspect of their lives, to include but not limited to; improved grades, decreased behavioral issues, and increased positive force in society. This will be done by increasing their exposure to a diverse group of professions and professionals, businesses and opportunities and divergent learning opportunities.

Specific Problems Addressed:

Educational Gaps, Housing shortage, Business ownership, Healthy Child initiatives

Who else is working in this space:

As group motivation mentoring is a unique concept, and our multi- pronged approach to problem solving is also unique (as most all of programs focus on one problem at a time), no one else is working in a total comprehensive method, so no one else in working in this space. This is a Marshall plan to address the many needs of our children, and in turn our community, at the same time.

Feasibility:

1. Alignment

This program addresses Economic Development, especially for minority Youth, as it fosters a sense of entrepreneurship and business ownership. In turn it addresses Public Safety, as the youth that become Business Owners are less likely to stay At-Risk for negative outcomes. Additionally, Our Healthy Child Initiatives will contribute to a reduction in obesity rates, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

2. Demand

(Please see the attached Community Achievement Network attachments)

3. Implementation

As the Youth Unlimited program is in several schools presently, this program will be an extension and expansion of services already offered, but not formalized

4. Practicality

This program has the capacity to address more than 400 students annually. As there is a give back, profit making center under the non-profit umbrella, continued operation will require little in the way of continued funding. The continued success of this program will draw from grants and funds raised privately for continuation. With one year's full funding, we expect no further need for funding through the city. We teach our young people how to "Pull themselves up by their bootstraps", we are requesting the leather to make that happen.

5. Integration

This is a standalone process, that will work with several community partners, e.g. Black and Hispanic contractors, UT black graduates' association, the UT Blazers and the Delta Sorority and others

6. Evaluation

A multi-layered survey and evaluation matrix has been developed for this program by Dr. Herman Matthews, Center for Exploratory Studies. Surveys will be given to students participating in the program during the first meeting to establish baselines and to record attitudinal biases. These same evaluations will be given again at the end of the school year to document changes. As the Youth Unlimited Program is beneficial to both the individual and the overall learning environment the outcome/results annotated will reflect both changes to the individual, to the group and to the larger school environment, including non-participants. Additionally, teachers will be surveyed upon program completion. Reports will be compiled and provided beginning two months into the program and on a regular basis throughout the program. The assessments will demonstrate how many of the students have increased their academic scores, decreased the number of discipline infractions, and increased their overall attendance.

Youth Unlimited will also work with the appropriate school staff to document all relevant school data (grades, STARR (standardized) scores, disciplinary actions, etc.) and changes in that data for

the students in the YU program. Our students will show marked improvements in all areas by the end of the first school semester.

Our entrepreneur programs will produce our first snow cone business and tiny home by the end of the school year, ready for summer business. Our digital design, drawing and animation program will create an interest in these forms of employment, and we will put as many as 15 students, per school, into internships by the beginning of summer.

7. Sustainability

YU will continue to apply for grants from private foundations, government grants with the Department of Justice and the Department of Juvenile Justice Criminal Justice Divisions, and mentoring grants with the U.S. Department of Education, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CASAP) Drug Free Communities Support Mentoring program, and the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities National Program. YU will also be sustained by building collaborations and partnerships with other agencies in the community that have aligned missions so that we can serve more youth. Additionally, this program will sustain itself through the profit centers created under its umbrella. Success breeds success, and our success will allow us to expand these type of program into other schools.