



2013 SOCIAL SERVICE FUNDING APPLICATION – SPECIAL ALCOHOL

SECTION 1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Legal Name of Agency: Van Go, Inc.

Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: JAMS: Jobs in the Arts Make Sense

Primary Contact Information (must be available by phone 5/16 and 5/23 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.)

Contact Name and Title: Lynne Green, Exec. Director

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SECTION 2. REQUEST INFORMATION

The criteria for each application questions are explained below.

A. Amount of funds requested from the City for calendar year 2013.

Program should fit within one of the established categories.

Prevention	\$ 44,000	Intervention	\$	Other	\$
Treatment	\$	Coordination	\$		

B. Provide a brief description of the program. Summary of program should be clear and concise. Is Program related to one or more of the City Commission Goals? Is program based on proven effective strategies or “promising approaches?” Description should address how program is designed to have long-term effects on a person’s decisions about alcohol and other drug use. When appropriate, program design takes into account the person’s family and/or community.

C. Provide a brief description of how the need for this program was determined.

The need for the program should be clearly established and outlined. When appropriate, the context of other services available, or the lack thereof, should be provided. Statistical data that supports community need should be provided.

D. Describe the desired outcomes of this program (see Logic Model). At least one Process, one Behavioral and one Impact Outcome must be included and clearly outlined on Logic Model. Outcomes must be measured by an identified evaluation tool. Does agency show adequate progress towards achieving their targeted outcomes if previously funded.

E. Describe any coordination efforts your agency has made. Program strategy should involve a coordinated approach. Description should address how this particular program or service fits with other existing efforts to reduce fragmentation and duplication.

F. Describe how your agency is capable of implementing the proposed program. Based on agency history, management structure, and staffing pattern, does organization have capacity to implement the proposed program and achieve the desired outcomes?

G. Provide a detailed budget for the proposed program using the categories provided. The budget request for the program described should be reasonable and spelled out according to the categories below. Does the organization use funding creatively to get the most for the money, i.e. use of students, volunteers, in kind donations, leveraging of this funding to get other funding, etc.? Are long-term plans for program funding discussed – will this be an annual request for alcohol tax, is it expected to increase, decrease, etc.? Are other sources of funds used for the program? If so, are they described.

Section 2

2B. Van Go, Inc. provides workforce development using the arts in year-round, innovative youth employment opportunities for at-risk youth ages 14 – 21. Programming is not designed to create artists, but instead uses art as the vehicle to help youth gain job skills, life skills and economic resources needed for their success.

Teens are referred to Van Go by community partners who identify youth based on risk factors, including poverty, court involvement, foster care, and mental health issues. Youth at risk for truancy, teen pregnancy or drug/alcohol use are also referred. Van Go interviews and hires youth to create works of art that are purchased or commissioned by the public; this income supports program sustainability. Many art pieces, such as murals and benches, are displayed publicly to foster self-esteem by providing successful experiences and affirming recognition to youth.

In addition to teaching important job skills such as task completion, punctuality, responsibility, and teamwork Van Go uses *Pathways to Self-Discovery and Change: Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse Treatment for Adolescents* to address risk factors associated with substance abuse. This curriculum was specifically designed to have long-term effects on at-risk youths' decisions about alcohol and drug use. *Pathways* is the evidence-based program used by the Kansas State Juvenile Justice Authority and is a cognitive-behavioral curriculum that includes illustrated, narrative stories of youth who struggle with multiple elements of risk (e.g., family, school, mental health, crime, substance abuse, negative peer associates). It uses modeling, role-play and practice of cognitive-behavioral skills to improve communication, deal with cravings and urges, and develop a sense of empathy. Additionally, personal responsibility to others, overcoming prejudice and negative thinking, managing feelings, and developing a sense of personal identity are covered.

The promising approach used at Van Go is the Communities That Care model. Van Go incorporates three steps described by CTC as being essential to program success:

- 1) Provide opportunities for involvement:** Participating youth are involved in the planning and creation of original artwork as they work with professional teaching artists to create public works of art.
- 2) Enhance the development of cognitive and social skills:** All participants learn, practice, and are evaluated on effective and respectful communication with their peers and staff (i.e., not interrupting others, expressing frustrations appropriately). They also receive tutoring and individual help to make sure academic goals are being met (being on track to graduate with their class)
- 3) Recognize participants for skillful performance:** All Van Go projects culminate with a public show of the work the participants have created.

2C. Local research has shown that substance abuse, for which Van Go youth are at heightened risk, is higher among Lawrence youth than among youth statewide. Kansas Communities That Care 2011 data indicated disturbing information among 10th graders:

*When asked, "If you wanted to get marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?" 42% of Lawrence youth responded, "Very Easy" (state average: 32%)

*18% reported using marijuana at least once in the past 30 days (state average: 13.7%)

*15.2% reported being drunk or high at school in the last year (state average: 12.8%)

*23% reported, "My family does not have clear rules about alcohol and drug use." (state average: 20%)

Additional reporting from a recent Social Work Survey indicates Van Go teens' need for programming:

22% reported an immediate family member that is an alcoholic

22% reported an immediate family member that uses illegal drugs

33% reported occasionally using alcohol

The services provided by Van Go are unique and are not provided by any other agency in Douglas County. Van Go is the only arts-based social service agency in Kansas and is the largest employer of at-risk youth in Lawrence. Many of our participants are alienated from their school environment or families and have no outlets for positive self-expression; these are youth for whom anonymity, failure and low expectations are routine. For over a decade, Van Go has specialized in transforming the lives of youth and giving them hope for the future.

2D. Process Outcome: 90 at-risk youth, ages 14-18, will receive leadership development, skill-building, and employment training in 2013.

Behavioral Outcome: In 2013, 92% of the participants will show an improvement in their pre/post Workplace Evaluation scores.

Impact Outcome: By 2013, 90% of youth exiting programming at Van Go will be prepared to make a successful transition to the workforce.

Outcome Evaluation: The evaluation tool used by Van Go to measure program impact is the Workplace Evaluation. This tool is used at the beginning and end of each work session.

Van Go has shown progress towards achieving our previously targeted outcomes. All 2012 goals are on track to be met.

2E. Van Go works with community agencies to ensure coordination of prevention services and to avoid duplication. To minimize fragmentation, local partnerships have been formed and include collaboration with these agencies:

1. Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center - WRAP social workers refer students to Van Go. Van Go also works with youth in the Therapeutic classroom. *(53% of youth working at Van Go have a mental health diagnosis)*
2. Douglas County Youth Services – DCYS staff and juvenile court personnel refer youth to the JAMS program. *(20% of youth working at Van Go are court-involved)*
3. The Lawrence/Douglas County Housing Authority – Because many of our low-income youth live in public housing, the Housing Authority sponsors Summer JAMS apprentice-artists’ salaries for their residents.
4. USD #497 - School counselors and social workers refer and recruit students, and relay grades, attendance and discipline problems so a coordinated effort can be made on behalf of each child. JAMS participants can earn high school credit for their participation in an 8-week session.

2F. Van Go has a Board of Directors of highly respected community leaders who help with program development, evaluation, and fundraising. Staff members include a full-time Executive Director, an Assistant Executive Director for Programming, a full-time MSW, a contracted CPA, part-time development/marketing director and grant writer. Art staff includes a full time Art Coordinator/Instructor and one part-time woodshop instructor. Van Go is a previous recipient of Alcohol Tax Funds and has demonstrated its ability to effectively manage funds and meet objectives.

2G. Van Go requests \$44,000 from the alcohol tax fund, which is the same amount we currently receive. The organization has proven its capacity to effectively use alcohol tax funds in the past. Long-term plans for funding include our “Van Go Works” marketing campaign, designed to increase local contributions by 15%. Van Go anticipates making an annual request for Alcohol Tax funds, as the unique and effective prevention services we provide to at-risk teens are critically important to our community. Other funds for this program come from annual fundraisers, United Way of Douglas County, foundation support, product sales/commissions, business support, and individual contributions. Additionally, Van Go is the largest recipient in Kansas of the Department of Labor’s Workforce Investment Act, which brings \$165,000 to Lawrence every year in the form of wages for staff and youth.

Van Go leverages this funding by using it as a portion of matching funds that are part of grant applications, specifically the Topeka Community Foundation, which funds the Go Healthy! program. Additional creative support also includes:

Social Work Interns: 2 students in KU’s graduate social work program are assigned each year to Van Go. They work alongside our staff social worker, gaining valuable experience and providing essential support for the staff and youth.

AmeriCorps Volunteers: Van Go utilizes 1 AmeriCorps volunteer to provide direct assistance to our youth, which includes tutoring, program support, and Go Healthy! lessons. We have requested a second volunteer in 2013, whose responsibility will include one-on-one health case management.

VISTA Volunteer: 1 Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) volunteer has been placed at Van Go to provide capacity building and organizational support.

Community Volunteers: Van Go has always utilized a core team of volunteers that allow us to keep our kid to adult ratio low. In 2012 we estimate nearly 200 program volunteers will donate approximately 4,000 hours.

Personnel: \$37,000

Executive Director (\$22,000): A portion of the salary full-time executive director, Lynne Green, who oversees operations. (Existing)

Social Worker (\$15,000): A portion of the salary of our social worker, who administers evaluations, administers the Pathways prevention curriculum, and supervises two K.U. social work interns. (Existing)

Fringe Benefits \$7,000

FICA, Health Insurance (\$7,000): for existing personnel listed above.

Travel: 0

Office Space: 0

Supplies, Office & Other: 0

Equipment: 0

Van Go has not yet completed its 2013 budget, but the Board treasurer and CPA anticipate it will be similar to 2012. Please see our attached budget for specific information.

SECTION 3. LOGIC MODEL

Please complete the Logic Model below.

ASSESSMENT DATA	GOALS/ OBJECTIVES	TARGET GROUP	STRATEGIES	PROCESS OUTCOMES	BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES	IMPACT OUTCOMES
<p>The assessment is your baseline data (the behavior with current risk and protective factor data).</p> <p>Behavior: Use of marijuana and alcohol is higher among Lawrence 10th graders than the state average.</p> <p>Risk Factors 1) Availability of Drugs 2) Favorable Attitude To Drugs 3) Perceived Risk of Drug Use</p> <p>Protective Factor 1) Community Rewards for Conventional Involvement</p>	<p>The Goals and Objectives are statements of what you're wanting to accomplish.</p> <p>Van Go's goal is to improve the lives of at-risk youth, using art as the vehicle for self-expression, self-esteem, and hope for the future.</p> <p>The objective is that youth receiving services at Van Go will build skills needed to avoid drug and alcohol use.</p>	<p>Your target group is who you're working with.</p> <p>At-risk Lawrence teens ages 14-18</p>	<p>Strategies are the program, policy, procedure, etc. you will implement to address your goals.</p> <p>Van Go targets high-risk youth for job training and social services, using the arts. Youth will be employed and provided with opportunities for leadership development, skill-building and life skills lessons. Youth will engage in teamwork to solve problems and complete art projects. This work connects alienated youth to their community, through the display of public arts project.</p>	<p>Process outcomes measure what intervention was conducted with what group of people (I.e., how much money was spent, number of people served, client satisfaction)</p> <p>Example: Fourteen lessons were taught to fourth graders during January 2006.</p> <p>90 at-risk youth and young adults, ages 14-18, will receive leadership development, skill-building training, and employment training in 2013.</p>	<p>Behavioral outcomes measure the impacts, benefits or change in behavior during and after participation in the system/intervention.</p> <p>Example: The grade point average of all matched students raised by .5% during first semester of 2006.</p> <p>90% of participants will show an improvement in their 2 and 8 week Workplace Evaluation scores.</p>	<p>The impact outcome will be your "pie in the sky" statement of how things will be down the road for your target population if all your outcomes are met and everything goes perfectly.</p> <p>100% of youth exiting programming at Van Go will make a successful transition into the workplace, prepared for independent living.</p>