

City of Lawrence Outside Agency Bi-annual Report 2016

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org. Reports on activities from January 2016 to June 2016 are due on July 15th 2016. Cumulative reports on activities from January 2016 through December 2016 are due on February 15th 2017.

Agency Name:

Reporting Period (please check one):

☐ January - June
(deadline July 15)

☒ January – December
(deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

The funds that we receive from the City are administered through our Juvenile Intake Program, which provides services to children as they are identified by law enforcement. Services designed to prevent system involvement are also connected to that program. Our City funds provide primary prevention for families meeting certain criteria for financial need. Since 1997, we have used City funds to pay for "Family Services" such as tutoring, drug/alcohol evaluations, monitoring, and treatment, as well as various other specific needs to help children remain out of the system, in school, and productive. We receive referrals for these funds from not only our Juvenile Intake and prevention staff, but also other agencies in the community, such as the Housing Authority, Bert Nash, DCF, infant/toddler programs, the schools, and the court. As we have been reporting for the last few years, the requests we have funded since 2008 have been shifting toward requests to pay for emergency needs to maintain basic housing and utilities for families. Lack of adequate housing is certainly a risk factor for system involvement, and therefore meets the criteria for these funds. Along with requests for housing and utilities, we have continued to serve at risk children by providing drug and alcohol monitoring for specifically identified children who are participating in our prevention/diversion programs. Use of drugs and alcohol contributes greatly to system involvement for the children we serve.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

In the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, we received 201 total requests for these funds. We approved a total of 175 of those requests. The requests we approved were submitted on behalf of 158 families, 17 of those families having been approved for more than one request. That can happen in a situation when a child in the family needs drug and alcohol monitoring and the family also needs help with a utility bill, for example. Of the 175 that were approved, 38 were for UA's for drug and alcohol monitoring, 12 were for other services, 124 were for utilities and housing, and 1 was for purchase of hard goods, specifically the purchase of textbooks so that a child could enroll in an online educational program.

Goal 1: We will serve 215 families in 2016 While we did not serve as many families as we anticipated, as indicated above, all of the City funds we received to help children and families in 2016 were expended for that purpose. The number of families we served was lower than our goal for a number of reasons, the first being that we approved more than one request for 17 families, as indicated above. Second, this year we did not pay for UA's for as many children due to a significant rate change by our provider. In the first half of 2016, then, we paid for 32 UA's, and in the second half of 2016, we paid for just 6 UA's. Moving forward, for clients who have medical insurance, we anticipate being able to submit bills for UA's to their

insurance companies rather than paying for UA's out of these funds. Third, in the months of July and December, we raised our limit per family to \$300 instead of \$200, as we discussed in our report for January through June, 2016. We just did this in two months, and we do not intend to use the higher limit on a regular basis. (See Question #4 re: barriers, below.)

Goal 2: We will provide budgeting help to 95% of families served in 2016. As has been the case in the past, we are excluding from this outcome the families who have received only UA services for their children. We continue to provide UA services for children we believe need them, without assessing the family's financial situation. In doing so, we have avoided potential resistance from families and made sure those children who need UA's get them. Excluding the 38 families who received UA services only, we served 120 families in 2016, all of whom received budgeting services.

Goal 3: At least 90% of families who have received Family Services funds will not have a child go through Juvenile Intake within 6 months after their case is closed. In order to monitor this goal, we first looked at families we served with Family Services funds from July through December, 2015. We served 96 families in that time period. Out of 96 families served, 1 family had a child come through Juvenile Intake within six months after their case was closed, leaving 95 families whose children had no Juvenile Intake contact in the subsequent six month period ($95/96=98.96\%$). We then looked at families we served with Family Services funds from January, 2016, through June, 2016. We served 78 families in that time period. None of those families had a child come through Juvenile Intake within six months after their case was closed ($78/78=100\%$). We met this goal for 2016.

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

As in the past, we believe that we have created social capital by reducing the risk of involvement with the court system for the children and families we have served with these funds.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

As we mentioned in both this report and our last report, we served less families in 2016 than we had anticipated when we set our goals, and we always want to make sure that we are getting these funds to the families who need them. To that end, we made two adjustments after June of this year, the first being to increase our efforts to spread the word about the availability of these funds to any organization, school, etc., that might know families who need this kind of help. The second was to raise the limit per family for these funds to \$300 for some months, as we had not made an adjustment in that limit for some time, and we were having to turn down a number of families because their need was above \$200, but below \$300. We made that change after talking with Casey Toomay, and we only made the change in July and December, as indicated above.

Apparently both adjustments helped to address the problem, as we received 113 requests from July through December, after receiving only 88 requests from January through June. From July through December, we approved 76 requests for assistance with utilities and housing, compared to 48 that were approved for that purpose from January through June. However, from July through December, we approved only 12 requests for services, compared to 38 from January through June. This occurred because of the reduction in the numbers of UA's that we paid for in the second half of the year, as indicated above. Although the number of families served appears to be about the same for the period from January through June (78) as for the period from July through December (80), all of the city funds for 2016 were expended to meet the needs of families who met our criteria and needed our help. Going forward, we anticipate that some families will not have insurance to cover UA's, and we will still need to use these funds for those families, but the change in our payment for UA's will continue to affect the numbers of families served. We will, then, look at changing our goal for the number of families we expect to serve in future requests for these funds, knowing that paying for less UA services for children will allow us to meet more needs for rent, utilities, and other services for the families we serve.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

In 2016, we spent \$9,891.33 from January through the end of June, and we spent \$19,250.70 from July through the end of December, totaling \$29,142.03 for the year. In 2016, we received \$29,150 from the City for this purpose.