



2016 Social Service Funding Application – Non-Alcohol Funds

Applications for 2016 funding must be complete and submitted electronically to the City Manager's Office at ctoomay@lawrenceks.org by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 15, 2015. Applications received after the deadline or not following the attached format **will not** be reviewed by the Social Service Funding Advisory Board.

General Information: Each year, the City Commission considers requests for the allocation of dollars to a number of agencies that provide services benefiting the Lawrence community. These funds are to be used to support activities that align with the Community Health Plan which was developed with input from many people throughout the community. The five areas for the plan are listed below:

- Access to healthy foods
- Access to health services
- Mental health
- Physical activity
- Poverty and jobs

More information on the Community Health Plan can be found at <http://ldchealth.org/information/about-the-community/community-health-improvement-plan/>.

Applications will be reviewed by the Social Service Funding Advisory Board at meetings held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on May 27. **Applicants are asked to make a contact person available by phone at that time in case questions arise.**

Following their review, the Advisory Board will forward recommendations for funding to the City Commission. Recommendations will be based upon the following criteria:

- availability of city funds
- the stated objectives of the applicant's program
- alignment of the program with the Community Health Plan
- the efforts to collaborate and create a seamless system of support for residents
- outcomes that move program participants from total dependency toward measurable levels of independence
- ability to measure progress toward the program objectives and the Community Health Plan
- past performance by the agency in adhering to funding guidelines (as appropriate)

The final decision regarding funding will be made by the City Commission when they adopt the Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget in August.

Please note that funds will be disbursed according to the following schedule unless otherwise agreed to in writing:

- First half of funds will not be disbursed before April 1
- Second half of funds will not be disbursed before October 1

Questions? Contact Casey Toomay, Assistant City Manager at ctoomay@lawrenceks.org or at 785-832-3409.



City of Lawrence

2016 Social Service Funding Application – Non-Alcohol Funds

SECTION 1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Legal Name of Agency: Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Douglas County
Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: Community Based & Bigs in School Mentoring
Primary Contact Information (must be available by phone 5/27/15 from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)
Contact Name and Title: Mia Gonzalez, Development Associate
Address: 2518 Ridge Court
Telephone: 785-843-7359 Fax: 785-331-2893
Email: mgonzalez@kansasbigs.org

SECTION 2. REQUEST INFORMATION

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2016: **\$45,000**
B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities?) If so, please describe: **NO**.
C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds? If so, how: **NO**.
D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2015? If so, list the amount and source for funding (i.e. General Fund, Alcohol Fund, etc.): **YES, we received \$19,300.**

1. How would any reduction in city funding in 2016 impact your agency?

With the support of city funding, we are able to employ a Match Support Specialist to supervise and maintain a caseload of 80-100 matches. Without this funding, Big Brothers Big Sisters would have to seek additional sources of revenue to ensure that our Match Support Specialist could stay in his/her position and maintain the important work of intake, supervision and relationship management or redistribute that caseload to our other staff, who are already supporting a full time caseload of his/her own.

2. If you are requesting an increase in funding over 2015, please explain why and exactly how the additional funds will be used:

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is experiencing continued success in recruiting new volunteers to be matched with a child in our program, with 37 matches being made so far in 2015. We, however, have a waitlist of 100+ children at any given time who are waiting to be matched with a volunteer mentor. According to recent census estimates, the Lawrence community has approximately 11,000 children in the 5-18 years age group, with approximately 20% or 2,100 children of this population considered to be in at-risk environment. BBBS has a long-term goal of serving at least 20% of the at-risk population, in which volunteer recruitment is a crucial necessity in achieving this goal. With additional funding from the City through this grant, BBBS we are able to employ a Development and Recruitment Associate who works on securing donations, grants and who would be able to solely focus on recruiting volunteers, especially in new places including local corporations, our faith-based communities, and the many other pockets of the City where we haven't exposed our mission and volunteers needs.

SECTION 3. PROGRAM BUDGET INFORMATION

- A. Provide a detailed budget for the proposed program using the following categories: personnel (list each staff position individually and note if new or existing), fringe benefits, travel, office space, supplies, equipment, other.

Match Support Specialist (existing position) 26,000

***The balance of the salary and expenses required for this position will be supported by budgeted private and corporate donations.**

Other benefits include:

Fringe benefits: \$6,240 (payroll taxes & health insurance)

Travel, Office, Supplies and Equipment: \$1820

Development and Recruitment Associate \$38,000

***the balance of this salary and expenses required for this position will be supported by budgeted private and corporation donations.**

Fringe Benefits: 9,120

Travel, Office, Supplies and Equipment: 2,660

TOTAL REQUESTED: 45,000

- B. What percent of 2016 program costs are being requested from the City? **18%**
C. Provide a list of all anticipated sources of funding and funding amount for this program in 2016:

Individual Donors, Corporate Donors, Fundraising Events, Local, State and Federal Grants, United Way Funding.

SECTION 4. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM / NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY PROGRAM

- A. Provide a brief statement of the problem or need your agency proposes to address with the requested funding and/or the impact of not funding this program. The statement should include characteristics of the client population that will be served by this program. If possible, include statistical data to document this need.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County's mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Over the years, the definition of a child at-risk or facing adversity expanded from living in a single-parent home to currently include, those living at or below poverty level, living with abusive situations, non-violent juvenile offenders and their at-risk siblings, as well as children who have a family member residing in prison.

Our program, through the tedious work of trained Match Support Specialists (also referred to as Case Managers), matches a carefully screened, qualified and caring adult volunteer (Big) with an at-risk child (Little). Volunteer mentors in the Community-based program provide Littles with non-judgmental adult friendship, time and attention on a weekly basis, through one-on-one outings tailored to the match's combined interests. Through this relationship, Bigs help their Littles discover a world of possibilities and opportunities they may not be able to experience outside of their time together. With this support, Littles learn core values and behaviors, which in turn help them to avoid negative life choices. Throughout the life of a match, a Big Brothers Big Sisters Match Support Specialist supports and supervises the Bigs, Littles and the Little's Parent/Guardian with monthly follow-up phone calls, formal evaluations and occasionally scheduled match activity opportunities.

Public/Private Ventures, an independent Philadelphia-based national research organization, looked at over 950 boys and girls from eight Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies across the country selected for their large size and geographic diversity. This study, conducted in 1994 and 1995, is widely considered to be foundational to the mentoring field in general and to Big Brothers Big Sisters Community-Based program in particular. Approximately half of the children were randomly chosen to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister. The others were assigned to a waiting list. The matched children met with their Big Brothers or Big Sisters about three times a month for an average of one year. Researchers surveyed both the matched and unmatched children and their parents on two occasions: when they first applied for a Big Brother or Big Sister, and again 18 months later.

Researchers found that after 18 months of spending time with their Bigs, the Little Brothers and Little Sisters, compared to those children not in our program, were:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 37% less likely to skip a class
- 33% less likely to hit someone

They also found that the Littles were more confident of their performance in schoolwork and getting along better with their families. "We have known all along that Big Brothers Big Sisters' mentoring has a long-lasting, positive effect on children's confidence, grades, and social skills," affirms Karen J. Mathis, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America's President and CEO, "and the results of this impact study scientifically confirm that belief."

"These dramatic findings are very good news, particularly at a time when many people contend that 'nothing works' in reaching teenagers," said Gary Walker, then-President of Public/Private Ventures. "This program suggests a strategy the country can build on to make a difference, especially for youth in single-parent families."

According to the study, our one-to-one matches are the driving force behind making an impact on children. A Big Brothers Big Sisters' match is carefully administered and held to the strictest standards. Agency staff strives for matches that are not only safe and well suited to each child's needs, but also harmonious and built to last.

B. How was the need for this program determined?

According to the study mentioned above, Big Brothers Big Sisters programs were found to "focus less on specific problems after they occur, and more on meeting youths' most basic developmental needs." The matches that were observed shared everyday activities: eating out, playing sports or attending sports events, going to movies, sightseeing, and just hanging out together. But what mattered to the children were not the activities. It was the fact that they had a caring adult in their lives. Because they had someone to confide in and to look up to, they were, in turn, doing better in school and at home. And at a time in their lives when even small choices can change the course of their future, the Littles were also avoiding violence and substance abuse.

"When Little Brothers and Little Sisters feel good about themselves," said Karen J. Mathis, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America's President and CEO, "they can positively impact their friends and families, their schools, and their communities. And as this important study has shown, these young people believe in themselves because a Big Brother or Big Sister believed in them."

C. Why should this problem/need be addressed by the City?

The children in our program today are going to be the future workers, neighbors, community members and leaders of our community. With the support of the City, Big Brothers Big Sisters can continue to match these children with adult role-models, who can provide insight on life choices, including attending school consistently, creating strong relationships with others, and being an active part of his/her community. Ultimately, through the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters, the cycles of poverty, substance abuse and incarceration will continue to lessen, as the at-risk children in our community are introduced and given an opportunity to strive with the support of a mentor and friend.

D. How does the program align with the Community Health Plan (see page one)?

As referenced previously, children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program are less likely to begin using illegal drugs, to begin using alcohol or to skip school when matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister. In correlation to the Community Health Plan, Big Brothers Big Sisters provides an opportunity for the children in our community facing adversity to be matched with a qualified volunteer, who with the support of a professionally trained Match Support Specialist, can offer support in the following ways:

- **Mental Health:** In many cases, the mental health of a child in the BBBS program is greatly improved by the consistent support and time spent with his/her Big, in fact, many showing increased signs of confidence. Little sister Alexis lives with her single mom. Alexis has confided her Big that she has grown up with drugs, alcohol and domestic violence at home. Her Big Sister Maggie, has stuck by Alexis through the various transitions her mom has put her through. They talk about the home life and how Alexis does not want anything to do with drugs or alcohol. With the help of her Big Sister, Alexis is exuding confidence; she is doing well in school and has positive social relationships with her peers.
- **Physical Activity:** Matches in the BBBS program are encouraged to do a range of activities with physical activity being a popular choice. Recently, some of our matches attended a hike at Clinton Lake which included physical activity and team work, while some of our matches have used physical activity as a foundation of their relationship. For example, one of our Bigs, K Meisel and her Little Sister have bonded over weightlifting. About once a month, they spend time together learning about the benefits of working out together. Since Big Sister is knowledgeable about weightlifting, she is able to share this new experience with her Little Sister and in turn, her Little Sister has become stronger and more confident.
- **Poverty and Jobs:** Many of the families involved in the BBBS program have experience with living in poverty. Through matches, the children in our program are exposed to different careers and have the opportunity to evaluate what and where they aspire to be. Little Sister Chevy, a teenager, comes from a household with parents that are not very encouraging in a developmental way and Chevy has a lot of conflict with her father. Chevy often gets discouraged easily, her Big Sister Angie talk a lot about responsibility, getting a driver's license,

transportation, getting a job and working towards her personal success goals. Little sister Chevy decided to get her first job as a server, applied for a driver's license and now has transportation.

SECTION 5. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM SERVICES

- A. Provide a brief description of the service you will provide and explain how it will respond to the need you identified in Section 4. The description should include how many clients will be served, and should describe as specifically as possible the interaction that will take place between the provider and the user of the service.

Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. By the end of 2015, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County estimates the program will serve 457 children in the county by matching each child with a mentor of his/her own.

A Match Support Specialist is assigned to each child immediately after he/she is referred to the program, which happens generally by a school counselor, social worker or teacher. The Match Support Specialist will complete an intake process with the child and his/her parent or guardian. This process allows the Match Support Specialist an opportunity to spend time getting to know the child and his/her family and to determine what type of mentor would be best for the child's needs. This child is then placed on the waiting list until a compatible Big Brother or Big Sister is recruited, processed and approved.

With over 100+ children on the waitlist, the Development and Recruitment Associate assists in recruiting interested individuals to attend an informational session and ultimately to become a Big Brother or Big Sister. Recruitment involves reaching out to local corporations and businesses, the faith-based community, and the continuing cultivation at current recruitment venues, such as the University of Kansas and local high schools.

Once a volunteer is recruited, a Match Support Specialist conducts volunteer intake. This process is extensive, generally taking 4-6 weeks and involves an interview, five background checks, references, and a home visit.

Once a match has been made, the Match Support Specialist will be in contact with the Big, Little and the parent/guardian of the Little once a month for the first year to ensure the match is going well, that all parties are being safe and having fun, and to also deal with any questions or concerns that may arise. After a match has been together for one year, the Match Support Specialist continues supervision on a quarterly basis.

- B. What other agencies in the community are providing similar types of services. What efforts have you made to avoid duplication or coordinate services with those agencies?

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County is the only Lawrence agency providing one-to-one mentoring relationships to at-risk youth. Big Brothers Big Sisters coordinates with a diverse group of community organizations and services to offer mentoring to the children in our community that need our services, including USD 497, United Way of Douglas County, Bert Nash, DCF, The Shelter, Boys and Girls Club, University of Kansas, The Roger Hill Volunteer Center, Just Food, Lawrence Education Achievement Partners, The Lawrence Community Shelter, and the Chamber of Commerce.

SECTION 6. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2016. Objectives should demonstrate the purpose of the program and measure the amount of service delivered or the effectiveness of the services delivered. A time frame and numerical goal should also be included. Examples include, "75% of clients receiving job training will retain their job one year after being hired," "increased fundraising efforts will result in a 15% increase in donations in 2016," "credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2016," etc. **Applicants will be expected to report their progress toward meeting these objectives in their six-month and annual reports to the City.**

- Objective One: By December 31, 2016, Big Brothers Big Sisters will serve 490 children in Douglas County
- Objective Two: By December 31, 2016, the Development & Recruitment Associate for Big Brothers Big Sisters will identify, solicit and cultivate ten new sources for volunteer recruitment.

