

City of Lawrence Outside Agency Annual Report For Calendar Year 2017

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org by Thursday, February 15th 2018 at 5:00pm. For the following questions please refer back to your [2017 application for funding](#).

Reporting Period: Calendar Year 2017

Agency Name: Communities In Schools (CIS) of Mid-America

1. Refer to the program in which your agency received funding; provide a participant success story that helps demonstrate the accomplishments of the program.

Through school-based coordination and integrated students supports, Communities In Schools (CIS) of Mid-America empowers students to stay in school and achieve in life. The Site Coordinator at Kennedy Elementary School is committed to developing a safety net within the school so that children can receive the assistance they need in order to be successful.

The CIS of Mid-America Site Coordinator at Kennedy Elementary School first met the Richards* family during the 2016-2017 school year when their mother expressed interest in participating in Harvesters' BackSnack program. This program provides a weekly backpack filled with nutritious, child-friendly food and is facilitated by our Site Coordinator at Kennedy Elementary School. The Richards are a family of six – a single mother and her five children, four of which attend Kennedy Elementary School. The family had moved to Lawrence from another state and had experienced a recent substantial loss in income. They needed food assistance, and the BackSnack program served as the support they needed until they were able to recover financially. Their participation in the BackSnack program served as the initial point of contact for the family to become more engaged in the services available to them through our CIS of Mid-America program at Kennedy Elementary School. As a result, our Site Coordinator was able to build a rapport with their mother in order to assess for additional needs the family had. After completing this assessment, she was also able to connect them with local resources to access free clothes, coats, and shoes for the children. Some of those items were provided directly through CIS of Mid-America. Because the family was new to the area, they were unaware of the community resources available to them and our Site Coordinator was able to help them meet their basic needs. This allowed the children to focus on school.

"Well, with raising five children by myself it isn't easy keeping them in shoes, clothing and feeding them. It helps to know that if I can't get something I have someone I can turn to for help. They grow so fast and sometimes they have their growth spurt at the same time. I'm grateful for the help when I need it," Alison* Richards.

This school year, the four children at Kennedy Elementary School began showing signs of withdrawal within their respective classrooms. Their teachers referred them to the Site Coordinator as an additional resource in the school. She was able to talk with each child and with their mother to identify ways in which she could support them. Our Site Coordinator was a safe person at Kennedy that their mother could talk to, and because she trusted her, the Site Coordinator was able to serve as a liaison for Alison to the school. Our Site Coordinator connected Alison with her children's school counselors to ensure that there were multiple providers to which she could turn. In conversations with their mother, it became apparent to the Site Coordinator that her children needed supports within the school to assist them in academic achievement and to increase their self-confidence among their peers and in school. With their mother's permission, her four children at Kennedy Elementary School were added to our Site Coordinator's caseload. She now provides regular check-ins with them and is helping them work toward their goals of academic achievement, while ensuring that they have the resources they need to be successful. Our Site Coordinator enrolled two of the

children in the after-school tutoring program that she coordinates with local volunteers. The students receive tutoring either one-to-one or with one peer. Our Site Coordinator works closely with their teachers to ensure that the tutoring sessions focus on their specific educational needs. The children also participate in Marathon Club, facilitated by CIS of Mid-America, which helps them develop healthy lifestyle skills and positive body image. They are also involved in the "Lunch Buddy" program, started by and facilitated by CIS of Mid-America, a mentoring program that pairs them with caring adults in Lawrence.

In just a few months, the children have shown incredible improvements in their engagement in school. Their teachers have shared with our Site Coordinator that the children are more likely to answer questions, they have established friendships with many of the students in their classes, and their mother has become even more active in parent-teacher interactions. Alison is very appreciative of the services provided to her family and her children have really enjoyed the support of the volunteers with which they have been matched. These volunteers communicate to the children that they are deserving of their time. Alison is now partnering with Kennedy Elementary School to help engage other families in their students' academic success. Their participation in CIS of Mid-America has not only assisted in providing them with their most basic needs, but the program has also helped Alison and her children realize their worth as valued members of the Kennedy Elementary School community.

*Names have been changed for confidentiality reasons.

2. Refer to your 2017 application for funding; provide a brief narrative of the activities funded with City funds.

CIS of Mid-America has used the City of Lawrence funds to provide integrated student services to students including connecting students / families to valuable resources, which aids them in overcoming their barriers to being successful in school. CIS of Mid-America at Kennedy Elementary School has provided 20 unduplicated school-wide services, which include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Basic Needs: backsnacks; brainfood; clothing bank; food pantry; hygiene bank; school supply closet; referral to community resources;
- 2) Academic Assistance: reading challenges; tutoring; literacy services;
- 3) Behavioral Intervention: Positive Behavioral Intervention Store; Kennedy PRIDE Store;
- 4) Parent Engagement: Back to School Night; Family Fun Night; Parent/Teacher Conference Support; WATCH Dogs; parent engagement events;
- 5) Service Learning/Community Services: Student Council events;
- 6) Health / Fitness: Marathon Club; Walk to School Day;
- 7) Enrichment / Motivation: truancy intervention; attendance awareness programming and incentives; and
- 8) Life / Social Skills: Boys' Night; Girls' Night; and reading clubs.

These school-wide events reached 304 students (75% of the entire student population). Additionally, individual intensive case-management services were provided to 73 students at Kennedy Elementary School – assisting students with mentoring, meeting basic needs, as well as goal-oriented academic, attendance, and behavioral services. The Site Coordinator at Kennedy Elementary School worked in partnership with more than 16 local organizations to collaborate and meet the needs of the students and families we serve. CIS of Mid-America collaborated on 11 family / parent engagement events to support family services during Parent / Teacher Conferences, provide a Family Game Night to engage students and families, and met directly with parents to obtain needed information to provide clothing, food, and referral services for students and families during the reporting period. These events served 504 parents (this number is duplicated due to parents participating in more than one event).

3. Refer to your 2017 application for funding; provide specific detail (use supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate what progress was made toward your proposed outcomes.

CIS of Mid-America worked this reporting period to meet / exceed the goals set:

- 1) CIS of Mid-America will provide case-management services with regular check-ins to assess individual student's progress to at least 65 students at Kennedy Elementary School during school year 2016-

2017. **There were 73 students who received case-management services during school year 2016-2017.**

- 2) CIS of Mid-America will provide at least fifteen "whole school" programs during school year 2016-2017. **There were 20 unduplicated "whole school" programs provided during school year 2016-2017.**
- 3) Percentage of students with individual goals in the areas of academic performance, attendance and behavior that meet their respective goals show an increase in school year 2016-2017 while reflecting at least 85% of case-management students served will stay in school and be promoted to the next grade level. **CIS of Mid-America's case-managed students reflected the following outcomes for school year 2016-2017: 96% of students improved academics, 75% of students improved behaviors, and 67% improved attendance. In addition 100% of CIS of Mid-America's case-managed students stayed in school and were promoted to the next grade level.**

4. Refer to the line-item budget provided in your 2017 application for funding; is this accurate to how your allocation was actually spent? If no, what changed and why?

To date 100% (\$2,290.00) of the funding allocation has been used for staffing, supervision, data, and evaluation to support the scope of work at Kennedy Elementary School and to meet the following program objectives:

- a) provide case-managed services to at least sixty-five (65) students at Kennedy Elementary School during the 2016-2017 school year;
- b) provide at least fifteen (15) "whole school" programs during the 2016-2017 school year; and
- c) goal attainment for students with individual goals in the areas of academic performance, attendance and behavior will increase during the grant period while reflecting eighty-five percent (85%) of case-management students served will stay in school and be promoted to the next grade level.