

# Recommendations for Youth Services Funding

## FY 2016-2017 | Round 2

### 5 programs | \$25,000 total

#### Girls Empowerment Network

**ClubGEN** – ClubGEN is a weekly afterschool program for girls in grades 3-8. At ClubGEN, girls participate in engaging activities and discussion that center around being a girl. Girls come to clubGEN to feel supported by their mentors and peers, to learn new skills, and most of all, to have fun! Some of the themes covered in club are healthy relationships, body image, self-esteem and communication. clubGEN includes a special initiative called GirlConnect, a Dell Youth Learning Partner. These activities expose girls to 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Technology has a major impact on the lives of girls today, influencing their choices and relationships. GirlConnect's goal is to address the challenges girls face in their daily lives by teaching technology skills.

**How they will measure program success:** In collaboration with a third party evaluator, GEN gathers insights from multiple angles to evaluate its programs. We use surveys and focus groups with our girl participants, formal feedback from our adult program facilitators, as well as informal feedback from teachers and other school personnel. The information we gather enables us to improve our program delivery and determine if our outcomes are being achieved. We evaluate each of our programs across 4 key subject matter areas.

1. Increased self-efficacy/confidence
2. Increased demonstration of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills
3. Increased pro-social bonding with peers and leaders
4. Increases resilience and stress management.

As validated by abundant research, GEN knows that if girls have these four key areas of their lives supported by our programs, they will grow into powerful, successful women and society overall will benefit.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** Priority Area 4: Increase and improve mental health, resilience, wellness and healthy life choices.

**Goals for the program:** Goals are to decrease rates of girls' juvenile delinquency and risky behaviors, and increase critical thinking skills, academic performance, peer support and self-sufficiency.

**How will they know they met these goals:** Via participant and facilitator surveys that demonstrate:

At least 75% of girls...

- Feel positively connected to the other group participants and GEN staff
- Learn how to handle their feelings without resorting to self-harm
- Learn new stress management techniques
- Report exercising stress management techniques in the classroom
- Increase their understanding of healthy coping mechanisms
- Increase their self-efficacy/personal belief in their abilities to achieve their goals.

At least 98% of girls...

- Advance to the next grade level on time or graduate on time.

At least 75% of educators at our partner schools..

- Report increased stress management abilities in the girls served by GEN programming
- Report decreased overall levels of anxiety/self doubt from the girls
- Recommend GEN as a resource to their colleagues
- Report new skills for building self-efficacy in their classrooms.

**Number of clients served yearly:** ~5,495

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 22

**Amount Requested:** \$5,000

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$5,000

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## **San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce**

**LEGIT Summer Internship Program:** LEGIT stands for Leadership, Experience, Groundwork, Instruction, Training. LEGIT is an unpaid summer internship that pairs high school sophomores and juniors with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to work on soft skills and job training skills.

**How they will measure program success:** Student evaluation forms, industry evaluations forms and parent surveys

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** Priority Area 1, Strategy 2 and 3.

**Goals for the program:**

- To give students an opportunity to gain real-world experience while being directly involved in the San Marcos Community.
- An opportunity to create a pipeline of skilled and qualified labor for years to come.
- Establish a robust youth apprenticeship program in San Marcos.
- Invest in the communities future workforce and its business partners.
- To support local nonprofits, community groups and government agencies in achieving their missions.

**How will they know they met these goals:** To meet the goals of the program, we must have strong buy-in from the City of San Marcos and the business community, as well as buy-in from our education partners in the community.

**Goals:**

1. Increase in students that participate in LEGIT.
2. Improve student's soft skills as they move forward in life.
  - Work ethic
  - Positive attitude
  - Communication skills
  - Time management
  - Self confidence
3. Preparing students for a career in developing employability skills
4. Preparing students for post-secondary education

**Number of clients served yearly:** 15      **Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 15

**Amount Requested:** \$5,000      **Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$5,000

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## **Hays-Caldwell Women's Center (HCWC)**

**Program Title: Prevention Education Program-** The Prevention & Education Program focuses on teaching violence prevention, identifying healthy relationships models and encouraging open dialogue through small group sessions, large traditional assembly presentations and a 12 week program in the Health Education classes at SMHS

**How they will measure program success:** HCWC utilizes a two-pronged approach to outcome measurement and program success. All students reached through the Prevention and Education Program are counted by entering the participants into a database and all education services provided are recorded and tracked. Program success will be measured utilizing entrance and exit surveys.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** This Primary Prevention and Education Program will fulfill **Priority Area for Action #4:** Increase and Improve Mental Health, Resilience, Wellness and Healthy Life Choices.

**Goals for the program:** 1. Increase resource awareness for the youth and teachers in these classes. 2. Address and discuss common factors found in healthy and problematic relationships. 3. Introduce alternatives to violence and abusive behaviors. 4. Give a clear understanding of how to recognize and respect consent and relationship boundaries.

5. Get the students to identify at least one adult they at least one adult they would feel comfortable talking to if they are in crisis or abuse is taking place.

**How will they know they met these goals:** The Prevention & Education staff will have reached our goals of the number of students and will have conducted entrance and exit surveys to measure the student's changes in perceptions and attitudes.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 4,851

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 234

**Amount Requested:** \$5,000

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$5,000

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### **United Way of Hays County**

**Program Title: Change A Child's Story Book Drive-** United Way of Hays County runs the Change a Child's Story Book Distribution in order to distribute high-quality books to pre-k students throughout our community. Each book is selected for its educational quality and reading level. In addition to receiving books, children also receive scissors, crayons and a kindergarten-readiness guide.

Books part of the Change A Child's Story Book Distribution will be distributed through two channels:

- 1) Book Distribution to SMCISD Pre-K students, Head Start students, and students of daycare facilities throughout San Marcos. Each child will receive 5 bilingual books that have been carefully selected by early childhood professionals and experts to ensure that the books are appropriate for children ages 3-5.
- 2) Classroom Distribution: Dependent on funding, each classroom at the SMCISD Pre-K program will receive a classroom set of 10 or more quality books that teachers can utilize for lesson plans and instruction purposes.

**How they will measure program success:** Success of this program will be measured by the number of children who enter school ready to succeed. UWHC is aware that this success will not take place overnight; that it is a long-term program. We will partner with the school district and others to track school-readiness indicators. Again, it must be stated to access to books is an action step specially stated in the YMP for helping ensure school readiness.

**This program will fulfill Priority Area/Strategy** to improve the quality of early learning opportunities for young children both in formal education settings and in the informal setting of their families and caregivers. One of the major tasks and action steps with this strategy includes:

- Ensure children have access to high quality toys, books, and spaces that promote early learning.

### **Goals of program:**

- 1) Increase the access of all children ages 0-5 to high-quality books in the home. (This goal is directly correlated to the San Marcos Youth Master Plan and is an action step stated specifically in the plan)
- 2) Increase the number of children who enter school ready to be successful.

**How will they know they have met these goals?** Goal 1 – We know that we will meet this goal by measuring the number of children served and the number of books distribute.

Goal 2 – This is a long-term goal that will not be realized for another year or more when the children served by this program enter kindergarten. Measured by assessment on school-readiness indicators. However, access to books in an action steps that is specially stated in the YMP for preparing students for kindergarten. Also, the kindergarten readiness guide is only one tool being utilized by the school and parents to help prepare children for school.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 1,593

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 494

**Amount requested:** \$5,000

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$5,000

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## **United Way of Hays County**

**Program Title: Read to Succeed** – United Way of Hays County runs Read to Succeed in order to foster a love of reading in the smallest members of our school community as well as expand the educational programming at the San Marcos Public Housing after-school programs.

The Read to Succeed program is offered two ways:

1. A book and story-extending craft is provided to each pre-k classroom monthly during the school year. Volunteers read the book to the class and then leave the book for the teacher to expand his/her classroom library. The materials to complete the story-extending craft are also provided to the teacher for each child to be able to complete during the school day.
2. A book is read to children participating in the after school programs of the San Marcos Public Housing Authority. Often times, an older student will read to the younger children if a community volunteer is not available. Children then play games that extend their learning and comprehension of the book. Snacks are provided as well as the materials to complete story-extending crafts.

**How they will measure program success:** Success of this program will be measured by the number of children who enter school ready to succeed, especially with the literacy skills they need. UWHC is aware that this success will not take place overnight; that it is a long-term program. We measure the second part of this program by feedback from the staff at SMPHA and the increased participation by children living in public housing.

**Priority Areas:** Improve the quality of early learning opportunities for young children both in formal educational settings and in the informal settings of their families and caregivers. One of the major tasks and action steps with this strategy includes: Ensure children have access to high quality toys, books, and spaces that promote early learning. Action Area 3, Strategy 1, Task 3- Ensure that the YSB, Boys and Girls Club, the public library, el Centro and other programs continue to offer children and teens a wide variety of year- round cultural, educational and service opportunities.

**Goals of program:** 1. Foster a love of reading in pre-k students. 2. Expand the educational programming for students living in public housing.

**How will they know they have met these goals?** Goal 1- This is not a goal that can be directly measured except by looking three- five years in the future at the number of children reading on grade level by the third grade. Goal 2- By simply providing this program, we are increasing the educational programming at SMPHA after-school programs.

**Number of clients served yearly: 1,350**

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos: 454**

**Amount requested: \$5,000**

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation: \$5,000**

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