

# Recommendations for Youth Services Funding

FY 2017-2018

14 programs | \$50,285 total

## Community Action, Inc.

**Early Childhood Coalition of Hays County; Early Childhood Summit** – The Texas Home Visiting Program grant, operated by the Department of Family and Protective Services are funded by Senate Bill 426, was awarded to Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas in May 2015. Texas Home Visiting Program supports communities in operating evidence-based home visiting programs while creating a coordinated, comprehensive system of services for pregnant women, young children, and their families. In 2015 Texas Home Visiting in collaboration with Head Start Program, SMCISD and early childhood services providers in Hays County established an Early Childhood Coalition of Hays County.

This coalition is a collaboration that coordinates multiple early childhood services to better promote child development by supporting families and communities. The purpose of the summit is to increase community awareness about the importance of early development, to lay the foundation for lifelong health and well-being and improve school readiness of all children. The main focus of the Coalition this year was implementation of the EDI, setting goals and priorities, our work influenced our Summit agenda. The objective of the Summit is to increase community awareness about the importance of early development, to lay the foundation for lifelong health and well-being and improve school readiness of all children. Hays County EDI data was compared to the national data, and the idea was to zoom in to Hays County from the State level. Informing about child data at the State level, existing statewide initiatives, discussing EDI of Hays County and ending with a panel of providers talking about their work.

**How they will measure program success:** Program success is measured by increased family and community engagement: participation in family nights, parent workshops, library attendance. Increased child outcome, improved Kindergarten readiness of children in the community, improved wellness and health practices.

### **Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:**

Outcome/GOAL 1 - All children are kindergarten ready.

### *Strategies:*

1. Form coalition between Head start, Bonham, Child Care centers, other PreK providers in area

### **Goals for the program:**

- Improve community Health and Wellness
- Promote Kindergarten Readiness
- Improve Family Engagement

**How will they know they met these goals:** Using Results Based Accountability Practice (RBA) RBA uses a data-driven, decision-making process to help the coalition to take action to solve problems and develop a strategic plan, which will address improvement needs

**Number of clients served yearly:** 699 for Texas Home Visiting    **Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 311

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$4,000

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## Community Action, Inc.

**Texas Home Visiting Program; Fatherhood Initiative** – The Texas Home Visiting Program grant, operated by the Department of Family and Protective Services are funded by Senate Bill 426, was awarded to Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas in May 2015. Texas Home Visiting Program supports communities in operating evidence-based home

visiting programs while creating a coordinated, comprehensive system of services for pregnant women, young children, and their families. This coalition is a collaboration that coordinates multiple early childhood services to better promote child development by supporting families and communities.

**How they will measure program success:** Program success is measured by number of fathers participating in Father Engagement Workshops and center and community events. The program aggregates school readiness data for each child participating in the program, measuring each child's gain across all developmental domains. This data is compared with father/father figure and other family member's level of engagement in the program and child's education. Each father/father figure participating in 24/7 DAD workshop completed pre-12 workshop sessions survey, and will complete post-workshop sessions survey. This data will be utilized to measure the effects of the 24/7 DAD curriculum on father and family outcomes.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** Priority Area for Action 3: Increase and improve availability and access to developmental activities and opportunities and support.

**Goals for the program:**

The Goals of Texas Home-Visiting Hays County are to

- Improve maternal and newborn health.
- Reduce the rate of child injuries and child maltreatment
- Improve school readiness and academic achievement
- Reduce domestic violence and crime
- Improve family self-sufficiency

Increase coordination and referrals for community resources as well as supports for families

**How will they know they met these goals:** By aggregating school readiness data on an ongoing basis: assessing each child gain across all developmental domains, measuring parent/father and community engagement.

We are currently tracking father involvement in our database and will be able to see the increase in father involvement from the beginning to the end of the funding year and measure child developmental outcome.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 700

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 268

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$4,000

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**Community Action, Inc.**

**YouthFest!** – YouthFest! will be held in April during child abuse prevention and awareness month. Approximately 25 vendors representing various youth serving organizations and health care providers will host booths with activities for children. Local public school and child care choirs will perform and other child-friendly activities, including a trackless train and petting zoo, will be available for free to all families in attendance.

**How they will measure program success:** For this first year of YouthFest! we will measure success based on attendance numbers and vendor feedback. In subsequent years we hope to expand our outcome measures in collaboration with partner agencies.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** We are seeking to directly influence Goal 2: All children are physically and mentally healthy with the YouthFest! event. All vendors will be required to provide a children's activity at their booth, additionally we have other activities that encourage gross and fine motor play. The performances are an opportunity for children to work on their social-emotional skills both as participants and audience members.

**Goals for the program:**

- Improve maternal and newborn health.
- Reduce the rate of child injuries and child maltreatment.

- Improve school readiness and academic achievement.
- Reduce domestic violence and crime.
- Improve family self-sufficiency.

Increase coordination and referrals for community resources as well as supports for families.

**How will they know they met these goals:** These are goals that will take much longer than one year, or one-round of funding to address. YouthFest! will be focused on the second stated goal of Texas Home Visiting-Hays County, reducing the rate of child injuries and child maltreatment. We know from research that certain ‘protective factors’ are linked to a lower incidence of child abuse and neglect. The protective factors we plan to directly impact at YouthFest! include concrete supports for parents in need (vendors) and social connections (free, daylong, weekend event with group performances).

**Number of clients served yearly:** 160

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 87

**Amount Requested:** \$1,500

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$1,500

### **Girls Empowerment Network**

**The 180 Program** – *The 180 Program (180)* is a prevention and intervention program designed to reach middle and high school girls involved in or at high risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. Its goals are to decrease rates of juvenile delinquency and increase in-school functioning, critical thinking skills, and self-sufficiency. *180* reaches many girls after a first offense and helps them get back on track, preventing them from entering or re-entering the juvenile justice system.

**How they will measure program success:** Participants are asked to respond to evaluation forms at the conclusion of each program indicating knowledge gained and potential behavior change or risk avoidance. Informal feedback is gathered from teachers and other school personnel. Previous measurement by a professional evaluator indicated that participants who attend the targeted sessions for juvenile delinquent girls come to school more often and get in less trouble and show a particularly positive impact on ability to handle conflict and stressful situations.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** “Outcome/GOAL 3 - San Marcos will have a college and career ready workforce capable of attracting industry to improve economic development and quality of life; 1. Increase high school graduation rates.” The 180 Program contributes to increased graduation rates by improving girls’ attachment to school. The program helps them create positive bonds with peers they can count on in their schools and helps them learn coping skills that they can use to improve their in-classroom functioning and behaviors. Additionally, according to GEN’s former professional evaluator, Shore Research, who studied the program in depth, girls who are highly engaged in the 180 Program have better school attendance and get in less trouble.

**Goals for the program:** GEN’s long-term goals are to increase girls self-efficacy/belief in their personal power so that they can pursue the future of their dreams, while simultaneously decreasing rates of juvenile delinquency and risky behaviors for girls.

Short-term outcomes will be that 75% of participants will demonstrate:

- increased self-efficacy (**confidence**),
- increased **creativity** and **critical thinking** skills,
- increased positive **communication**, **collaboration**, and pro-social bonding with peers, leaders, and role models, and
- increased **coping skills** (resiliency, grit, and stress management.)

**How will they know they met these goals:** 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, and we also gather

formal feedback from our adult program facilitators. The information we gather enables us to improve our program delivery and determine if our outcomes are being achieved.

Following is program most recent outcome achievement (2016-2017 school year):

- 90% of girls reported positive peer bonding in their groups.
- 89% of girls learned effective ways to say no to things that they think could hurt them.
- 86% of girls reported learning ways to achieve their goals.
- 94% of girls said that group taught them how to handle stressful situations.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 6,684

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 125

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$4,000

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### **San Marcos Housing Authority**

**Kids Against Drugs** – The SMHA Resident Services Program consists of four major initiatives: Youth Development Services, Elderly & Disabled Services, Self-Sufficiency, and Resident Organization. We are requesting funds to support the direct costs of our after-school program and summer program at the K.A.D. Center in the CM Allen Homes neighborhood. Our Youth Development Program provides support and encouragement to school-age youth in San Marcos. Youth get opportunities to learn many of the skills needed to become strong community leaders. They get nutritional support and help with school work. We help youth transition into successful community leaders through encouragement, access to resources, and opportunities to practice what they learn. Our activities build self-respect, teach conflict resolution, and support the development of leadership skills. We help youth learn personal responsibility, goal setting, communication skills, and the importance of community involvement. Youth earn opportunities to go on educational/recreational trips.

**How they will measure program success:** We record attendance and monitor the participation levels of individual students. The "Student Leadership Rubric" is applied at the beginning of the after-school program (or soon after program enrollment for new participants), at mid-year, and at the end of the school year. We obtain grade reports as needed. Another important measure of our success comes from anecdotal evidence. We are not able to do long-range tracking on kids after they leave our program, often because the families have moved out of housing. However, a few times each year, kids return to us as adults to tell us how we made a difference in their lives. As often as possible, we include these stories in the SMHA newsletter.

### **Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:**

Outcome/Goal 2 - All children are physically and mentally healthy.

Outcome/Goal 3 - San Marcos will have a college and career ready workforce capable of attracting industry to improve economic development and quality of life.

Outcome/Goal 5 - Increase the capacity of youth for civic involvement and leadership.

To achieve these goals, our strategies include a special focus on developing leadership skills, improving academic performance, stimulating creativity, promoting physical fitness and other healthy lifestyle choices.

**Goals for the program:** Our overall goal is to improve the quality of life for public housing residents, reduce dependence on welfare, and empower residents to take charge of their lives and their environment. With regard to our year-round youth programs, our goals are to improve physical and mental/emotional health, to prepare kids for college and careers, to involve kids in community life, and to develop leadership skills.

**How will they know they met these goals:** Program staff keep paper and digital records of all services provided and outcomes achieved for the children in our programs. Assessments of physical and mental health are based on

observation by qualified staff or volunteers as well as consultations with parents. We work closely with parents to monitor school grades. Assessment of community involvement is based on observation and feedback from the community. We use a special rubric to assess the development of leadership skills.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 69

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 69

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$4,000

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### **San Marcos Housing Authority**

**PODER Learning Center** – The SMHA Resident Services Program consists of four major initiatives: Youth Development Services, Elderly & Disabled Services, Self-Sufficiency, and Resident Organization. We are requesting funds to support the direct costs of our after-school program and summer program at the K.A.D. Center in the CM Allen Homes neighborhood. Our Youth Development Program provides support and encouragement to school-age youth in San Marcos. Youth get opportunities to learn many of the skills needed to become strong community leaders. They get nutritional support and help with school work. We help youth transition into successful community leaders through encouragement, access to resources, and opportunities to practice what they learn. Our activities build self-respect, teach conflict resolution, and support the development of leadership skills. We help youth learn personal responsibility, goal setting, communication skills, and the importance of community involvement. Youth earn opportunities to go on educational/recreational trips.

**How they will measure program success:** We record attendance and monitor the participation levels of individual students. The "Student Leadership Rubric" is applied at the beginning of the after-school program (or soon after program enrollment for new participants), at mid-year, and at the end of the school year. We obtain grade reports as needed. Another important measure of our success comes from anecdotal evidence. We are not able to do long-range tracking on kids after they leave our program, often because the families have moved out of housing. However, a few times each year, kids return to us as adults to tell us how we made a difference in their lives. As often as possible, we include these stories in the SMHA newsletter.

### **Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:**

Outcome/Goal 2 - All children are physically and mentally healthy.

Outcome/Goal 3 - San Marcos will have a college and career ready workforce capable of attracting industry to improve economic development and quality of life.

Outcome/Goal 5 - Increase the capacity of youth for civic involvement and leadership.

To achieve these goals, our strategies include a special focus on developing leadership skills, improving academic performance, stimulating creativity, promoting physical fitness and other healthy lifestyle choices.

**Goals for the program:** Our overall goal is to improve the quality of life for public housing residents, reduce dependence on welfare, and empower residents to take charge of their lives and their environment. With regard to our year-round youth programs, our goals are to improve physical and mental/emotional health, to prepare kids for college and careers, to involve kids in community life, and to develop leadership skills.

**How will they know they met these goals:** Program staff keep paper and digital records of all services provided and outcomes achieved for the children in our programs. Assessments of physical and mental health are based on observation by qualified staff or volunteers as well as consultations with parents. We work closely with parents to monitor school grades. Assessment of community involvement is based on observation and feedback from the community. We use a special rubric to assess the development of leadership skills.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 56

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 56

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$4,000

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## **San Marcos Housing Authority**

**Self-Sufficiency for Families and Youth** – The SMHA Resident Services Program consists of four major initiatives: Youth Development Services, Elderly & Disabled Services, Self-Sufficiency, and Resident Organization. We work to improve quality of life, reduce dependence on the welfare system, and empower our residents to take charge of their lives and of their environment. We are requesting funds to support our efforts to help families receiving housing assistance become more self-sufficient, thereby creating a healthier atmosphere for youth development and reducing the amount of time families need housing assistance. Our vision is to make public housing a place of family healing and development—a place where families can grow stronger while they live in decent, safe homes. Participants get the tools they need to achieve self-sufficiency through housing assistance, effective case management, facilitation of support groups, and the coordination of access to local, state, and federal resources, including connections to job training and educational resources. Participants set educational goals including vocational and two-year degree programs. They learn new skills that enable them to gain employment with a living wage, manage their money more effectively, build savings, repair credit, improve family health, and develop resilience to challenges. Participants learn to take responsibility for their future.

**How they will measure program success:** We track activities and outcomes on an individual basis for families enrolled in our self-sufficiency programs. Service Coordinators enter the data on a spreadsheet for their site on a monthly basis. Administrative personnel have online access to the spreadsheets so they can monitor progress toward goals, individually and collectively. This enables them to ensure that all sites are on track to meet program goals. We produce periodic financial and programmatic reports, which we submit to the City of San Marcos, the United Way of Hays County, the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and other agencies as appropriate. HUD also tracks nationwide, aggregate outcomes, such as increased earnings percentages, program graduation rates, and the percentage of residents participating in self-sufficiency programs. They calculate a composite score for each housing authority. This is a new system. As it is phased in, it will be used to rank programs as a means of monitoring program success as well as awarding new or continued grants in the FSS and ROSS programs.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:**

Outcome/Goal 4: Improve the overall quality of life for San Marcos families and youth

Strategy 5: Increase capacity of SM Housing Authority/Advocate for affordable housing

**Goals for the program:** Our overall goal is to improve the quality of life for public housing residents, reduce dependence on welfare, and empower residents to take charge of their lives and their environment. Specific, targeted outcomes for our self-sufficiency programs are 1) Improved Family Health & Resilience; 2) Obtain a Full-time Job; 3) Obtain a Part-time Job or Increase Earned Income; 4) Improved Quality of Life - Effective Money Management; 5) Improved Quality of Life - Increase Score on the Self-Sufficiency Matrix by 10% within 12 months; 6) Complete Individual Training and Services Plan (ITASP); 7) Move to Private Housing/No Longer Need Housing Assistance.

**How will they know they met these goals:** Service Coordinators keep paper and digital records of all services provided and outcomes achieved for the families they serve. They meet with participating families on a regular basis. Assessment of family health & resilience is based on observation and self-reporting of clients. They coordinate their efforts with SMHA property management personnel, including helping to resolve issues that jeopardize their continued housing assistance. They are able to obtain information such as family composition and income as well as when families move in and out of their site. Needs assessments are conducted for all new residents. With regard to improved quality of life, Service Coordinators review budgets and credit reports. They also use a Self-Sufficiency Matrix instrument to assess each family's level of self-sufficiency at least once per year. ITASP completion is verified with appropriate documentation. Self-sufficiency plans are a multi-year effort for individual families so we track how many families enter and exit the program each year as well as how many were successful compared to how many either dropped out of the program or left the program for some other reason, such as eviction or termination of their contract due to non-participation

**Number of clients served yearly: 104**

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos: 104**

**Texas State University**

**Aquatic Science Adventure Camp** – We all learned in school that 2/3rds of the Earth’s surface is covered in water, but only 3% of that is freshwater. And of that, only a tiny fraction is available for human use; comparable to taking a single drop from a gallon jug. In Central Texas, rapid population growth coupled with inconsistent rainfall, exacerbated by climate change, leads to water conservation being discussed with ever-increasing urgency. It is no surprise that we find our water resources being stretched more with each passing decade. Training the next generation of water-wise San Martians is key to our future as a city and state. The Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center at Texas State University was founded in the 1970’s to study and promote conservation of our region’s limited water resources. Central to that mission is the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp, which is celebrating 30 years of operation this year and is one of the longest running summer science camps in Texas. At the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp, campers spend a week on the Texas State campus and surrounding areas learning about water and the environment through an array of outdoor recreational activities and scientific investigations. Our goal at the camp is to give children a genuinely fun, engaging, and educational experience that opens their eyes to wonders of nature and inspires their innate desire to understand it. Our motto here at the camp is “Real Science, Real Fun!” because we take science learning out of the classroom and allow our campers to discover how much fun being a scientist can be! By working with active research scientists and science teachers, in university setting, we give campers a taste of what a career in science is really like.

**How they will measure program success:**

- 1) By tracking parents' opinion of program results through an online survey sent out in a post-camp email.
- 2) By tracking the number of returning students each year.
- 3) Age-appropriate surveys and evaluations will be given out to camp participants to gauge knowledge retention and impact as well as to provide data to inform future directions for the camp.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** Outcome/GOAL 3 - San Marcos will have a college and career ready workforce capable of attracting industry to improve economic development and quality of life.

1. *Increase high school graduation rates*
2. *Establish long term research of 8th grade postsecondary plans*
6. *Improve access and participation in “Bobcat Promise”*
7. *Get up to 60% high school to college admission rates*
8. *Improve college graduation rate of students from SCMISD*
9. *Advocate for local jobs that pay more than living wage*

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields are among the fastest growing sectors in the economy. Reaching students from underrepresented populations and introducing them to STEM fields and careers is critical for our success as a city and nation. Our program focuses on middle and early high school students because many of them are still in the process of deciding what they want to be when they grow up. Research has shown that involvement in extra-curricular science education programs has a substantial impact on college admission odds and success in college and beyond. We want to break down the divide in San Marcos between “town and gown” and get local students involved in learning in a campus setting from university faculty, staff, and students. These early impressions are key for inspiring students to pursue post-secondary education.

Outcome/GOAL 2 - All children are physically and mentally healthy.

Every day at camp, our campers will be engaging in fun and exciting outdoor recreation activities, learning new skills and discovering passions that we hope will stick with them for a lifetime. Students will learn how to paddle a kayak or raft, how to scuba dive, how to snorkel and swim in a river safely, how to walk in nature and identify plants and animals, how to explore a cave, how to climb a rock wall, and much more. We want our campers to challenge their minds and bodies each day and grow in confidence and self-worth. Our counselors and staff engage with each child to encourage them and talk with them about their lives and interests. We believe that inspiring a love of nature in children will help them stay physically and mentally healthy throughout their lifetimes.

**Goals for the program:** Our program is uniquely equipped to teach local students about conserving and protecting our natural resources, as well as to expose them to real scientific investigations. Our goal for our campers is that they would 1) experience what it is like to be a real scientist, 2) have a rich and novel experience that inspires a love for nature, 3) become informed citizens of our community that realize the value of our natural resources, especially the San Marcos River and the Edwards Aquifer.

**How will they know they met these goals:** We want to extend our outreach to local children who may not be able to afford a summer camp on their own. We will use the funding from this grant to provide scholarships (ranging in value from \$349-\$699) to local students to attend our program. We will award these scholarships by asking local middle and high school teachers to nominate deserving students and by working with the Hays-Caldwell Women's Center and the San Marcos Youth Services Board to provide scholarships to their clients.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 230

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 16

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$1,000

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### **Texas State University**

**Autism Summer Camp** – Our program, the Texas State University Autism Summer Camp is the first of its kind in San Marcos. Established in 2010, this autism camp is a partnership between the Texas State University's Department of Health and Human Performance and San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District (SMCISD). This camp provides many children access to a quality summer camp experience designed to accommodate the special needs of children with autism. We do not turn down any child because of the severity of his/her disability. We host four 1-week camp sessions each summer. Camp counselors assist campers (1:1) in a daily schedule that provides time for dance, music, arts, crafts, games, swimming, yoga, and many other therapeutic activities. Since 2010, Texas State University Autism Summer Camp has provided a place for recreational activities for the underserved children with autism and hands-on experimental research opportunities to Texas State students. It has provided 350 children with autism aged 4-12 living in San Marcos and its surrounding areas the opportunity to participate in a developmentally appropriate therapeutic summer program. About 40 Texas State students every year volunteer at the camp as part of a service-learning project providing involved students with experiential learning to meet genuine community need. Every summer, Texas State University students serve over 3000 hours as camp counselors and work with children with autism one-on-one. The students attend training sessions and are educated in camp curriculum, motor skill assessments, and appropriate interaction skills for children with autism.

**How they will measure program success:** All counselors keep a journal to record their daily interactive activities with their assigned child. After each camp session, counselors submit a summary describing their overall experience with the assigned child. They write about the usefulness of the training sessions before the camp, problems that occurred during the camp sessions, ways they solved problems, and what they learned from serving the campers.

All parents/caregivers complete a survey at the end of each summer camp session. They are asked to answer questions about the impact of the scholarship to their financial needs and their child's camp experience. Questions will include perception of savings to their budget based on cost of child care. Parents will be asked to provide examples of specifically how the savings benefited their family and questions related to the children's camp activities, counselors, and parents' perception about their child's overall camp experience.

Children will be measured on their proficiency in fundamental motor skills before and after the 4-week camp. The ability to perform fine and gross motor skills will provide children with opportunities to successfully integrate into their communities.



**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** Our autism summer camp program will fulfill the SMCCY reframed Outcome/Goal 4: Improve the overall quality of life for San Marcos families and youth Strategies: Collaborate with SMCISD to provide over 3000 hours service to the San Marcos community to improve the quality of life for children with autism and their families.

**Goals for the program:** We would like to expand our program to include more children with autism to attend our summer camp with scholarship support. Our request for funding is to provide 20 low-income families with camp scholarships to meet family basic needs of child care during part of the summer and to purchase camp equipment. Through this camp, 20 low-income and underserved San Marcos children with autism will participate in our program at no cost. Each family will receive a scholarship to defray the high cost of child care during the summer and the funds will also be used to purchase camp equipment. Twenty-five children with autism from low income families attend 2 weeks of camps is equivalent of 50 hours of one on one skill-based instruction (e.g., adapted aquatic swimming, yoga, dance, and other social, communication and physical activities) for 2-week period. Parents will receive information about other community-based resources to assist children as well. More children attending our camp indicates that more counselors are needed since our camp is 1:1. Therefore, we will use funds to recruit more camp counselors to work with children 1:1 from other funding source.

**How will they know they met these goals:** We will meet our goal by giving out twenty \$100 scholarships to San Marcos children with autism to attend our camp, use funds to purchase camp equipment, and hire camp counselors to better service children with autism at 1:1 ratio.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 60

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 45

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$4,000

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### **Texas State University**

**College Access Program** – The College Access Program is a summer camp that is designed to assist underserved students better understand the process of successfully applying to college. In addition, students will learn about key differences between college and high school so that they can more readily make a successful transition. Our College Access Program will run June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Our services target 35 High school students who will be sophomores, juniors and seniors. We will target 20 students from SMHS and 15 from Hays. The services include the following:

- Increasing knowledge about admissions requirements for HS students
- Academic Achievement in College vs. HS
- Writing a powerful essay to get into college
- Resume Writing
- College Preparation
- College Life

**How they will measure program success:** We will measure short term success by the number of students who enroll in our camp program SMCISD. We will then measure success by subsequent application to college and filling out a FAFSA form during senior year or enrollment. We will also measure short term success by a satisfaction survey of students to determine level of knowledge and information they gained by attending the camp.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** Our proposal fulfills Priority three, Strategies 6 and 7. Strategy Six is to increase college access to 60 percent in San Marcos. Currently, according to the Texas Priority Rating System, San Marcos CISD has a direct high school to college enrollment of 38 percent. To reach the stated goal of 60 percent would require an additional 22 percent increase. This would mean an increase of 60-70 graduating seniors would need to elect to attend college on a given year. Modest increases in the rates of college attendance (5 percent) could be attained toward the goal if we increase the college going rate by 15 to 20 students in a given year. Achievement of this strategy is measured by looking at college going rates of THECB data.

Our proposal addresses Strategy Seven, increasing the number of college graduates in San Marcos. Students who are better prepared academically and understand expectations of college life are much more likely to be successful.

**Goals for the program:**

- Increase college access for underserved students
- Increase college success for first year students.

**How will they know they met these goals:** We will know we have met our first goal by examining the number of college applications that we have assisted or completed during an Academic Year. We will know we met the second goal by examining if first year students are retained after first year of college to second year.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 3500

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 1500

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$4,000

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**Texas State University**

**Caminitos Collaborative- Fine Motor Progression** – This program will be centered on engaging 4 and 5 year old preschool children who are lacking in fine motor skills in a mastery motivational climate (MMC). The children will be pre and post tested using Movement ABC. A curriculum will be developed based on pretest outcomes using a MMC. Research has shown that utilization of a MMC, allows children to have both control over their learning as well as develop confidence in weak areas by allowing them to choose where they need the majority of the work. The services will provide extra fine motor work for low income children. Often times, children who are of low socio economic status struggle in fine motor control when compared to their counterparts. Low abilities in fine motor control are often linked to low literacy, math, and gross motor progressions.

**How they will measure program success:** Success will be defined as children gaining fine motor skills at a faster rate when compared to previous years as well as MMC being incorporated into classrooms at Bohnam Prekindergarten. Measurement will be gained through use of the Movement ABC (quantitative) and the qualitative data assessed from the observations. In addition, positive comments from faculty on the achievements of children through frequent “check ins” will also be a measure of success.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** Goal 1: Strategies 1 and 2- This program will continue and strengthen the relationship between Texas State and Bohnam Prekindergarten. Once the data is collected, The program coordinator will share the findings with teachers and administration to hopefully strengthen the need for MMC in early childhood. By showing the data that MMC can provide where fine motor control is concerned, this should prompt more teachers to use this in their classrooms when compared to more traditional methods of fine motor instruction.

Goal 2: Strategy 2 This program will assess the activities of children that will be a precursor the future progression of other skills. This program will give information on two areas; deficiency in fine motor skills and does MMC in early childhood work where fine motor skills are concerned.

**Goals for the program:** The goals for the 2018-2019 year would be as follows: quantitative change in fine motor measures from pre to post testing; children show qualitative changes toward fine motor behaviors by way of attitudinal changes in and out of the classroom; and teachers at Bohnam Prekindergarten incorporate MMC into classrooms into a portion of the day.

**How will they know they met these goals:** The children will be tested using Movement ABC. This is a valid and reliable measure that measures fine motor control of preschool children. This measure will show the quantitative changes in the fine motor skills. Qualitative changes will be tabulated through observation from graduate assistants. These assistants will be responsible for both the pre and post testing, therefore they will be aware of attitudinal changes throughout the program. These behaviors will be tallied during fine motor intervention sessions using observational checklists. For goal three, the program coordinator will plan an after school in-service to introduce MMC and show the positive outcomes

associated with the incorporation of this practice. Hopefully, this will instill the value and teachers will incorporate MMC into the classroom. During the middle of the year, the program coordinator will check with teachers and offer assistance in changing activities into MMC if needed.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 100

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 100

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$4,000

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### **Texas State University**

**Goal:POST** – Texas State University, the COSM, and Miller Middle School are partners in Goal:POST, an engaging after-school program that provides opportunities for Miller Middle School students to achieve academic success, increase cognitive and social skills and improve physical and emotional health. Goal:POST affords Miller students opportunities to work in small groups with Texas State University students to complete homework and, through intentional initiatives facilitated by Texas State students, meet new friends, play movement-oriented games, and acquire important cognitive and social skills.

**How they will measure program success:** Success for Goal:POST will be measured using quantitative and qualitative data to assess the goals stated above. We will gather data using observation and interviewing, but primarily through a short survey administered to both student and parent at the end of each semester. The survey will assess each of the goals as well as general satisfaction markers that will indicate how well we are serving the community. In addition, our program will be successful if we are consistently drawing more than 15 Miller students per week. We will measure this through an attendance log. Lastly, the success of GP depends on our ability to create a positive experience for each of the entities involved- the community (Miller Middle School), the University, the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Dept.- Youth Services Division. This outcome will be assessed through frequent meetings between the three entities and open lines of communication, as well as surveys conducted with Texas State Students.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** Outcome/Goal 2: GoalPOST participants engage in physical activity for the majority of each 2-hour program meeting. This activity is non-traditional and emphasizes recreation above fitness. As such, participants may participate in aerobic or callisthenic exercises for over an hour without even realizing they've done so because they thought they were just playing tag/capture the flag/etc.

Outcome/Goal 3, Str 1&7: Texas State University students are actively involved with GoalPOST as facilitators, homework helpers, etc. They act as leaders for the program but also engage socially with participants. This type of interaction between college students and middle schoolers has been shown to be a positive force when it comes to the likelihood of those middle schoolers going on to attend college- young students who interact with college students and can relate to them socially are more likely to see college as a realistic option. Homework tutoring at Goal POST also helps with current academic success!

Outcome/Goal 4: Administration and facilitation of the GoalPOST program is possible only through a collaborative partnership involving Texas State University, San Marcos Parks and Recreation-Youth Services Division and San Marcos CISD. This interagency collaboration- as well as the Youth Master Plan funding- has allowed all parties to maximize their separate resources and reach a segment of San Marcos' youth population that may otherwise be underserved during afterschool time.

**Goals for the program:** 1) Parents of 90% of Miller students will agree or strongly agree that Goal:POST has provided a safe after-school social environment for their child(ren). 2) Parents of 75% of Miller students will agree or strongly agree that Goal:POST has improved their student's physical or emotional health. 3) At least 75% of students involved in Goal:POST annually will agree or strongly agree that Goal:POST provided a fun learning environment.

**How will they know they met these goals:** In the order above-

1) A parent survey will be administered each semester and parents of 90% of Miller students, participating in Goal:POST will agree or strongly agree that Goal:POST has offered a safe after-school social environment for their student. 2) A

parent survey will be administered each semester and parents of 75% of Miller students, participating in Goal:POST will agree or strongly agree that Goal:POST has improved their student's physical or emotional health. 3) A parent survey will be administered each semester and parents of 75% of Miller students, participating in Goal:POST will agree or strongly agree that goal:POST provided a fun learning environment. Additionally, 75% of Texas State students, participating in GoalPOST will report that Goal POST was a learning environment for them as well.

**Number of clients served yearly: 43**

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos: 43**

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation: \$4,000**

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### **Texas State University**

**Spring Lake 7<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Initiative** – The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment will offer a comprehensive program for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders of San Marcos ISD which will encompass a pre-lesson, field trip, and post-lesson designed to improve student and teacher engagement. In the pre-lesson, students will do a writing activity and a lesson from Texas Aquatic Science. Students will prepare college readiness questions for their Texas State University student mentor, who will be leading their field trip. The on-site field trip will involve the college readiness mentoring, hands-on life science activities that are TEKS aligned, and a glass-bottom boat ride. The post-lesson will include a follow-up journaling activity on their experience with their college mentor and a lesson from the Texas Aquatic Science curriculum. <https://texasaquaticscience.org/>. This program seeks to address the 'nature deficit' that affects children and families within our local community, and to inspire youth to conserve and protect natural resources, with an emphasis on the environment in San Marcos. It is also designed to foster inquiry into life sciences and STEM subjects more broadly.

**How they will measure program success:** We will keep track of the number of students that attended the field trip. Students will be given a pre and post questionnaire to evaluate the success of the program. Teacher will be given a survey of their satisfaction with the experience. Results will be tabulated and reported. Feedback will be used to modify the program as needed and used to pursue funding for the programs continuance.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** Outcome/Goal 2: Our program will help ensure all children are physically and mentally healthy by increasing access to developmental activities, opportunities, and supports to the 7<sup>th</sup> graders of San Marcos ISD and ensuring access across the community. We will be increasing access to Spring Lake, the headwaters of the San Marcos River by providing scholarships to attend a field trip that they would not otherwise be able to experience. This program will allow students to know that our facility is free and open to the public year round. Additionally, we will be improving student and teacher engagement by providing them with engaging curriculum and taking them out of the classroom, bridging informal and formal learning environments. Our curriculum meets quality standards by being TEKS aligned. This experience will be place-based learning on Texas State University campus, taught by college students.

Outcome/Goal 3: We will help ensure that San Marcos will have a college and career ready workforce capable of attracting industry to improve economic development and quality of life by instilling students with excitement for exploring college opportunities. This program will be on Texas State University campus and our student workers will act as mentors providing students with an introduction to possible on-campus jobs that are available at Texas State University. Also, our workers can introduce the students to the possibility of Federal work study and financial aid, which many of our workers receive.

Outcome/Goal 4: Our program will help improve the overall quality of life for San Marcos families and youth by improving communications, coordination, and community engagements in support of the children and youth. This will increase community awareness about our available programs and services.

**Goals for the program:** Goal 1: Provide a free fieldtrip in an informal setting for all of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the San Marcos ISD. Goal 2: Provide youth with high-quality, developmentally appropriate out-of-school activities that help them develop academically, emotionally and physically and addresses the children's nature deficit disorder. Goal 3: Evaluate

and validate the success of informal science education along with the need for with pre and post tests. Goal 4: Promote college readiness for San Marcos youth and expose them to opportunities that they may not know is available to them.

**How will they know they met these goals:** The free fieldtrip will be offered between the months of September 2018 and February 2019. The Meadows Center currently offers a free field trip to the 4<sup>th</sup> graders of San Marcos and would like to offer something similar to the 7<sup>th</sup> graders and include some college preparatory skills. We currently employ twenty college students as environmental interpreters, several who are freshman and can offer good insight for young students getting ready to begin their college planning. We have good connections with the San Marcos schools and have been asked by one of the Middle School science teachers to offer something similar to our free field trip for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders to the local middle schools. We have interest from community groups such as the Mermaid Society, who can offer an educational station during this field trip on river guardianship with their mascot Maya the Mermaid.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 111,926

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 14,327

**Amount Requested:** \$4,785

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$3,785

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### **Texas State University**

**Spring Lake Outdoor Education Program (SLOEP)** – Texas State University, the City of San Marcos, The Meadows Center, and Goodnight Middle School are partners in Spring Lake Outdoor Education Program (SLOEP). SLOEP is an after-school program that provides outdoor and experiential education opportunities for Goodnight Middle School students. SLOEP teaches participants various outdoor activities while incorporating teamwork, decision making, interpersonal skills, and the improvement of physical and emotional health. SLOEP offers Goodnight students the chance to work with Texas State University students, meet new friends, and learn about the environment. SLOEP is a free after school program offered for eight weeks each semester to up to 40 students from Goodnight Middle School. The program will run from the time students get out of school to 6:00 pm. This critical after-school time provides additional support to families who may need to work extended hours. During the after-school program, students will have the opportunity to receive homework tutoring from Texas State College students. After homework time, students will participate in an outdoor activity. Each day 6-12 Texas State University students from the Recreation Administration Program's leadership class will help facilitate the outdoor experiences. Activities include kayaking, hiking, geocaching, and mountain biking to name a few. These activities will offer students outdoor experiences that may become a healthy option throughout the aging process. SLOEP activities will also challenge the students physically and mentally by making them communicate and engage with one another – honing social skills.

**How they will measure program success:** Each semester, SLOEP staff administer a survey that helps us to understand the perceptions of participants and their parents. The survey is described above in our measurements section.

In addition to the satisfactions survey, research is being conducted during the SLOEP program. We are measuring nature connectedness and attitudes towards the environment. We will continue to assess these constructs and examine their impact on student abilities to manage natural resources.

We will also garner feedback on activities from the students and adjust the activities based on the student feedback. We will also measure success utilizing weekly attendance records. SLOEP will be successful if attendance of our program is consistently more than 15 Goodnight Middle School students per week. This is tracked through an attendance log. We will also measure success through an open communication with Texas State, Goodnight Middle School, and San Marcos Parks and Recreation - Youth Services.

**Priority Areas that this program will fulfill:** The below statements are based on the new reframed priority areas.

Outcome/Goal 2 – SLOEP participants engage in many physical activities. Physical activity is approached from a non-traditional perspective that values leisure. Students may run 3 miles while geocaching but do not perceive the negative psychological impacts sometimes associated with traditional exercise – they think it is fun.

Outcome/Goal 3, Strategy 1 and 7 – Texas State University college students facilitate SLOEP programming, help students with homework, and engage socially with middle school students. These types of interactions have been shown to have a positive impact on the likelihood of students attending college. Students who meet and relate to college students are more likely more likely to see themselves as a candidate for attending college. Additionally, the homework tutoring done at SLOEP will contribute to higher grades.

Outcome/Goal 3, Strategy 9 – Many local jobs require knowledge of the local environment. Environmental education occurring at SLOEP may serve as a foundation for students who want to work one of the many local jobs that require environmental knowledge.

Outcome/Goal 4, Strategy 2 – SLOEP has established interagency agreements to utilize local resources, some of which are not readily available to the public. Students who attend SLOEP are able to experience kayaking on Spring Lake – access that is very limited. SLOEP also operates on Spring Lake Preserve, The Meadows Center, and Goodnight Middle School properties.

**Goals for the program:** 1) SLOEP will provide meaningful learning experiences intended to introduce students to outdoor recreation and resource management. Our programs will be focused on natural resource management.

2) SLOEP is designed to foster interactions between Texas State University students and Goodnight Middle School Students. We believe that these relationships will enhance social awareness and self-confidence for middle school students.

3) Through the “Project Wild” curriculum that is utilized in SLOEP, we intend to help students improve many job-related skills such as problem-solving.

4) Project Wild is directly correlates with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and is an excellent way to help expand the walls of the schoolhouse and help students apply their academic knowledge to their lived experience.

**How will they know they met these goals:** In the order above:

1) A youth survey will be administered at the end of each semester and 75% of Goodnight Middle School students will agree or strongly agree that SLOEP has provided an engaging way for them to learn about resource management through experiences in the outdoors.

2) A youth survey will be administered at the end of each semester and 75% of Goodnight students will agree or strongly agree that SLOEP has increased their self-confidence and social awareness through their engagement with peers and college students.

3) A youth survey will be administered at the end of each semester and 80% of Goodnight students will agree or strongly agree that SLOEP has enhanced their ability to solve problems through their engagement in the “Project Wild” curriculum.

4) A youth survey will be administered at the end of each semester and 80% of Goodnight students will agree or strongly agree that SLOEP has helped them connect with or apply their academic knowledge.

**Number of clients served yearly:** 50

**Number of direct clients served ONLY in San Marcos:** 50

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

**Commission on Children and Youth Recommendation:** \$4,000

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