

CITY OF DAVIS
2002-2003 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

Organization Name: Woodland Youth Services

Street Address: 9 Woodland Avenue
Mailing Address: 9 Woodland Avenue
E-mail Address: wys@afes.com
Phone Number: (530) 666-4622
Fax Number: (530) 666-5704

Contact:Debra Wilson Address:9 Woodland Ave, Wdld, 95695 Phone:(530) 666-4622

Total Proposal Request: \$18,720

On-going Support New Project

CDBG Eligible Category: Public Service

National Objective Compliance/Low and Mod Benefit: Area Benefit

City Council Identified Critical Needs:

- 1) Homeless Prevention Services
- 2) Mental Health Services
- 3) Youth

PUBLIC SERVICE

NON-PUBLIC SERVICE

Beneficiary Information:

- 132 Total number of beneficiaries in program
- 132 Total number of beneficiaries in program served with CDBG funds
- 99 Percentage of CDBG beneficiaries with low/moderate income
- \$142 Cost per CDBG beneficiary

PROJECT NARRATIVE

a. Need

At the age of eighteen, adolescents in foster care (including those in group home situations) are “emancipated”; expelled from the system that once oversaw their every move and provided shelter, food and therapy. On their own, the teens are expected to go to college and develop careers, find jobs and become stable employees, choose roommates wisely and move into shared apartments, develop healthy relationships and become good parents. In reality, every year thousands find that they are lost in a world that they cannot navigate with no guidance and no idea of where to begin to meet the challenges of living independently.

The common experience of emancipation for youth in foster care is a frightening one. Foster teens are some of the most vulnerable people in our society. According to Terry Licon, coordinator of Sacramento County’s Independent Living Program, “People expect these kids to fail.” For most of the 13,000 foster care teens in California, living on their own is extremely difficult. Many find themselves in and out of work, hunting for jobs that pay enough to sustain them and living on friends’ couches. A typical teenager in foster care is disconnected from the community, doesn’t have any consistent adult figures, usually falls behind in school and basically does not have the skills to live on their own

We want, in fact, we need these kids to succeed. In its current state, emancipation from foster care virtually ensures dependence on the welfare system, unemployment, poverty and homelessness for thousands of youth every year. The program we are developing at WYS can significantly improve the chances of the teenagers in our care for successful transition into adulthood.

The children that we care for are so traumatized, their day-to-day needs are so very intensive, that our current staff members have no time to develop, implement and maintain a new project. We need to add the position of Emancipation Project Coordinator to manage this project and see that it meets its goal: to assist these kids to gain access to resources and develop the concrete skills necessary to live independently, to give them a glimpse of another way of life which previously seemed to be out of reach and to provide an optimistic vision of adulthood in which teens' opportunities are more plentiful than they are scarce.

b. Benefit

All of the children at the Emergency Shelter Home and Crossroads House are homeless and on MediCal. With few exceptions (some of the older children have after-school jobs), none of the children have any income at all. This project addresses the need for Transitional Assistance. It also assists in building self-esteem and a positive self image and therefore addresses Mental Health Services and Youth.

c. Other Resources and Collaboration

WYS continues to develop and maintain collaborative relationships with several community agencies and organizations. Our contract with Yolo County Department

of Social Services provides funding and social work services. We also work closely with Yolo County Department of Mental Health, Molina Medical Clinic, Peterson Clinic, Chappe-De Medical Clinic, Lincoln Dental, Yolo Food Bank, local schools and Yolo Family Service Agency. WYS staff continually seeks contributions and in-kind donations from community organizations and businesses. We will be applying to the City of Woodland and Woodland United Way for collaboration on this particular project.

d. Organizational Capacity

Since 1985, Woodland Youth Services has been caring for children in crisis. Currently, we can accommodate sixteen children. Last year we provided 2,612 client service days to 132 children. WYS operates the only 24-hour emergency shelter for children in Yolo County.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

a. Project Description

Components of the program include, but are not limited to the following:

- Personal Finance
 - balancing a checkbook
 - paying bills
 - managing checking and savings accounts
 - living on a budget
 - preparing income tax returns
 - applying for financial aid for college

- Education
 - study skills
 - setting short-term and long-term educational goals
 - completing student application forms

- Vocational Skills
 - computer training
 - vocational training
 - job skills training
 - job seeking
 - compiling resumes and cover letters
 - dressing and grooming appropriately

- General Living Skills
 - apartment seeking
 - cooking
 - learning the public transportation system
 - driver's training
 - furnishing an apartment
 - learning where to look for assistance

One of the most important aspects of this program is the development of appropriate social skills. Everyday behaviors and positive habits can be demonstrated across all activities and in various social interactions. During outings and seminars, social norms can be modeled and learned experientially through various group situations. The teens can also be encouraged to participate in community projects and learn the value of community service, team work, work ethic, self-assertion, initiative and critical thinking.

The entire budget will support direct services to homeless people – all of our children are homeless. We are requesting support from the City of Davis in the amount of \$142 per child (number of children is estimated, based on actual numbers from last

year). Additional support will come from community organizations, donations, additional grant requests and various fundraising activities.

b. Target Group

The target group for this project is all children at WYS between the ages of six and eighteen, with the majority of services provided to teenagers approaching the age of emancipation. All of the children have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services due to abuse, neglect, molestation and/or abandonment. The children are placed with Woodland Youth Services until appropriate placement can be determined for them or until they are emancipated at the age of eighteen. They are children who need intensive care and services in order to overcome what they have been through and gain the skills they need in order to be able to live independently and end the cycle of violence and failure.

c. Outreach

Does not apply to this program or this project.

TIMELINE

a. Work Plan

<u>List Activity</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
Hire Emancipation Project Coordinator	July/August
EPC meets with each child to assess needs and set goals	July/August
EPC begins scheduling events, ordering supplies and working with administrative staff to prepare project calendar	July/August
EPC contacts local, regional and state programs for possible collaboration and materials	July/August
Basic, day-to-day components of project calendar posted and implemented	September
Meetings with administrative staff and Program Director to evaluate, enrich and revise project	Ongoing
Meetings with each child to assess results and revise individual components accordingly	Ongoing
Addition of new components to the project	Ongoing

**CITY OF DAVIS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Category	Proposed Budget	Other Sources	Total
A. Salaries and Wages (EPC only)	\$18,720	\$0	\$18,720
B. Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0
C. Consultant/Contract Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL PERSONNEL BUDGET	\$18,720	\$0	\$18,720
D. Clothing/Grooming/Hygiene	\$0	\$10,500	\$10,500
E. School Supplies/Application Fees/Driver's Ed	\$0	\$9,500	\$9,500
F. Seminars/Learning Materials	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500
TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL BUDGET	\$0	\$23,500	\$23,500
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$18,720	\$23,500	\$42,220