

Juvenile Adjudication Fund Grant Program Application Cover Sheet Local Government Division - DFA

Date of Application: 3/15/2013

Application Number: _____
(DFA use only)

Contact Person or Project Director:

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Proposal Information

Project Summary (Please give 2-3 sentence summary of request):

Teen Court of Santa Fe County is requesting a Juvenile Adjudication Fund Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 to assist in the continuation of providing quality services to high-risk youth. The funds would allow the Teen Court program to provide counseling, anger management, and restorative justice practices to compliment other program components.

Population served: High-risk youth ages 11-17
Geographic area(s) served: Santa Fe County

Budget

Dollar amount requested: 30,000.00
Match (cash and/or in-kind): 60,000.00
Total project budget: 90,000.00

Authorization

I authorize the applicant to submit this application for funding from the State of New Mexico. To the best of my knowledge, the information presented in the application is true and correct.

Name of chief official: Katherine Miller, County Manager Signature and date: _____

Name of project representative: Jennifer Romero, Program Manager Signature and date: _____

Katherine Miller 3/21
Jennifer Romero 3/20/13

Program Information

Teen Court of Santa Fe County is a non-profit government entity established in 1994. It is governed by Santa Fe County and is operated by 3 full time employees. The Teen Court Program is also dependent on numerous teen and adult volunteers to assist in the court process. The funds for the program are a compilation of five sources; Santa Fe County (\$60,000), the City of Santa Fe (\$40,000), Local DWI (\$39,500), Administrative Office of the Courts (\$60,000), and Teen Court fees (\$20,000).

Teen Court is a first time offenders program with alternative sentencing and is run for teens by teens. Teens are referred to the program by Municipal Court, Magistrate Court, Juvenile Probation & Parole, and Santa Fe Public Schools. The cases referred to Teen Court consist of traffic or misdemeanor offenses. The program and services we provide are more frequently sought out by other entities as well as parents and guardians. The community network in Santa Fe continues to refer to Teen Court as an integral resource. The Teen Court Program facilitated 45 court sessions and 350 youth defendant court hearings in FY12. The program will have served approximately 600 youth and their families in FY13.

All teens are sentenced to complete community service, jury duty, and a DWI prevention class. Depending on the severity and circumstance of each referral, other sentencing may include a letter of apology, defensive driving class, random urine analysis drug testing, and individual or family counseling. All misdemeanor cases receive a drug and alcohol screening and assessment and are then referred to needed prevention programs such as; Substance Abuse Program, Middle School Parent Involvement Program, Strategies for Teen Anger Management Program, Shoplifting Intervention Class, or Restorative Justice Circle. The majority of misdemeanor defendants involved in substance use are required to attend the Family Night Presentation which depicts the negative effects that substances have on the growing brain and the Reality Program which is a visit to the Santa Fe County Youth Detention Center.

The Santa Fe County Teen Court Program aims to be a prevention network of resources throughout the community to break the cycle of behavior that leads to criminal activity. The focus is on the youth of our community who are struggling to make the right decisions. The goal is to provide them with a second chance to make-up for their mistakes, repair harm to victims, give back to the community, and learn the skills to enable them to make better choices in the future. The program also assists parents with their teens during these difficult times. Teen Court is a way to give teens and families the support and resources they need to help them get back on the right path.

We have had much success over the years. We continually enhance existing components such as our Middle School Parent Involvement Class (PIP). This component is based on the Strengthening Families Program. It is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, and alcohol and drug abuse in children as well as to improve social competencies and school performance. Child maltreatment also decreases as parents strengthen bonds with their children and learn more effective parenting skills. We have also enhanced our Strategies for Teen Anger Management Program (STAMP). The Santa Fe Mountain Center will be facilitating this component starting March 2013, as they have created a program designed to teach alternative ways to deal with adrenaline management by using positive reinforcement and encouragement. The program is the design of a safe emotional environment where participants feel empowered to push themselves past their perceived limits in order to achieve personal growth. The program uses a variety of adventure activities and experiential methods where clients can experience success in the challenges they face, and then ultimately apply the metaphoric learning into their lives.

Jennifer Romero is the current Teen Court Program Manager. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of New Mexico. She is a Senior Certified Prevention Specialist and is currently working toward her Masters of Social Work in Clinical Therapy at New Mexico Highlands University. Ms. Romero has been working with high risk youth through the Santa Fe County Teen Court Program since January 2007. She serves on several community boards and assists in organizing and

developing many community wide initiatives. For the purpose of this project, she will oversee the program components and evaluate to ensure services are appropriate for the needs of the youth. Other responsibilities include administration and management of the programs scope of work, enhancement of existing components, and coordination of collaborative efforts between agencies.

Marissa Tapia is the current Program Coordinator. Ms. Tapia holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biological Anthropology with a minor in Spanish and Psychology from the University of New Mexico and is currently working toward her Prevention Specialist Certification. She has a background in administrative law enforcement and holds General Instructor, Mental Health, and Critical Incident Certifications. She previously served as a youth leader for the Life Teen Program for two years as a peer advocate. The key responsibilities of this position include coordination and evaluation of program components and the development and maintenance of program reports. For the purpose of this project, the majority of the workload responsibility will be to monitor compliance for defendants who have been sentenced in an effort to prevent recidivism during and after defendant's participation in the Teen Court Program.

Challenges we have encountered in the current fiscal year in regard to expending our JAF grant funds was due to the long process of completing the intake/assessment contract with the County. Although the contract was initiated in June, the contract was not completed until November. I believe we will be able to expend the balance as one of our staff is on maternity leave and we are utilizing the contractor in more of a condensed time period than initially planned. I do not believe we will have contract issues in the future as the County has implemented new and seemingly further efficient processes.

LDWI funds are received by Teen Court of Santa Fe County indirectly through our DWI Department. In FY14, we will be allocated \$39,500 in LDWI funds to be used towards salaries and wages and contractual services, enabling us to continue our DWI Prevention & Media Literacy Class, Substance Abuse Program, and Family Night Presentation on how substances effect the growing brain. The JAF grant will complement this funding by

enabling us to provide our Shoplifting Intervention Class, Strategies for Teen Adrenaline Management Program, Restorative Justice Circles, Teen Attorney Internship Program, and counseling services. The funds from the JAF grant will be used toward contractual services not covered by the LDWI funds.

Project Overview

Teen Court of Santa Fe County is a key resource for many agencies in the Santa Fe community. The majority of our referrals come from Municipal and Magistrate Courts, Juvenile Probation & Parole, and Santa Fe Public Schools. Private schools and parents of teens in need of services also utilize the program. We are cognizant of the importance to meet with each referring agency multiple times throughout the year to exchange new information and needs of the youth. As the intake assessment is needed as grounds for a juvenile misdemeanor offender to start the Teen Court process, they are held several times each day, totaling 254 in FY12. During the first two quarters of FY13, we have completed 142 drug and alcohol screenings. Misdemeanor court hearings are held every other week to allow for traffic court, for a total of approximately 45 court sessions in a fiscal year.

Many of our youth are in need of services not available in the community or experience financial difficulties when they are available. For the purpose of this project, Teen Court of Santa Fe County would utilize the Juvenile Adjudication Fund (JAF) grant to provide counseling, anger management, and restorative justice circles to our participating youth and families at little or no cost to participants. Approximately 600 teens and families will be served in FY13, many of them being required to complete one or more of the following program components based on the offense committed by the youth and results of the intake assessment.

- Substance Abuse Program (8 session's total)
- Defensive Driving Class
- Restorative Justice Circle
- Letter of Apology
- G.E.D. Completion (16 years or older)
- Shoplifting Intervention Class
- Middle School Parent Involvement Program (6 session's total)
- Reality Program Visit to Youth Detention Center
- Family Night Presentation on How Substances Effect the Growing Brain

- Individual and or Family Counseling
- Strategies for Teen Anger Management Program (3 session's total)
- Youth Drug and Alcohol Program
- Graffiti Clean-Up Project
- Smoking Cessation Program (4 sessions total)
- Fresh Start Truancy Program
- Random Urine Analysis Drug Testing

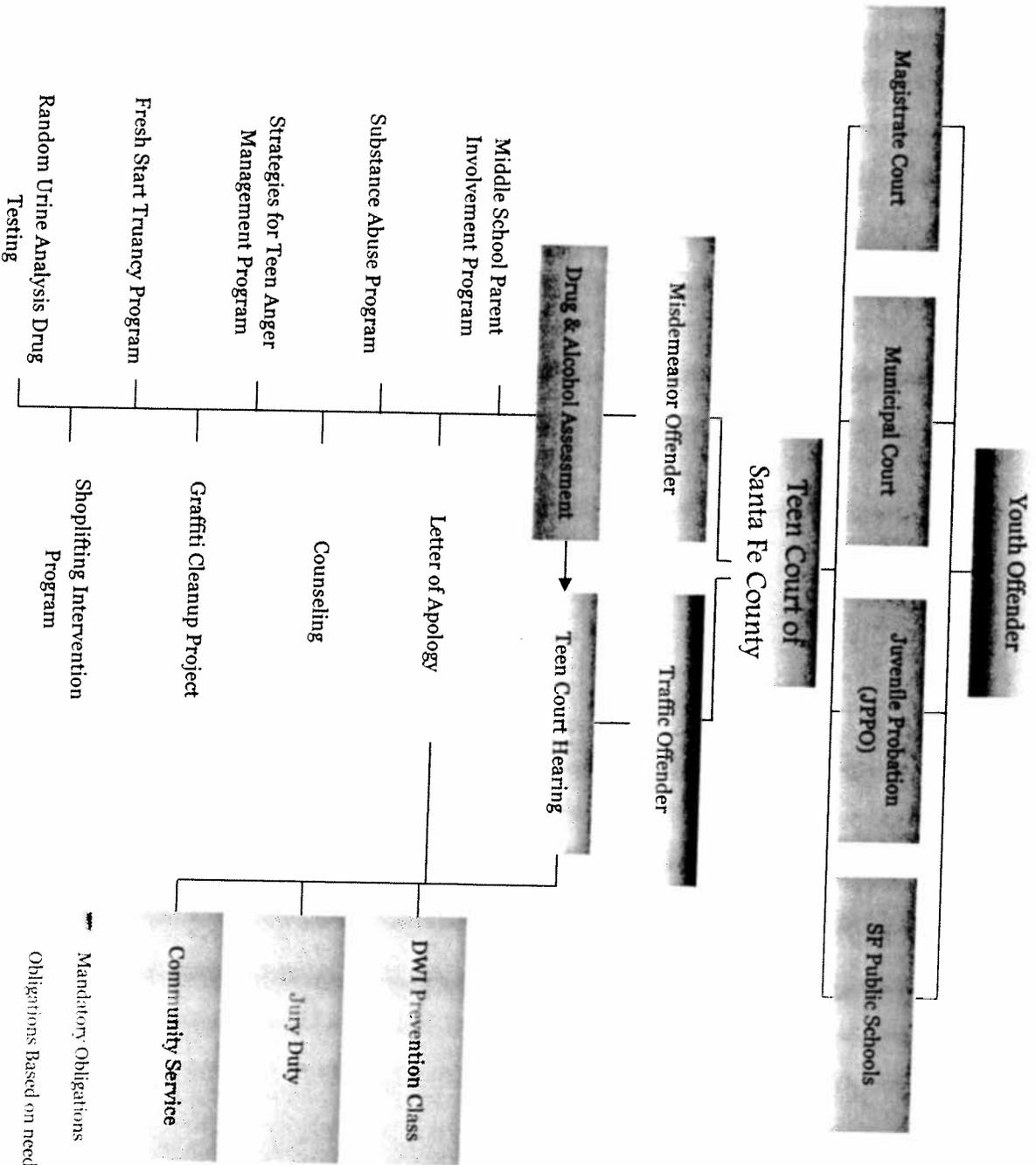
All participants are required to complete community service, serve jury duty, and attend the DWI Prevention & Media Literacy Class. The participants sentence at their court hearing will include the above requirements and specific quantities of community service and jury duty which will be determined by the jury within the range allotted for the participants offense. The ultimate determination of services a youth will participate in will be made by the person(s) conducting the assessment with approval by the Program Manager. Participants can access all components within the Teen Court Program. The Program Coordinator and Teen Court Secretary will monitor compliance by communicating directly with the youth in regard to sentencing deadlines, required component start dates, and community service opportunities. Communication is frequent to ensure obligations are taken seriously and probability of youth's completion is increased.

All program components available within the Teen Court Program are facilitated by highly qualified instructors who are experts in the field they teach. The components, when used in combination, encompass all six of the CSAP strategies recommended by SAMHSA. We currently have two evidence-based programs; DWI Prevention & Media literacy Class and the Middle School Parent Involvement Program. The DWI Class is currently under review by SAMSHA's National Registry for Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) to become a model program.

Many families go without the services they need causing more turmoil or leaving matters unsettled which can lead to future behavioral problems. The grant would enable the Santa

Fe County Teen Court Program to assist youth and families in need of counseling services that due to financial difficulties or lack of insurance coverage would otherwise not be an option for them. The JAF grant would also allow for our participants struggling with anger management, bullying, or larceny to receive quality services to resolve their current issue as well as explore any underlying factors of their behavior. Lastly, the grant would complement our Teen Attorney Training Program by allowing us to promote youth development by providing 2-3 paid internships throughout the year when our young people are on spring, summer, or winter break.

Organization Chart



Measurable Objectives

Objective:

Promote youth development and provide quality services for Teen Court participants in need of counseling, anger management, and restorative justice.

Performance Measure:

- Number of youth engaged in youth development through Teen Court internship
- Number of participants completing the Teen Court Program
- Number of participants completing program components

Performance Goal:

- Increase youth development opportunities
- Increase the number of youth successfully completing the Teen Court Program
- Increase the number of youth attending program components

Rationale:

In FY12, 271 participants completed their Teen Court obligations and 182 youth and parents participated in counseling, anger management, restorative justice, or shoplifting intervention. One of our Teen Attorneys participated in a summer and winter break internship. With the funding from the JAF grant, we could continue to offer and expand quality services to meet the needs of our participants.

Method:

Teen Court staff will coordinate program component scheduling with facilitators to optimize availability and convenience for our youth and families. Staff will monitor teens throughout their participation to increase the probability of completion of their sentencing obligations. Staff will also evaluate program components and continue community partnerships to better assess community needs and revamp components as necessary.

Community Involvement

The community needs addressed by this project are extensive. Teen Court staff network with community partners on a regular basis which then assists us when creating or implementing a program component. Due to widespread networking, we are well aware of community needs and work towards implementing programs that are beneficial and specific to our youth. Many of our community partnerships will result in additional services at no cost to our youth. We continue to evaluate and revamp program components to meet the needs of the youth, parents, and community.

JPPO Involvement

The Santa Fe Teen Court Program staff work closely with the local Juvenile Probation & Parole Office. In FY12 we received 77 referrals from Juvenile Probation. In the first half of FY13, we have received a total of 43 referrals. In FY12, we relieved approximately 10% of the Juvenile Probation & Parole caseload. Thus far we are on track to exceed this benchmark in FY13 and anticipate similar numbers in FY14. We meet regularly with Juvenile Probation to discuss program components and ways in which we can utilize resources within the community to benefit our youth. Many, if not all of our efforts align with the efforts of our Juvenile Probation Office, therefore collaboration is important to implement a system that works to support our youth while refraining from duplicating services.

Overall Success

A recidivism study was completed in June 2011 with the purpose of capturing the demographic and socio-economic profile of youth who have completed Teen Court, to find the most effective program components and the recidivism rate for the program. The study concluded that 85% of Santa Fe County Teen Court participants were non-repeat offenders. The most common age for a first offense, were ages 14 and 16 with the most

common recurrence offense being drug possession. We plan to implement a means to evaluate our recidivism rate and success of our program on an annual basis and are currently working towards creating a post-parent survey as an addition to our youth survey to better understand the impact on our participants. We use an online data system to collect and calculate statistics from the responses of participants completing the Teen Court Program. Response rates are at 100% due to participant's obligation to complete the survey in order to complete the program.

Teen Court of Santa Fe County reduces the overall adjudication rate by providing alternative programming. Recidivism is reduced by first evaluating the needs of our youth by networking and partnering with other community agencies to then implement needed quality programs to benefit our youth. Participants are monitored to increase likelihood that they will complete the program and the active application of the sanctions leads one to be less likely to reoffend. The program and services we provide are more frequently sought out by other agencies as well as parents and guardians. The community network in Santa Fe continues to refer to Teen Court as an integral resource.

**JUVENILE ADJUDICATION FUND PROGRAM
REVENUE/EXPENDITURE SUMMARY**

Form JAF-2

Applicant/Grantee

Teen Court of Santa Fe County

Total Project Funding (inc. in-kind) 110,000

JAF Grant Funding

30,000.00

REVENUES BY SOURCE	EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY	GRANT EXPENDITURES	IN-KIND/MATCH FUNDS	TOTAL BUDGET
JAF Program Grant	INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE* Personnel Costs (Salary and Benefits)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Generated Fees	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Match (Cash or In-Kind)	Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0
County	PROGRAM			
City	Personnel Salaries, Benefits, Background Checks	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000
Judicial/Courts	Travel (In-State)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	Travel (Out-of-State)**	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Employee and Volunteer Training	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Operating Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Contractual Services	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
	Minor Equipment**		\$0	\$0
	Capital Outlay**		\$0	\$0
	Subtotal	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$70,000
	TOTALS:	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,000	\$70,000
TOTAL REVENUES			TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$70,000
		110,000		

* Administrative is limited to 5% = \$1,500

** Out-of-state Travel, Minor Equipment, And Capital Outlay are not eligible for grant funding, but can be counted towards match requirements
Total Match Must Be => \$3,000

