

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SARPY COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GRANT COORDINATOR AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
DIRECTOR TO ELECTRONICALLY SUBMIT THE SHERWOOD FOUNDATION GRANT FOR THE TRUANCY
PROGRAM AND JUVENILE JUSTICE REPORTING CENTER**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-104(6) (Reissue 2007), the County has the power to do all acts in relation to the concerns of the County necessary to the exercise of its corporate powers; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-103 (Reissue 2007), the powers of the County as a body are exercised by the County Board; and,

WHEREAS, a Sherwood Foundation Grant is available to the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center; and,

WHEREAS, Sarpy County is requesting funding for Truancy and Reporting Center Staff; and,

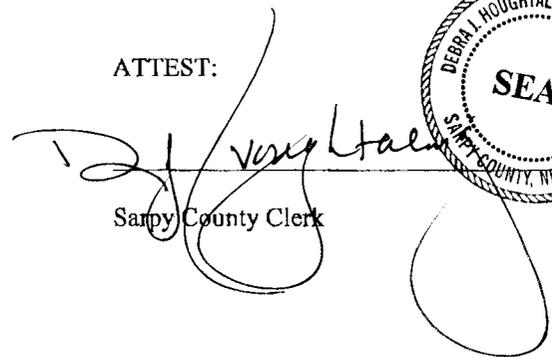
WHEREAS, Sarpy County is committed to and supports Truancy programming at the Juvenile Justice Center; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners that Dick Shea and the Sarpy County Grant Coordinator are hereby authorized to electronically submit the Sherwood Foundation Grant application.

The above Resolution was approved by a vote of the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners at a public meeting duly held in accordance with applicable law on the 12th day of August, 2014.

ATTEST:


Sarpy County Board Chairman


Sarpy County Clerk



Sarpy County Board of Commissioners

1210 GOLDEN GATE DRIVE
PAPILLION, NE 68046-2895
593-4155

www.sarpy.com

ADMINISTRATOR Mark Wayne

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR Scott Bovick

FISCAL ADMIN./PURCHASING AGT. Brian Hanson



COMMISSIONERS

Don Kelly District 1

Jim Thompson District 2

Tom Richards District 3

Brenda Carlisle District 4

Jim Warren District 5

MEMO

To: Sarpy County Board

From: Lisa A. Haire

Re: Sherwood Foundation Grant Application

On August 12, 2014, the County Board will be asked to give Lisa Haire, Grant Coordinator and Dick Shea, Juvenile Justice Center Director, permission to electronically submit the Sherwood Foundation Grant application on behalf of the Juvenile Justice Truancy and Reporting Center Program.

The grant application must be submitted electronically through the Sherwood Foundation's website. Attached is a copy of the grant information. Sarpy County will request \$119,983 for three Staff. One FT Juvenile Services Officer to supervise the Day Reporting Center, one Teacher, and one PT Truancy Youth Attendant. There will be no County match required for this grant.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dick Shea at (402) 537-7021.

August 8, 2014

cc: Mark Wayne
Brian Hanson
Scott Bovick
Dick Shea
Deb Houghtaling

Lisa A. Haire

lhaire@sarpy.com

General Program/Project Grant Application

Organization Information

NOTE: If you are an employee of the Omaha Public Schools, you must obtain District approval before submitting an application. For assistance, please contact the OPS Grant Coordinator at 402.557.2151.

Legal Name of Organization

As stated on the 501 (c) 93 letter and form 990

County of Sarpy, Patrick J. Thomas Juvenile Justice Center

Other Name(s) of Your Organization

Formerly Known As, Also Known As, Acronym

Sarpy County

Federal Tax ID Number

Format as xx-xxxxxxx

47-600-6504

Organization's Address

Spell out Street, Avenue, Boulevard, Suite

9701 Portal Road

Organization's City

Do not abbreviate

Papillion

Organization's State

Select from the drop down

NE

Organization's Zip Code

Format as xxxxx-xxxx

68046

Organization's Main Phone Number

xxx-xxx-xxxx

402-537-7000

Organization's Web Address

Format as www.xxxxx.org

www.sarpy.com

Organization's Mission Statement

Sarpy County's overall Mission Statement is to: Improve the quality of life in Sarpy County by providing responsive, efficient, and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being, and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses, and communities.

In addition, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice agencies developed the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan. The vision guiding this comprehensive plan is to reduce juvenile delinquency and enhance public safety in Sarpy County by (1) identifying the risk factors related to delinquency and abuse/neglect; (2) developing appropriate prevention and intervention programs for delinquency and abuse/neglect; and (3) fostering system communication and cooperation across agencies and with the public to strengthen system effectiveness.

Year Organization was Founded

Format as xxxx

2003

Organization's Primary Goals, Major Programs or Services

The Patrick J. Thomas Juvenile Justice Center is a 36-bed, staff-secure housing center for juveniles. The center includes an educational center, youth assessment center, juvenile court suite, visitation area, alternative school, as well as administrative offices.

An Evening Reporting Center is available for juveniles who are involved in the juvenile court system to report for daily supervision. The Reporting Center provides tutors, alcohol abuse counseling, moral recognition therapy, and classes such as Life Skills, World of Difference, and Wellness Classes. A Day Reporting Center opened in 2014 with funding received from the Sherwood Foundation. The Day Reporting Center is available during day/afternoon hours for youth who need tutoring and/or credit recovery assistance during school hours.

Alternative education programs are available for juveniles who have been expelled from school and who are currently involved in the juvenile court system. A court-ordered program called the Sarpy County Educational Program (SCEP) is available to them during normal school hours. The Truancy Program is a voluntary Program that is available for youth to receive school credits and to have their Truancy charge dismissed.

Additionally, juveniles may be placed under a structured supervision program called C.A.R.E. (Children At Risk Education) Program. C.A.R.E is a home-based electronic monitoring system, which uses radio frequencies and global positioning system (GPS) to assist staff members who monitor the activities of youths on the program. This facility and its programs offer a safe and structured environment for juvenile law offenders who are awaiting court ordered placement and/or court hearing.

Describe any major changes regarding your organization since you last applied.
Only previous grant recipients need respond.

In the last six months, Sarpy County opened the Day Reporting Center with funding received from the Sherwood Foundation. The Day Reporting Center is available during the daytime hours for youth to receive tutoring and credit recovery assistance. A teacher is available to help with homework and to assist students with completing missed assignments/projects. The Day Reporting Center gives youth suspended from school a place to study and complete homework while absent from school. The Center is also available for youth who need daily supervision services.

The Truancy Program was renamed the PASS Program (Persistence Achieves School Success). In the last year, the Truancy/PASS Program began transporting some youth to the Center. Many youth are unable to get to the Center due to lack of transportation at home. There is no reliable form of public transportation in the County and for youth that cannot drive or do not have access to a vehicle, getting to the Reporting Center can be very difficult, and sometimes impossible. Sarpy County began to provide transportation when possible and applied to the Nebraska Crime Commission for a mini-van in the Community Based Juvenile Services Grant. In addition, the Program began utilizing Region 6 as a resource for mental health counseling and immediate crisis interventions. The Program also met with staff at Boys Town to begin utilizing the Hotline for crisis situations. The Truancy/PASS Program works hand and hand with the Day and Evening Reporting Centers and makes referrals to both for additional services when needed.

What other organizations in your community do similar work? How are you unique, compared to these organizations?

State Legislation and LB800 defined Truancy as 20 days absent from school and must be referred to the County Attorney's office for evaluation. The Omaha Metro Superintendents of Schools implemented the GOALS Center to assist students and families in attending school and achieving academic success prior to reaching the 20 day mark. This is a voluntary program and families are referred to community resources.

Sarpy County began a Truancy Pilot Program in August 2010. The goal was to implement a comprehensive plan which holds parents, students, and schools accountable for school attendance by engaging students in the school culture, successfully developing strategies that reduce and prevent truancy, and ultimately delinquency and involvement of the Juvenile Court.

The Sarpy County Truancy/PASS Program is unique within the Omaha Metro Area and is used to divert youth from entering the Juvenile Justice System. When all options implemented by the Schools, including GOALS, have not been successful and the youth exceeds 20 absences from school, he/she is referred to the County Attorney's Office. These cases are examined and a determination is made to place the youth on the Truancy Program instead of Court intervention.

A Truancy/PASS Staff member makes personal contact with the referred youth daily and makes arrangements to meet the youth and family in their home. Personal contact and family involvement is a critical component of the Program. The Day and Evening Reporting Center are used for credit recovery, tutoring assistance, and for youth to attend classes, such as Life Skills class.

Board President/Chair

Prefix	First Name	Last Name
Mr.	Jim	Thompson

Place of Employment and Title
 Chairman, Sarpy County Board of Commissioners

Direct Phone	Extension	Email
402-593-4155		jthompson@sarpy.com

Attach a list of your board of directors. Include affiliation, mailing address and email for each director.

We accept the following file types: xls,xlsx,doc,docx,pdf. Once you've selected your file, click on the UPLOAD button.

COMMISSIONERS.doc

Attach a copy of board approved policies regarding hiring practices and client rights.

We accept the following file types: xls,xlsx,doc,docx,pdf. Once you've selected your file, click on the UPLOAD button.

Sarpy County Policies.pdf

Collective Impact

Sarpy County Board of Commissioners

1210 GOLDEN GATE DRIVE
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Sarpy County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Jim Thompson
Commissioner Brenda Carlisle
Commissioner Jim Warren
Commissioner Don Kelly
Commissioner Tom Richards

Chairman
Vice-Chair

jthompson@sarpy.com
bcarlisle@sarpy.com
jwarren@sarpy.com
donkelly@sarpy.com
trichards@sarpy.com

Address for all Commissioners

1210 Golden Gate Drive
Papillion, NE 68046
(402) 593-4155

We expect grantees to be active and positive contributors to recognized local and regional collaborative community change initiatives. Formal collective impact organizations have the ability to leverage federal funds and engage national foundations, as well as promote systems change through common data indicators, quality standards and best practices.

Examples of such initiatives include:

- *Collective for Youth*
- *Panhandle Partnership for Health and Human Services*
- *Midlands Mentoring Partnership*
- *Project Everlast*
- *Northeast Regional Blueprint*
- *Domestic Violence Council*
- *Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless*
- *Live Well Omaha*

Explain your organization's participation in community change initiatives related to your mission.

Sarpy County was approved by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) site. Through JDAI, Sarpy County collaborates with the Casey Foundation to analyze the ineffective and inefficient policies and practices within the juvenile justice systems in Sarpy County that result in inappropriate sanctions, disparities for minority youth, and unnecessary transfers to secure detention.

Research indicates that detaining low risk youth actually increases their likelihood of recidivism, is more expensive than alternatives to detention, and takes resources away from youth who need more intense supervision and services. A significant number of detained youth are low risk and would present little risk to the community if released to their own homes or a lesser level of supervision.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's JDAI is a nationally renowned reform process that effectively; lowers detention populations, enhances public safety, saves tax payer money, reduces the overrepresentation of minority youth, and introduces overall juvenile justice system improvements. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's JDAI is a model program under the OJJDP's DMC Reduction Best Practices Database:
http://www2.dsgonline.com/mpg/dmc_default.aspx.

Establishing JDAI sites in Nebraska is a specific strategy identified in the State of Nebraska's approved Three Year Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan regarding Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). Additionally, engaging in the JDAI process will address the following priority issues identified by the State of Nebraska's Three Year Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan: the lack of alternatives to detention, the overrepresentation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system, and the need for systemic reform in regards to data collection, risk assessment, and evaluations. Additionally, JDAI will address the following priorities in the Sarpy County Comprehensive Juvenile Service Plan: improve system operation and coordination, enhance existing programs and services for juvenile offenders, expand continuum of services and sanctions for youth in Sarpy County, and establish new programs for youth involved in the Sarpy County juvenile justice system. Through JDAI, Sarpy County will address these priorities by

analyzing system inefficiency in order to implement new policies and improve current practices of detention alternatives for all Sarpy County juvenile offenders.

Financial Information

THIS PAGE IS NOT REQUIRED FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Fiscal Year End Date
Format as mm/dd (example 12/31)

Total Projected Income for Current Fiscal Year
Format as xx,xxx

Total Projected Expenses for Current Fiscal Year
Format as xx,xxx

Total annual organization budget for current fiscal year (do not include volunteers or in-kind gifts).
Format as xx,xxx

Explain significant changes to your organization's budget.

Name of Bookkeeper or Accounting Firm

Name of Firm that Conducts Your Annual Audit

Attach Audit Report from Previous Year
We accept the following file types: xls,xlsx,doc,docx,pdf. Once you've selected your file, click on the UPLOAD button.

Contact Information

Organization's Primary Contact (Executive Director or President)

Prefix	First Name	Last Name
Mr.	Jim	Thompson

Title
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Direct Phone	Extension	Email
<i>Format as xxx-xxx-xxxx</i> 402-593-4155		jthompson@sarpy.com

Finance Contact

Prefix	First Name	Last Name
Mr.	Brian	Hanson

Title
Sarpy County Fiscal Administrator

Direct Phone	Extension	Email
<i>Format as xxx-xxx-xxxx</i> 402-593-2349		bhanson@sarpy.com

Program/Project Contact (This person will receive notifications and requirements pertaining to request)

Prefix	First Name	Last Name
Mr.	Dick	Shea

Title
Director, Patrick J. Thomas Juvenile Justice Center

Direct Phone	Extension	Email
<i>Format as xxx-xxx-xxxx</i> 402-537-7000		rshea@sarpy.com

If your organization used a grant writer for this request, provide the full name.
Lisa A. Haire, Sarpy County Grants Coordinator

Proposal Information

Program/Project Title
Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center Truancy Initiative

Program/Project summary description
Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center is requesting funding for Truancy and Day Reporting Center personnel in order to continue programming and meet the needs of youth in Sarpy County. School absenteeism and truancy contribute to students falling behind in schoolwork, falling grades, and dropping out of school, resulting in an increase in criminal

behavior, alcohol, and drug usage.

The Sarpy County Truancy/PASS Program is a comprehensive, individualized approach which incorporates strategies to reduce and prevent truancy. Critical components identified by the National Center for School Engagement are key elements of the Sarpy County Truancy Program. These critical components include; family involvement, a comprehensive approach focusing on prevention and intervention, use of incentives and sanctions, collaboration with the community, and support.

The student is referred to the County Truancy Program by the Juvenile Court or County Attorney. Staff members serve as a liaison with the schools and other appropriate individuals. Truancy staff make contact with the family and arrange to meet in their home. Family involvement is one of the Critical Components identified by the National Center for School Engagement for successful truancy programs.

The Day Reporting Center is available to youth between the hours of 8:00am - 3:00pm. Youth are referred by Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation, CARE, or the Truancy/PASS Program. Youth attend for supervision, to earn educational credits, or if they have been suspended from their home school for any amount of time. There is a teacher available to help with any assignments/projects and for tutoring assistance.

Total Requested Amount for this Program/Project
Format as xx,xxx
 119,983

Total Program/Project Budget for
 Current Fiscal Year
Format as xx,xxx
 119,983

Attach Program/Project Budget

We accept the following file types: xls,xlsx,doc,docx,pdf. Once you've selected your file, click on the UPLOAD button.

Budget.doc

List up to ten major funding sources and amounts committed for this request to date. Include city, state, and federal funding.

Format as: ABC Foundation-\$30,000; B Corporation-\$55,000

Nebraska Crime Commission, Lincoln, Nebraska - Truancy Program Grant \$33,553
 Nebraska Crime Commission, Lincoln, Nebraska - LB561 Community Based funds, \$33,608
 Sarpy County General fund for matching funds for the Truancy Grant, office space/building space, supplies, and school supplies for both Truancy and Reporting Center.
 Sherwood Foundation, Omaha, Nebraska - Truancy/Reporting Center Initiative, \$134,364 (2013).

List up to ten major funding sources and amounts pending, including city, state, and federal funding.

Format as: ABC Foundation-\$30,000; B Corporation-\$55,000

Sherwood Foundation, Omaha, Nebraska - Truancy/Reporting Center Initiative, \$119,983

Explain how this proposal fits with the organization's mission and goals.

One of Sarpy County's main goals is to improve the quality of life in Sarpy County by providing responsive, efficient, and high quality public services that promote the self-

**Sarpy County Truancy Program Initiative
Personnel Costs**

Position	Annual Salary	Subtotal	Benefits	TOTAL COSTS
Teacher	\$34,408	\$34,408	\$5,724	\$40,132
Juvenile Services Officer (FTE)	\$48,701	\$48,701	\$7,942	\$56,643
Youth Attendant (PTE)	\$20,142	\$20,142	\$3,066	\$23,208
TOTAL	\$103,251	\$103,251	\$16,732	\$119,983

PERSONNEL NARRATIVE

The Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Reporting Center is requesting funding for three (3) Reporting Center/Truancy Staff. Funding is requested for one (1) Teacher for the Reporting Center, one (1) FTE Juvenile Services Officer (JSO), and one (1) PTE Truancy Youth Attendant.

The Teacher will provide tutoring and coordination for recovery credit after the Youth Attendant has communicated with the school. Additionally, the teacher will also meet with home school teachers and counselors as needed.

Juvenile Services Officer (JSOs) responsibilities will include; supervising the Day Reporting Center and assist in property check-in, provide transportation to the Reporting Center as needed and assist the teacher as a Teacher's Aid for tutoring purposes.

Youth Attendants do personal checks with the youth and meet with parents for follow-up. The Youth Attendant will work closely with the student's home school and communicate with teachers and counselors on a regular basis. When a youth is initially placed on the program there is a minimum of 1.5 hours spent for intake which is conducted at the youth's residence. Case load is 25-30 youth per youth attendant.

sufficiency, well-being, and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses, and communities.

The Mission Statement for the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan is; Reduce juvenile delinquency, and enhance public safety by (1) identifying the risk factors related to delinquency and abuse/neglect; (2) developing appropriate prevention and intervention programs for delinquency and abuse/neglect; and (3) fostering system communication and cooperation across agencies and with the public to strengthen system effectiveness.

Through this initiative, the Juvenile Justice Center will assist youth through both the Truancy/PASS Program and the Reporting Center. The Truancy Program offers youth an alternative to formal court charges. If the youth successfully completes the Program, the Truancy charge is dismissed which effectively by-passes the traditional court process. Additionally, by expanding the Reporting Center hours, more youth will have access to tutoring and other programming options which otherwise would not be available to them. This Initiative will help achieve Priority One of the Sarpy County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan.

Priority One of the plan is to: Establish alternatives to detention for juveniles in Sarpy County. The Sarpy County Truancy Program and the Juvenile Reporting Center have both been recognized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as alternative programs for youth. Additionally, the Sarpy County Juvenile Reporting Center was nominated by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) as a model program.

Describe the social issue or opportunity to be addressed, including:

- Demographic and geographic information about the population served
- Recent research/evidence related to this issue

Sarpy County is the fastest growing county in Nebraska. Approximately one-third of the total population of the County is made up of juveniles between the ages of 0-17. The juvenile population in Sarpy County is projected to grow by 2% per year through 2020. This rapid increase in population has placed a strain on the current juvenile justice system's ability to keep up with the demand for services and to provide the necessary services youth need.

An increase in the juvenile population of Sarpy County combined with unstructured time outside of school has factored into an increase of youth crimes in the County. Initial encounters with law enforcement often begin with status offenses such as running away and truancy. The results of school absenteeism and truancy have been shown to increase youth participation in risky behaviors such as; substance abuse, gang activity, assaults, and other criminal mischief.

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), "Truancy may be the beginning of a lifetime of problems for students who routinely skip school" (<http://www2.ed.gov>). A low commitment to school is linked to all problem behaviors during the adolescent years. Truant behavior as an adolescent has been shown to have a direct connection to problems in adulthood such as; violence, marital troubles, job problems, criminal behavior, and incarceration.

There has been a significant increase of school absenteeism and truancy in Sarpy County. In 2009, the County Attorney's Office received 78 referrals for Truancy and filed on 66. In 2010, there were 196 referrals and 107 were filed. In 2011, there were 665 referrals and 224 were filed, an increase of 109% in one year. During 2012, there were 152 filings, of

those, 143 participated in the Truancy Program. In 2013, there were 147 youth who participated in the Truancy/PASS Program.

The Day Reporting Center opened in April 2014. In the short time from April to July, the Center has served 60 youth for a total of 2,634 service hours. Youth attending the Center earned 95 school credit hours and were referred by Juvenile Court, Probation, CARE and the Truancy/PASS Program.

How is your program/project a response to this issue or opportunity?

Describe in detail the activities within this program/project.

The Nebraska Legislature passed LB800 which defined youth truancy as 20 days absent from school. After 20 days absent, youth must be referred to the County Attorney's Office for evaluation. As a result of this law, the County experienced a large number of referrals from the five School Districts within Sarpy County. In response to these referrals, the County began the Truancy/PASS Program. After three full years of the Program, the County realized youth also need an alternative to sitting at home when they are suspended from school and some youth also need a place for credit recovery during the daytime hours as well as daily supervision services. The County requested funding from the Sherwood Foundation to open the Day Reporting Center.

The Truancy/PASS program has been extremely successful with an increase of 853% in the number of youth participating from 2010 (15) to 2012 (143). In the few short months the Day Reporting Center has been operational, 60 youth have attended with over 95 school credit hours earned.

The Truancy/PASS Program and the Day Reporting Center work together to assist youth in attending school, working out transportation issues, helping with assignments and projects for school credit, and allowing youth a place to study in the event they have been suspended from their home school for a period of time. Together, they provide tutoring services, educational support, Saturday School, offer various classes such as; Navigator, Wellness, Tobacco Education, Anger Management, Substance Abuse, Character Building, Culture Sensitivity, as well as provide supervision when needed.

In the Sarpy County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan, five prioritized needs are identified, one of which is to enhance services for juveniles in Sarpy County. It is imperative that programming be continued and enhanced to ensure proper service provision to Sarpy County youth and their families.

Services Provided to Participants
<p>Will this program/project provide a service(s) to an individual or targeted group(s)? <i>If "yes", than complete this section. If "no", move to the next section.</i></p> <p>No</p> <p>a) How many unique participants do you expect to serve through this program? <i>Use numerical format</i></p>

b) What is the primary service participants will receive?

In 5 words or less (example: mentoring, case management, counseling, training/education, enrichment, etc.)

c) How many hours each month will program participants receive the service you describe?

Example: five hours or less; six to ten hours; ten or more hours; this is a one-time only 8 hour event

d) What is your cost per participant? Use the following formula: Total Cost ÷ Number of Participants = Cost Per Participant

Format as xx,xxx

Describe previous accomplishments in this area and lessons learned that have led to the proposed program/project model.

The Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center began researching Truancy Programs in 2009. After a year of research, staff at the Juvenile Justice Center implemented a Truancy Pilot Program in August 2010. The goal of the Sarpy County Truancy Pilot was to implement a comprehensive program which holds parents, students, and schools accountable for school attendance by engaging students in the school culture, successfully developing strategies that will reduce and prevent truancy and ultimately delinquency and involvement of the Juvenile Courts. Due to the passage of LB800, truancy statistics in Sarpy County showed a significant increase in youth referred to the County Attorney's Office for truancy.

In 2011, Sarpy County applied for and received funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission to further implement the Truancy Program. Funding was awarded for two part-time Truancy staff that would be housed at the Juvenile Justice Reporting Center. During the first six months of grant funding (2010), the Truancy Program worked with fifteen (15) juveniles.

In the summer of 2012, Truancy Program staff attended meetings with the Sarpy County Attorney's Office and Juvenile Diversion. The Truancy Program now works with all referred truancy cases that flow through the County Attorney's Juvenile Diversion Program. During 2012, the Truancy/PASS Program worked with 143 juveniles, an increase of 853% from 2010. In addition, during 2013, 147 juveniles participated in the Truancy/PASS Program.

Is your proposed program/project backed by research/evidence or promising practice?

Evidence-based practices are interventions backed by one or more research studies or evaluations conducted by credible sources like universities or research firms.

Yes

If yes, list those sources and briefly describe the related program and outcomes.

Sarpy County researched various evidence based and model programs. In this research, Sarpy County concluded, "programs are more likely to survive and thrive when they exist in a supportive context working with the current system rather than against a system or in isolation" (Truancy Prevention in Action: Best Practices and Model Truancy Programs, National Center for School Engagement. July 2005). In 2010, Sarpy County implemented a pilot program which included components from several model programs.

This project diverts youth from entering the Juvenile Court System which can sometimes

result in placement at the Juvenile Justice Center, and/or the CARE Program. Critical components identified by the National Center for School Engagement (NCSE) are key elements of the Sarpy County Truancy Program. These components include; school-community collaboration, family involvement, comprehensive approach, use of incentives and sanctions, and a supportive context.

According to OJJDP, "because truancy often indicates bigger problems in a child's life, many communities are designing truancy reduction programs that involve schools, law enforcement, families, businesses, judicial and social service agencies, and community and youth service organization" --OJJDP, (http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/training/truancy_pg3.html).

Truancy is an indication youth may be headed for problems including, isolation, educational failure, and dropping out of school. Research shows that approximately 80% of dropouts were truant the year before leaving school (www2.ed.gov). An increase dropout rate impacts the community as these young people lack the skills to find and maintain employment successfully which can contribute to delinquency due to unstructured time and an increase in welfare dependency.

If no, explain why you believe this program to be an effective approach at this time.

How is your proposed program/project responsive to diverse client needs (i.e. race, socio-economic status, etc.)?

Although Sarpy County is an affluent county compared to others in Nebraska, there are a substantial number of youth experiencing risk factors for delinquency. These factors include, but are not limited to, poverty, mental illness, alcohol/substance abuse, school truancy/dropout, family/living instability, child abuse and neglect, family conflict, and learning disorders.

One of the priorities of the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan is to address Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) issues in Sarpy County. Sarpy County juvenile justice agencies recognize the need to provide better access to services for minority populations. It is imperative that the juvenile justice system assess the gaps in service and access by holding minority community forums and other information gathering sessions.

In 2010, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice agencies held a meeting in which the State DMC Coordinator presented DMC statistics for Sarpy County. It was determined at the meeting that there are some existing issues which need to be addressed. The Sarpy County SAFE Policy Committee, the JDAI Site Coordinator, and Sarpy County agencies will identify priorities specific to the different minority populations the system serves. The Committee will develop partnerships with local agencies also providing services to these populations in an effort to establish comprehensive services to all juvenile residents of Sarpy County and their families. Additionally, Sarpy County will seek funding to assist in addressing DMC issues that are identified in the JDAI analysis. Sarpy County is currently working with the JDAI Site Coordinator and the State JDAI Coordinator to take steps to address DMC issues.

Use this space if you would like to share any additional information.

The Sarpy County Truancy/PASS Program was highlighted in the Nebraska Governor's Annual Report and has been showcased as a successful Truancy Program. Sarpy County

has been approached by key stakeholders in Douglas County to assist with creating a similar but unique Truancy Program for juveniles in Douglas County. The Douglas County JDAI Coordinator has been very impressed with success Sarpy County has experienced in the four years that the Program has been operational and has asked Sarpy County Truancy/PASS Personnel for help in creating a Program in their County. Sarpy County Truancy personnel are interested in assisting Douglas County and will work closely with the JDAI Coordinator to create a program that will work for the youth in Douglas County.

In addition, continuing the Day Reporting Center during the hours of 8:00am - 3:00pm will not only assist those students that are in the Truancy/PASS Program, but also those students that have been suspended from their home school or are having problems and need additional assistance with school work.

If you operate with partners through a Memo of Understanding on efforts related to this program/project, please attach.

We accept the following file types: xls,xlsx,doc,docx,pdf. Once you've selected your file, click on the UPLOAD button.

Attach a list of key staff for this program/project and their responsibilities.

We accept the following file types: xls,xlsx,doc,docx,pdf. Once you've selected your file, click on the UPLOAD button.

KEY STAFF AND RESPONSIBILITIES (2).doc

Evaluation Information

Measurable Goal #1
<p>State Goal #1 Help students raise their grades while participating in the Program.</p> <p>Describe the success indicator for this goal. 75% of those students failing courses in the first four (4) weeks after entrance into the program will successfully bring grades to passing within the timeline of the program .</p> <p>How will you measure progress on this goal? A. Implement a plan of identification B. Develop an individual learning plan</p> <p>Describe activities designed to achieve this goal. Monitor homework completion and test grades in each class. Contact teachers in student's classes where progress is not being achieved to understand why progress is not being made. Develop resources for student to improve progress, including, tutoring, extra time for assignments, retaking or redoing work, etc...Information sharing will take place between all stake holders involved in the youth's education, including parents, home school, home school district, school counselors, teachers, school psychologist and any other</p>

KEY STAFF AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Michelle Siders, Program Coordinator – Michelle is responsible for the Truancy Program as well as the Evening and Day Reporting Center which work with the Truancy Program. Michelle reviews referrals to the Truancy Program and manages Program Staff.

William (Bill) York, Supervisor- Bill is directly responsible for the day to day operations of the Truancy Program. Bill assists Michelle in reviewing referrals to the Truancy Program. Bill sets up the initial meetings with youth and their families. In addition, Bill is responsible for writing Court updates for each youth in the Program and coordinating with staff on home visits and school progress.

David Seeba, Teacher – Dave is responsible setting up courses and developing activities for youth and the coordination between the Day Reporting Center, student, parents, and home school. Dave also provides instruction to youth as the work on curriculum for credit.

Trevor Sheets, JSO- Trevor is responsible for the day to day operations and supervision of Juveniles assigned to the Day Reporting Center. In addition he assists with implementing programing and tutoring for those youth in attendance

Barb VanWassenhoven, Teacher – Barb oversees the Educational Programs for juveniles held in detention. Barb has been very instrumental in the development of the Truancy Program and will work with the Teaching Staff on the Program.

Darlene Harris-Hogan, School Liaison - Darlene is responsible for taking daily school attendance, checking on grades, picking up homework, and transporting truant youth to school or Reporting Center as necessary.

Marlo Wolford and Linda Jacoby, Truancy Officers – Marlo and Linda are responsible for making the weekly home checks on each youth on the program. They are also responsible for transporting youth as needed to and from the Evening Reporting Center as necessary. They also assist in the supervision and tutoring of juveniles who are assigned to attend classes in the Evening Reporting Center.

service providers. Monitoring of student's progress while in the program will be ongoing and daily. Weekly progress reports will be sent to parents and school.

Measurable Goal #2
State Goal #2 Work to successfully get students back into their home schools.
Describe the success indicator for this goal. Implement transition plan back to home school for student.
How will you measure progress on this goal? A. Include transition in the individual learning plan. B. Include strategies that include the home school's involvement.
Describe activities designed to achieve this goal. Staff will meet with home school representatives before the student returns to school. Meetings will take place with student and school representatives to monitor student progress.

Measurable Goal #3
State Goal #3 Assist students with assessing needs in order to implement an overall plan for school success.
Describe the success indicator for this goal. Address behavior and social needs of the student.
How will you measure progress on this goal? A. Meet with the family regularly to determine issues that the family wants to be addressed. B. Exit interview with the student and family upon completion of the program.

Describe activities designed to achieve this goal.

Provide a safe environment, emotionally and physical In the Day Reporting Center. Involve family as appropriate, create a structured learning environment, and provide consistency for the student.

How will you address program sustainability and future funding needs? Include if you plan to use future Sherwood funds to maintain this work.

The Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center is hopeful the Sherwood Foundation will approve funding for the Truancy/Reporting Center Programs as they are a necessary part of continuing alternatives for youth in Sarpy County. However, the Sarpy County Truancy Program has the support of Sarpy County and the Sarpy County Education Program (SCEP) Board which consists of Superintendents from the five area school districts, the Sarpy County Sheriff, Sarpy County Attorney's Office, Sarpy County Probation, Sarpy County SAFE Chairman, and non-voting members which include the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Director, Sarpy County JJC Programs Supervisor, Sarpy County JJC Head Teacher and the SCEP Program Head Teacher. The SCEP Board has committed to support the program on a long term basis through funding secured from revenue generated in the Traffic Program.

In addition, Sarpy County is working on a request for funding in the Community Based Juvenile Services grant through the Nebraska Crime Commission (LB561) and is hopeful that in the next two years, funding can be secured through that grant application.

Identify any internal or external risks that could impact the success of the program/project.

Internal Risks:

Loss of funding

Loss of Staff

External Risks:

Lack of parental involvement or support

Family financial, social, and medical pressures that cause youth to stay home to help the family

Low school attachment

Poor academic performance

Poor school climate

Unmet mental/physical needs

Chemical dependency

Negative peer influences

Attach evaluation plan:

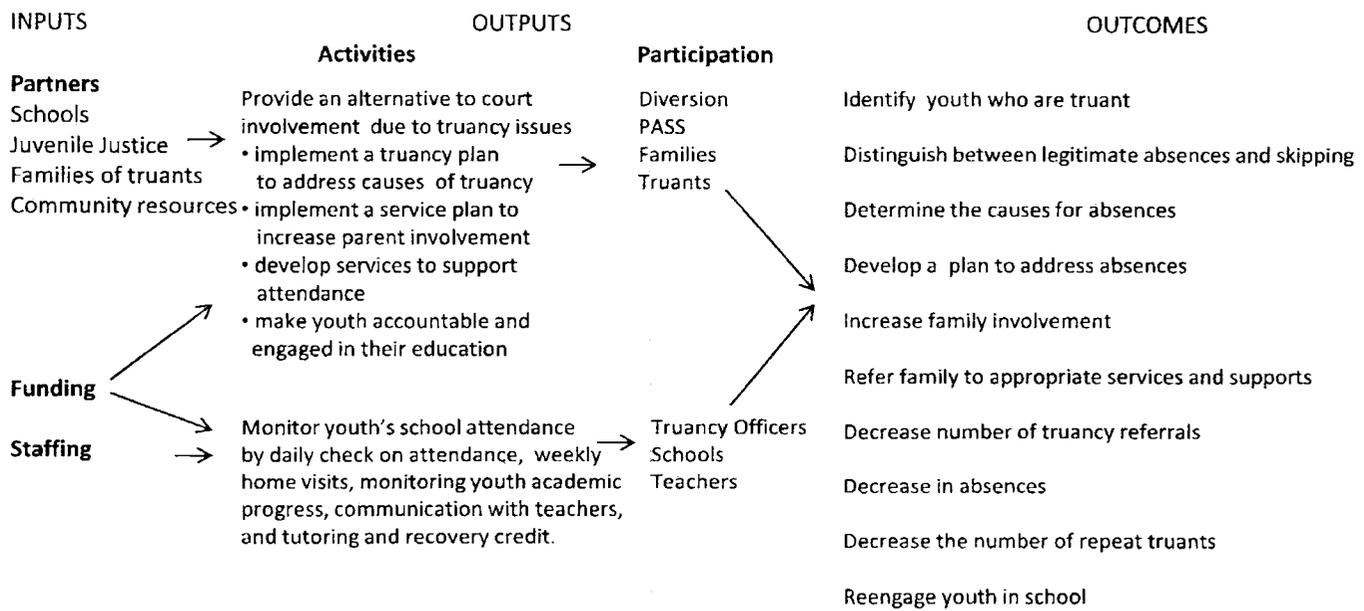
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Evaluation chart.pdf

Evaluation

Questions	Information Required	Information Sources	Method of Collection
Quantitative Data			
Has attendance improved while on the Program?	Pre-program attendance Attendance while on the program Attendance semester after program	School Records	Attendance records Truancy Checks
Have grades improved while on the Program	Mid-quarter grade, quarter grades semester grades	Youth, Parents School Records	Grade reports Truancy Checks
What was the success rate of the Program?	Total number of youth in Program Number of youth completed successfully	School Records Academic Records Truancy Records	Truancy records
Qualitative Data			
What parts of the program were most beneficial?	Parent and youth input on program	Youth, Parents	Survey/Questionnaire

Prevention Achieves School Success (PASS): Provide a structure to reduce truancy and reestablish a pattern of school attendance and success.



Attach logic model (examples: Theory of Change, Theory of Action)

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Logic Chart.pdf

If you plan to hire an outside evaluator to assess this project, please provide the name and phone number.

Terms of Submission

If you are an employee of the Omaha Public Schools, you must attach a letter of approval from the District before submitting this application. Any OPS application lacking such documentation will not receive consideration.

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BY SUBMITTING THIS ONLINE APPLICATION YOU ARE CONFIRMING THAT YOU HAVE AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION AND THAT YOU HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE ORGANIZATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND/OR BOARD CHAIR.