

Continuation Applications

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Title and Project Number</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Page</u>
Central Susquehanna IU	"Internet Safety" - 2012-VP-ST-23460	\$40,000	Approval	81
Pennsylvania State University	"Resource Center for Evidence-based Programs and Practices" - 12/13/14/15-VP-ST-23468	\$4,922,043	Approval	83
	Total Violence Prevention Funds Requested			\$5,759,017

Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County (Mericle) Funds
Initial Applications

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Title and Project Number</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Page</u>
Luzerne County Head Start	"Interventions for Challenging Behaviors" - 2012-MF-ST-23164	\$157,472	Approval	86
Valley Youth House Committee	"Supportive Housing for Youth" - 2012-MF-ST-23187	\$180,384	Approval	88
PA CASA Association	"Court Appointed Special Advocate Program" - 2012-MF-ST-23198	\$178,347	Approval	90
Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, Inc.	"Big Brothers Big Sisters Expansion and Enhancement" - 2012-MF-ST-23210	\$179,475	Approval	92
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas	"Life Skills Training" - 2012-MF-ST-23217	\$98,641	Approval	94
Luzerne County Community College	"Hazelton Multi-Cultural Youth Programs" - 2012-MF-ST-23227	\$180,000	Approval	96

Congregation B'nai B'rith	"Dinners for Kids"- 2012-MF-ST-23209	\$88,080	Approval	98
Jewish Family Service of Greater Wilkes-Barre	"Kids Care Club"- 2012-MF-ST-23259	\$9,825	Approval	100
Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley	"Trauma Informed Social Work" - 2012-MF-ST-23183	\$118,828	Approval	102
Domestic Violence Service Center, Inc.	"Improving the Present, Securing the Future" - 2012-MF-ST-22985	\$187,500	Approval	104
Child Development Council of NEPA, Inc.	"Summer Team Program" - 2012-MF-ST-23003	\$176,851	Approval	106
Victims Resource Center	"Services to Child Abuse Victims" - 2012-MF-ST-22977	\$138,868	Approval	108
Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind	"A Transition Program for Blind Adolescents" - 2012-MF-ST-23179	\$24,399	Approval	110
Wyoming Valley Alcohol & Drug Services, Inc.	"Education and Transition for At-Risk Youth" - 2012-MF-ST-22991	\$178,980	Approval	112
Volunteers of America of PA, Inc.	"The Magnolia Project" - 2012-MF-ST-23159	\$172,514	Approval	114
Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeastern PA	"After School and Summer Programs"- 2012-MF-ST-23161	\$81,102	Approval	116
Jewish Community Center of Wyoming Valley	"Youth Fit at Camp"- 2012-MF-ST-23266	\$9,800	Approval	118
	Total Luzerne/Mericle Funds Requested			\$2,161,066

Grand Total All Funds Requested: \$10,983,664



ACTION ITEM
Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23164

Project Title: Interventions for Challenging Behaviors

Applicant: Luzerne County Head Start

Recipients: Luzerne County Head Start

Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 78,860	78,612 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 78,860.00	78,612.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 51,431	51,431
Employee Benefits	\$ 23,659	24,680
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 1,465	1,465
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 2,305	1,036
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 78,860.00	78,612.00

Project Summary:

Luzerne County Head Start (LCHS) is seeking \$157,472 to implement Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), an initiative of the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning. PBIS is designed to help young children develop competence in social-emotional skills. By preparing them to be ready for school, PBIS will equip Luzerne County children attending Head Start (including those who may be at-risk due to inappropriate and aggressive behavior patterns) to be socially and emotionally ready to transition to kindergarten in school districts throughout Luzerne County. More than 100 early childhood programs throughout the state are using the PBIS model with the state providing training for coaches and managing performance data. Joining the Positive Behavior Support Network (PAPBS) Network will assure that LCHS has continuing access to such training and other resources. They propose to serve 1,670 children over the two year grant period.

Funding received for this project will be used to support one full-time facilitator who will work during the school year only. Funding is also requested to support portions of salaries of personnel needed for LCHS to join the state-wide PAPBS network, in the implementation of "The Teaching Pyramid - A Model for Supporting Social Competence and Preventing Challenging Behavior in Young Children", and the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program throughout the Head Start centers in Luzerne County. The Teaching Pyramid is a framework that addresses the social and emotional development of all children as well as that of children with persistent challenging behavior. Funds will also support travel-related costs and office materials and supplies for the

facilitator.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Luzerne County has a higher than average number of children under age 5 living below the federal poverty level, accounting for almost 20% of all pre-school youth. These children are at higher risk for failure to experience healthy development, physically, socially and emotionally. Researchers have found that emotional, social, and behavioral competence marked by more cooperation and self-control along with less aggressive behavior in early childhood, predict children's academic performance as early as the first grade as well as whether they will have to repeat kindergarten (Raver & Knitzer, 2002; Raver, 2002). Findings also suggest that not only are young children who act in antisocial ways less likely to be accepted by their peers and teachers, but that teachers are also likely to spend less time teaching them and giving them positive feedback.

It is expected that the Teaching Pyramid and Positive Behavior Interventions and Support initiative will improve children's school readiness, as well as peer and family relationships, and, by increasing their social-emotional behaviors, will result in improved, positive conflict resolution skills which will help them make responsible, caring decisions.

The Teaching Pyramid model is based on staff training and the adoption of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports process. Both Head Start classroom staff, teachers and assistant teachers as well as support staff will undergo Pyramid and PBIS training along with the Education Specialists. The Specialists are Master level educators with extensive 'train the trainer' experience and expertise in providing training for Head Start staff as well as those from other childcare agencies and area school districts. They will have responsibility for implementing and monitoring the Pyramid and PBIS processes in Head Start classrooms as well as on-going mentoring and monitoring of classroom teachers. They will also train new staff as needed. Since current, on-going staff positions will provide this training and monitoring, no additional costs will be incurred for either training or classroom staff.

The initiative will also require the involvement of families so that the positive behaviors and skills learned in the centers can continue to be supported at home. Information, education, and training sessions will be provided for the families of children involved in the PBIS process so that they will be informed, confident, and committed to the process along with the staff. They will have responsibility for implementing and monitoring the Pyramid and PBIS processes in Head Start classrooms as well as on-going mentoring and monitoring of classroom Teachers. They will also train new staff as needed. Since current, on-going staff positions will provide this training and monitoring, no additional costs will be incurred for either training or classroom staff. The initiative will also require the involvement of families so that the positive behaviors and skills learned in the centers can continue to be supported at home.

Performance indicators include number of youth served, decreased risk of withdrawal, aggression, non-compliance, and disruption, increased positive impact on fears, phobias, depression, anxiety, hyperactivity, conduct, and obsessive-compulsive disorders, improved positive peer relationships, increased self-control and correction, and academic success. Additionally, the PBIS Benchmarks for Quality will be used to evaluate current practices in order to identify strengths and areas needing change to meet model requirements. Assessment of children will also be done using either the Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional, the SSIS assessment of social skills, or PKBS, Pre-School and Kindergarten Behavior Scales as recommended by the Pyramid model.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

**Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis**

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23187

Project Title: Luzerne County Supportive Housing for Youth

Applicant: Valley Youth House Committee, Inc

Recipients: Valley Youth House Committee, Inc

Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	
Federal	\$ 0	0	0%
State	\$ 93,667	86,717	100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0	0%
Interest	\$ 0	0	0%
State Match	\$ 0	0	0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0	0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0	0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0	0%
Total:	\$ 93,667.00	86,717.00	100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	
Personnel	\$ 30,121	30,121	
Employee Benefits	\$ 7,831	7,831	
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 3,690	3,690	
Equipment	\$ 0	0	
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 51,364	44,414	
Consultants	\$ 661	661	
Construction	\$ 0	0	
Other	\$ 0	0	
Total:	\$ 93,667.00	86,717.00	

Project Summary:

Valley Youth House Committee, Inc. is requesting \$180,384 to serve 18 youth aging out of care, who are involved with the children and youth agency, juvenile probation and/or county MH/MR agency, and are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Eligible youth will undergo an assessment utilizing the Ansell-Casey Life Skill Assessment (ACLSA). A case planning meeting will then be held with all interested parties, including the young adult, where an individual goal plan is developed. The individual goal plan will identify goals for the youth in the area of housing, life skills, education, employment, and permanency, and will map out the process and timing of reaching individual goals. The youth are provided apartments to ensure their safety and provide stability. Valley Youth House Committee will pay the rent throughout the program, with the youth assuming responsibility for rental payments upon completion. Each youth is closely supervised and monitored by a case manager, through scheduled and unscheduled home visits, in addition to meetings related to life skills preparation, educational advancement, employment, permanency planning, linkages with necessary community providers and parenting skills.

Funding will support a portion of the salaries and benefits for 7 personnel; percentages reflecting amount of time spent on the project. Personnel responsibilities will include overseeing project implementation and management; screening referrals, working with young adult participants on life skills, education and employment; and supervising the development of the evaluation report. The bulk of the

funds will go to support youth in housing, utilities, food, bus passes and furniture.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

While the cost per participant is expensive, this service addresses a known gap in service delivery for youth aging out of care. The youth that Valley Youth House Committee proposes to serve are technically adults of legal age (but still meet funding announcement eligibility criteria) and can be held accountable to adult rights and responsibilities. However, transition-aged youth fall along a spectrum of development that is decidedly more youth than adult. Few have fully developed the life skills necessary for independent living. Some lack experience with simple tasks such as cooking, maintaining personal hygiene, cleaning a home, doing laundry, and buying food and clothing. Many lack positive role models for social interactions, conducting business, or making friends in adult society; and they have never been taught to pay rent, manage a budget, or pay taxes. Many of these youth come from complicated family backgrounds filled with physical and emotional trauma, making the barriers to developing the trusting relationships necessary to complete these tasks extremely difficult. Most have poor educational attainment, and many have co-occurring physical or mental disorders.

Performance measures will include the total number of youth served, number of youth placed and maintained in suitable housing, number of youth with improved life skills competencies, peer and family relationships, and number of youth who attain educational goals, number of parenting/pregnant youth with improved parenting skills and number of youth with involvement in the criminal justice system.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

**Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis**

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23198

Project Title: Court Appointed Special Advocates-Luzerne County

Applicant: Pennsylvania Casa Association

Recipients: Pennsylvania Casa Association

Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 95,918	82,429 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 95,918.00	82,429.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 50,745	42,484
Employee Benefits	\$ 12,398	10,004
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 11,490	9,955
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 21,285	19,986
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 95,918.00	82,429.00

Project Summary:

The PA CASA Association is requesting \$178,347 and will establish a court appointed special advocate (CASA) program in Luzerne County, where trained volunteers advocate for children in dependency court. CASAs have one child or sibling group's case at a time, and are independent, trained fact finders with a court order to assist them in gathering information. Empowered by the Juvenile Act, CASAs submit reports to the court and monitor progress in case planning. They frequently become the only adult in the child's "system experience" that they really trust, giving the court the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of circumstances, resources and the child's interest and desires. The addition of a CASA program demonstrates a desire on the part of the court to reach out into the community for partnerships that focus on the best interest of the children. Embracing the practice of having citizen volunteers engaged and working as the eyes and ears of the court demonstrates a desire for transparency in how the dependency court operates going forward.

Funds will be used to establish a satellite office of the PA CASA Association in Luzerne County as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency, including a board of directors. The PA Executive Director will travel to Luzerne County to garner community support, recruit volunteers and train them, hire a program director, secure office space and establish a memorandum of understanding between the court, children and youth agency and CASA Association. A CASA Planning Group (CPG) will be established, as will subcommittees charged with developing action plans that include activities to be accomplished along with person(s) accountable and the target date

for completion. This group is essential for sustainability. These documents then become the roadmap and guiding documents for the activities of the CPG for the next 17 months as the 501(c)(3) is formed and the funds for its operation for 2014-2015 are identified and secured.

An essential factor in the success of the project is the support of the Luzerne County Court. The President Judge of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas and the Administrative Judge of the Dependency Court are enthusiastic supporters of CASA Volunteers as valued assets in helping address the needs of the dependency court. PA CASA has been assisting courts throughout the commonwealth for more than 10 years to engage communities to bring citizen volunteers into the court room on behalf of abused and neglected children. Both Judges wrote strong letters of support for this project, and stand ready to participate fully in the plans to bring CASA to Luzerne County. The Judges will champion the development of CASA programming by facilitating stakeholder meetings, assisting in developing the CASA Planning Team, and publicly communicating their support and vision for the CASA Program.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Adjudicated youth are dependent upon the courts and child welfare system to operate in their best interest and protect their legal rights. In the Luzerne County case against two judges, most children did not have legal representation and most were deprived of their constitutional rights to a fair process. A reported 2,251 records were expunged in more than 3,000 cases involving youth. That's 3,000 young lives that have suffered what may be irrevocable damage to their families and/or their emotional well-being. Many have questioned what could have been done differently. Some point to Court Appointed Special Advocates as one change in practice that could have made a difference.

According to a recent report from the Institute for Policy and Economic Development, poverty is an ever increasing factor in the day to day lives of Luzerne County families with children under the age of 18. In 2000, the number of families in poverty in Luzerne County was already above the state average and over the subsequent years the problem has grown by another 4%. More than 12,000 children were reported to be living in poverty in 2009. As poverty is often a factor in child abuse and neglect, this indicates that there will continue to be a formidable problem.

Luzerne County now has three guardians ad litem (GALs) whose responsibility is to provide legal representation for the 500+ abused children. The importance of getting to know each child on a personal level and understanding their dilemmas (e.g. separation from family, abuse, mental health, etc.) is crucial to the ongoing well-being of youth. This kind of time is not afforded to guardians ad litem but can be spent on each child by a highly trained, highly motivated Court Appointed Special Advocate.

The applicant reported that in 2010, Luzerne County had 1,080 children living in foster care, which was a slight decline from 1,179 in 2009, and an increase over 692 in 2008. Having this number of children in care is an enormous financial and human cost and will be the primary target group for the court in their assignments of CASA volunteers in the future. Moving children to permanence as soon as possible is critical.

The applicant identifies a number of measures and data to collect, including but not limited to the number of children served, number of volunteers trained and sworn in, number of recommendations from the volunteers followed by the court, number of visits to the child by the volunteer, and number of children who do not reenter the system after the case closes. Evaluation surveys will be sent to involved parties, children included. Data collected will also provide a profile of the children served and a profile of the CASA volunteers recruited, trained and assigned to children. Ultimately, the effectiveness of the project will be the existence of a CASA program, embraced by the court, developed and staffed by local citizens and supported by community resources.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23210

Project Title: Big Brothers Big Sisters Expansion and Enhancement
Applicant: Catholic Social Services of The Diocese of Scranton, Inc
Recipients: Catholic Social Services of The Diocese of Scranton, Inc
Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 91,025	88,450 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 91,025.00	88,450.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 69,565	67,371
Employee Benefits	\$ 21,460	21,079
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 0	0
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 0	0
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 91,025.00	88,450.00

Project Summary:

Big Brothers Big Sisters is proposing an enhancement and expansion of mentoring services to address the needs of minority and underserved youth in Luzerne County. This service will utilize screened and trained mentors who will be placed with at-risk youth in a goal-oriented relationship with specific objectives. The mentor will promote personal and social responsibility, demonstrate the value of education, discourage negative aspects of violence, drug/alcohol and other delinquent behaviors. Youth and families selected to participate in the expansion and enhancement project may be referred by self, other human service agencies, a family member, or school staff. Referrals will be based on an assessment which identifies strengths that will be further developed.

Each child will have an individualized case plan developed by a caseworker, based on information gathered in the family assessment and with input from the school district, parent, child and mentor. This will assist the caseworker and mentor when deciding the type of activities to participate in, and all case plans will include activities that center on academic assistance and career opportunities. Mentors will expose their young mentees to various work environments, including what skills/education are needed and what the career actually entails. In this manner, children can make an early link between the importance of academic achievement, and how it impacts opportunity for future careers which may be of interest. This firsthand knowledge about the workplace could prove invaluable in instilling a sense of motivation and drive to remain in school.

Over the 2 year project period, Big Brothers Big Sisters will recruit, screen, and train 120-150 volunteers to be matched with minority youth or youth residing in rural areas of Luzerne County. The program caseworker will assess 120-150 minority or underserved youth in Luzerne County to be placed in one to one mentoring relationships. Big Brothers Big Sisters will insure that program staff are culturally competent to serve the needs of the children and families in the program by providing training to all program staff. Translation services will be available when necessary. Community and Resource Development personnel will be responsible for recruiting the volunteers necessary to match the youth.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is requesting \$179,475 in personnel costs for one full-time staff and six other staff whose time devoted to the project is based on percentages.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Luzerne County's minority population has increased by more than 13% over the last ten years. There are more than 200 children on the applicant's waiting list, half of which are African American or Hispanic. The program has experienced a substantial increase in the number of requests from families of the Latino community over the past five years; as well as the African American community, and recognizes the need to offer services in a culturally competent manner. Many of the children waiting for a mentor are living under the federal poverty level, and in subsidized housing where gang and criminal activity are prevalent.

The children and families the applicant proposes to target have a long history of family dysfunction, one that is cyclical in nature and seems to perpetuate in subsequent generations. To break this cycle of delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, violence, and low academic achievement, a volunteer mentor will work with a child for 1-2 hours per week (either in the community or at a school based site).

Big Brothers Big Sisters utilizes an instrument called the Youth Outcome Survey developed by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Youth Outcome Survey is a tool for measuring the effect BBBS mentoring has on youth in three strategic outcome areas: educational success, avoidance/reduction of risky behaviors, and socio-emotional competence. They also plan to track number of youth served, involvement in delinquent activity, improvement in academic performance and truancy.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.



ACTION ITEM

Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23217

Project Title: LifeSkills Training
Applicant: Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Recipients: Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 49,798	48,843 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 49,798.00	48,843.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 31,200	31,200
Employee Benefits	\$ 10,000	10,000
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 7,143	7,143
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 1,455	500
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 49,798.00	48,843.00

Project Summary:

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas are requesting \$98,641 to implement the Elementary, Middle School and Parent Life Skills Training Program (LST) with students and parents living in the Boulevard Townhomes and Mineral Springs developments, each part of the Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority. A total of 157 youth and 20 parents will be served throughout the life of the grant.

The elementary LST curriculum consists of 24 classes of 30-45 minutes each which will be conducted in the Learning Center (centrally located within each neighborhood). Classes will be limited to 10 students and include one trained facilitator and a college intern who will assist. The middle school LST curriculum consists of 12 units designed to be presented in 15, 30-45 minute sessions and will not be implemented with more than 10 students. The small group setting has been historically more effective and a five-to-one student teacher ratio has proved the most beneficial in delivering LST. The LST facilitator will schedule 1-2 classes per school day throughout the school year and maximize all of the curriculum modules in each grade level, including make-up days. The LST Parent component will target 20 families within the targeted neighborhood. Donated incentives will be provided to encourage parent and youth participation.

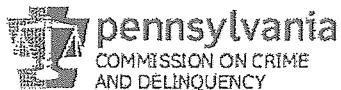
Funds will cover a full-time LST Training Coordinator, purchase of the LST Program curriculum and materials, costs related to the LST training, travel costs for summer camp programs used as a participation incentive, and various field trips for the youth.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Individual risk factors such as poverty, involvement with law enforcement and living in single parent families are at higher levels within Wilkes-Barre than when compared to the average youth population in Pennsylvania. The Learning Centers located within the Boulevard Townhomes and Mineral Springs developments have achieved great results in lowering these risk factors by creating strong neighborhood attachment with the Centers. However, the high level of poverty, the high number of single parent households and transition in and out of public housing are factors out of the Center's control. Through outcomes driven prevention education efforts that are research based, like LST, the individual risk factors can be addressed and proper prevention can lower the risks of youth at a young age.

Through the use of a pre/post test created by the Life Skills Training Project Developer, the applicant will measure whether there is a decrease in anti-social behavior, an increase in the use of drug refusal skills, improved decision-making, an increase in knowledge about the harmful effects of drugs, and evidence of a decrease in the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee recommend approval of this application.



ACTION ITEM
Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

**Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis**

**Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23227**

Project Title: Hazleton Multicultural Youth Programs

Applicant: Luzerne County Community College

Recipients: Luzerne County Community College

Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	
Federal	\$ 0	0	0%
State	\$ 90,000	90,000	100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0	0%
Interest	\$ 0	0	0%
State Match	\$ 0	0	0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0	0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0	0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0	0%
Total:	\$ 90,000.00	90,000.00	100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 46,405	46,862
Employee Benefits	\$ 10,210	10,310
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 15,150	15,150
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 2,835	2,278
Consultants	\$ 15,400	15,400
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 90,000.00	90,000.00

Project Summary:

Luzerne County Community College will partner with the Hazelton Area School District (HASD), Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit and Catholic Social Services, to serve approximately 118 Hispanic youth in the Greater Hazelton area over a two year period. This project has 3 separate programs.

In partnership with HASD, LCCC will serve 30 youth in their Bridge program, which prepares students for careers and for higher education, implement a new Spanish GED program for 24 older teens who previously dropped out of school and do not speak English, and provide new math and English/writing tutors available to 14 students under 21 years old that are at risk of dropping out of high school or college.

The Luzerne Intermediate Unit's Project M.O.M. serves teen mothers and their children with supportive services until they graduate from high school. Project M.O.M. offers comprehensive, support services and referrals to other agencies to pregnant and/or parenting teens enrolled in high school, including nutrition education, parenting education, career counseling, case management, and home outreach visits. The main objective is to retain the student in school until they obtain a high school diploma or GED.

Catholic Social Services will provide a Family Self Sufficiency Program to 10 teen mothers and fathers under 21 years of age who

graduate from Project M.O.M., but need additional assistance while attending higher education or job training classes. This service provides assistance to families in building a stronger family unit and improving their socioeconomic status through education, employment, housing, life skills and effective communication that includes parenting and relationship issues. CSS will serve 5 teen families annually that graduate out of the Project M.O.M. program under this grant as a bridge to employment or higher education.

The \$180,000 requested will be for salary/benefits to employ a full-time program coordinator (for all three projects), two tutors and two instructors (Spanish GED and the Bridge Program). Funds will also be utilized to provide transportation to 40 teen mothers and their children to day care, and for the mothers from day care to school and return home. Ten teen families will participate in the Family Self Sufficiency Program following graduation from Project M.O.M. at a cost of \$2,200 per family. Supplies funded include books and study guides for the Spanish GED program.

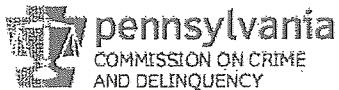
Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Luzerne County Community College's Multicultural Learning Center serves the educational needs of the growing Latino/Hispanic population of the Greater Hazleton Area. The Greater Hazleton Area has seen a tremendous influx of Hispanics within the last decade. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Hispanics accounted for 0.5% of the population. As of 2007, Luzerne County has the fourth fastest-growing Hispanic population in the nation among counties with more than 100,000 people. In 2010 census, the Hispanic population in Hazleton was 37.3% of the population.

LCCC has identified the need for tutoring at-risk high school youth where English is a second language, as well as GED assistance and preparation for Spanish speaking youth while learning English. Teenage mothers in Hazleton will have an alternative to dropping out of high school through Project M.O.M. This program removes the barriers of transportation and child care for young mothers still in school.

This project will measure the percentage increase of Hispanic youth who earn a GED or graduate from high school, the number of youth served, the increase in participant knowledge of life skills for those in the Family Self Sufficiency Program, and percentage of youth who pursue post high school education or vocational training.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.



ACTION ITEM

Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23209

Project Title: Dinners for Kids
Applicant: Congregation B'nai B'rith
Recipients: Congregation B'nai B'rith
Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 29,860	58,220 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total: \$	29,860.00	58,220.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 0	0
Employee Benefits	\$ 0	0
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 0	0
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 28,860	57,720
Consultants	\$ 1,000	500
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total: \$	29,860.00	58,220.00

Project Summary:

This program is seeking \$88,080 in funds for meals delivered to low income homes with children six days per week. The target population for the Dinners for Kids program is school age youth (K-12) enrolled in the Wyoming Valley West School District (WVWSD). Once a school age child is identified as eligible, all the children in the family receive a dinner meal regardless of age. This funding would expand the number of children to be served from four communities, to an additional 100 children residing in the remaining five communities within the WVWSD. Meals are prepared by a local restaurant and deliveries of meals are made through volunteer drivers.

The goal of Dinners for Kids is to reduce hunger among at-risk youth in the Wyoming Valley area of Luzerne County by providing healthy meals that children can eat at home. The program provides services to Luzerne County children that support their health and general welfare. Children will be identified by Wyoming Valley West School District and Luzerne County Children and Youth Services. Healthy, well-balanced dinners will be six days per week for a total of 46,800 meals over the two year period, which will lessen the financial burden on working class families and assure proper nutrition for at least one meal per day. It is anticipated that improvement will be noted in school attendance, school performance and social interaction. The applicant will survey guidance counselors, teachers and parents/guardians to evaluate the impact of the project.

Funds will be used to pay for the meals, the meal containers and the labor to cook each meal. \$1,000 will be used to fund a college intern to measure the impact of the program through the administration of surveys and collection of data.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

The applicant reports that approximately 17% of the Luzerne County population is food insecure (about 51,590 individuals). According to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey, 20.4% of the county population is under age eighteen. Based on these estimates, more than 10,500 children in Luzerne county are facing food insecurity. With a poor economy, high unemployment rates and pending cuts to government assistance programs, it is unlikely that the number of children in need will decrease. Many local children participate in the free or reduced price school breakfast and lunch programs; the applicant reported that in October 2010, Luzerne County school districts were serving 21,079 students free or reduced price meals.

Wyoming Valley West School District, Luzerne County Children and Youth Services and David Tevet, restaurant owner and Dinners for Kids founder will seek input from children and their families involved in the program through personal interviews and letters. This information will be reviewed quarterly by these entities and this anecdotal information will be reported to evaluate program impact. In addition, an undergraduate King's College student intern under the direction of Dr. William Bolan, Director of the Shoval Center for Community Engagement and Learning, will create three surveys to assess the impact of the program on school performance and behavior.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

**Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis**

**Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23259**

Project Title: Kids Care Club
Applicant: Jewish Family Service of Greater Wilkes-Barre
Recipients: Jewish Family Service of Greater Wilkes-Barre
Project Duration: 12 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 9,825	0 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 9,825.00	0.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 1,040	0
Employee Benefits	\$ 0	0
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 204	0
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 8,581	0
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 9,825.00	0.00

Project Summary:

The Kids Care Club (KCC) of Jewish Family Service of Greater Wilkes-Barre is requesting \$9,825 in funding for "Kids Helping Kids-- Backpacks for Homeless Teens and Children in Foster Care". This project has a two-fold impact and will serve a total of 340 young people in Luzerne County.

Two hundred children and teens will be invited to participate in preparing the service projects at ten locations throughout Luzerne County. The Kids Care Club serves all children, irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. The program is open to a variety of schools (including public, private and special needs schools), as well as summer camps, after-school and weekend youth programs, scout groups and civic organizations. The KCC reaches out to involve children who may be underserved, children from racially diverse settings, children from lower income housing areas of the county, and children with special challenges, as well as typical children, male and female, undifferentiated by social or economic variants. The project will have a positive impact on the children preparing the service learning projects by teaching them social responsibility and their own personal power to make a difference in people's lives and in their community.

Additionally, another 140 children and teens in Luzerne County will be the targeted recipients of the completed service project items, which in this instance are backpacks filled with necessary items. The backpacks distributed to the homeless teens will include

personal hygiene items and referral information to outreach services as well as survival items. In addition, they will receive the message that they are valued individuals and their circumstances are not forgotten. Children entering foster care and shelters are often taken from their homes, where they must leave behind all of their possessions. By providing them with a backpack filled with personalized items, they will have something to call their own at the new residence.

Funds will be used to purchase backpacks, items to include in each backpack, salary and travel for the project coordinator.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

The ten service learning projects will educate the children preparing the backpacks regarding the needs of the less fortunate and their power to make a difference in someone's life through volunteer work and community service. Items will be given to recipients to let them know other kids do care and also to provide essential items to those in need. Data will be collected from the students, their teachers, program facilitators, school principal and counselors as well as the recipients of the project items and administrators of facility being served. Student evaluation forms are provided by the national Kids Care Club and are filled out at the end of each project. Teacher and facilitator evaluation forms are also provided and completed.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

**Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis**

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23183

Project Title: Trauma Informed Social Work
Applicant: Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley
Recipients: Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley
Project Duration: 25 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 58,828	60,000 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 58,828.00	60,000.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 42,675	43,355
Employee Benefits	\$ 10,594	12,388
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 1,500	1,500
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 4,059	2,757
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 58,828.00	60,000.00

Project Summary:

This program is seeking \$118,828 in funds to serve 75 children ages 3 to 18, accessing mental health and/or social services, and/or child protective services, who are at risk for, or have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect, and/or domestic violence, or who have been witness to such abuse of others and evidence symptomatic indicators of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety-related illnesses, drug abuse and/or other social and emotional behavioral problems. Based on past local surveys of individuals accessing services, the applicant conservatively estimates an annual prevalence of 1,000 children who match this criterion.

Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) is structured, weekly child and parent psychosocial therapy for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral difficulties associated with violence exposure and trauma. Treatment will be delivered by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and focuses on providing a safe, trusting environment where children and parents can build skills in coping, stress reduction, and managing overwhelming emotions of traumatic grief. When implemented with fidelity, 80% of children receiving TF-CBT typically show a reduction in PTSD symptoms within 12-18 sessions. The core components of TF-CBT include psycho-education about childhood trauma and PTSD, parent guidance and relaxation skills for both parent and child. Personal safety is addressed through safety and social skills training. The development of cognitive coping skills like connecting thoughts, feelings, and behaviors related to the trauma is also a key component to this model.

Funds will pay for salary and benefits for a full-time therapist and partial salary for the Chief Program Officer. Also included is travel, program and office supplies, training, professional manuals and 75 Trauma Symptom Checklists. Therapy is at no cost to the children and families utilizing this proposed service.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

The applicant is suggesting that 80% of youth successfully completing the program will have fewer intrusive thoughts and avoidance behaviors; will be better able to cope with reminders and associated emotions; and will show reductions in depression, anxiety, behavior problems, and trauma related shame. FSAWV is accredited with the Counsel on Accreditation. These methods include measures to evaluate client program satisfaction. FSAWV will track all required PCCD program outcomes and will make all outcomes available at the clinical review team meetings and to the PCCD. Quantitatively, the Trauma Symptom Checklist will be used pre and post treatment to measure a change in each youth's emotional and behavioral disposition.

In addition to the above process, the Chief Program Officer will maintain documentation of the program planning process, the process of program design, implementation, and evaluation. The FTE Therapist will prepare periodic summaries of the process to date, including progress and apparent barriers to progress. This will include an objective description of efforts undertaken to build consensus among the local stakeholders.

The TF-CBT social worker will conduct data analyses and provide a report that provides summary data on measures at monthly interval time points as well as trends in terms of changes in the various indicators that will be assessed over the course of the project. The reports will include whatever analyses are necessary to assess the impact of the project and will be utilized to inform the project partners in their decision-making processes with respect to program direction and modifications. The project social worker, along with the Chief Program Officer will compile and produce quarterly progress reports, annual evaluation reports, and the final program report in a timely manner.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

**Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis**

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-22985

Project Title: Improving the Present... Securing the Future

Applicant: Domestic Violence Service Center Inc

Recipients: Domestic Violence Service Center Inc

Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	Year 1	Year 2
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 133,588	53,912 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 133,588.00	53,912.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	Year 1	Year 2
Personnel	\$ 24,000	24,000
Employee Benefits	\$ 10,050	10,050
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 0	0
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 12,153	12,152
Consultants	\$ 7,710	7,710
Construction	\$ 79,675	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 133,588.00	53,912.00

Project Summary:

The Domestic Violence Service Center is requesting \$187,500 to implement the project Improving the Present... Securing the Future. This will create a safe and secure outside playground, exercise room, on-site play therapy, and extensive counseling services to the underserved population of children exposed to domestic violence in Luzerne County.

The project provide a broad range of services, counseling, and support focused on children exposed to domestic violence and/or child victims of domestic violence during the 30-day emergency shelter stay, 12 month transitional housing process, and direct service visits to the agency, that will create safety for children and their battered mothers; improve mother-child bond and peer relationships; address trauma-related and/or mental health issues; improve conflict resolution and moral reasoning skills, and pro-social behavior among children; and assist this population of children to transition and grow into emotionally and physically healthy adults.

A primary goal is providing assistance to the children and mothers to remove barriers by focusing on the impact of the exposure to violence on children's development, and on the likelihood that exposed children may be at greater risk for becoming either a child victim of physical or sexual abuse or an adult perpetrator of domestic violence. This approach will reduce the cycle of abuse, victimization, and compromised safety. Case management services will include developing pro-social behavior among children and

peers, parenting education, child care, trauma-related and/or mental health issues, prevention education, and access to mainstream resources to support attaining general health, safety, and well being.

Funds will pay for salaries and benefits for two child advocates, a consultant to administer 100 sessions of play therapy over the two year period, playground equipment and fencing, and equipment for the exercise room.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

The Domestic Violence Service Center (DVSC) is the only agency in Luzerne County whose primary purpose is to provide direct service through short-term emergency shelter and comprehensive services for battered women and their dependent children. DVSC is the only agency that provides long-term transitional housing program services to domestic violence victims and other homeless women and children. In the last fiscal year, DVSC provided almost 5,000 days of shelter and transitional housing services to 129 children exposed to domestic violence. This represents an increase of almost 2,000 days and 33 children as compared to the previous fiscal year. Through the children's program, DVSC served 376 children; an increase of 48 children over the previous fiscal year.

Domestic violence shelters are meant to be a place of peace and respite for those looking to get away from abusive or oppressive home lives. But for some, it could be a place of tension and frustration, in particular for those with children and children themselves. With multiple families living under one roof, and each dealing with its own trauma, being uprooted in a situation of crisis and danger, and other issues, parents and staff often find themselves at odds with each other and feeling overwhelmed by the numerous problems of communal living that compound the already existing affects of the domestic violence experience. At most shelters, the staff's first concern is helping the adult victims of domestic violence heal and providing for day-to-day needs. What is often lost is a focus on the children who accompany their parents to the shelter.

Children who experience abuse within families are often likely to suffer from anxiety, depression, aggression and other mental health or developmental issues. It is especially important that shelter staff be able to identify signs of problems. The impact of trauma can be addressed by different service providers, but shelter staff members are ideal because they have the opportunity to spend an extended amount of time with children. Staff and volunteers working in the domestic violence program who are in a position to provide direct services to domestic violence victims and their children must complete at least 45 hours of training from the domestic violence program or the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Research has shown that trauma can impact children's brain function and structure, altering their cognitive, emotional, and behavioral development. When faced with danger, a person's nervous system responds with signals for adrenaline and other hormones to be released into the blood, increasing heart rate and blood flow to muscles. When a person is faced with danger all of the time, the body's changes are more dramatic and become more lasting. In young children who have experienced early, chronic violence, particularly at the hands of their caregivers, their brains end up focusing their energy on survival instead of higher reasoning and learning. That means children may see a situation as very threatening when others do not. They may then seem to act out for no reason. The reason is that their brains tell them to see a threat where those who have not experienced trauma would not. Trained shelter service providers can help parents identify and understand the source of their children's behavior and responses to domestic violence.

Over the 2-year grant, the program anticipates providing new/enhanced children's program services to 300 children who witnessed or are victims of domestic violence. The grantee also expects at least 80% of participants will successfully complete the program with success measured by the achievement of three or more of the following: achieve and sustain safety in an environment free from abuse and violence while participating in the program; exhibit appropriate peer relations and pro-social behavior in a safe, healthy, age-appropriate environment; demonstrate appropriate conflict resolution and moral reasoning skills; self-reported feelings or evidence of heightened self-esteem and satisfaction; self-reported (by child's mother) strengthened relationships with one's child; self-reported feelings of heightened ability to deal with the stresses of single parenting; and appropriate utilization of community resources and supports.

Every child referred for play therapy will be seen by the Northeast Counseling Service clinician, will have a health survey, and a crisis and safety plan completed. Through weekly play therapy, 80% of the children will display increased problem solving skills and enhanced coping skills, and 80% of families will verbalize increased communication and cooperation between family members.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.



ACTION ITEM
Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23003

Project Title: CDC SUMMER TEAM PROGRAM
Applicant: Child Development Council of NEPA Inc
Recipients: Child Development Council of NEPA Inc
Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 77,723	99,128 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 77,723.00	99,128.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 37,574	52,976
Employee Benefits	\$ 8,084	11,816
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 2,700	5,400
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 28,515	26,836
Consultants	\$ 850	2,100
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 77,723.00	99,128.00

Project Summary:

The Child Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania Inc., is requesting \$176,851 to provide scholarships to 138 school age children for enrollment in the existing summer youth programs. These scholarships will be directed towards those children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a summer program due to lack of funding.

The goals of the summer program are to promote positive, optimistic behavior in children through respectful treatment, consideration and implementation of their ideas, teaching children to resolve problems and concerns, promoting healthy physical development, and keeping school skills sharp. This is accomplished by inspiring children with exposure to role models that enhance their outlook toward the future; listening to children's ideas of how they would like their summer time to be utilized; re-directing children with encouragement and understanding when their behavior is counterproductive; providing numerous interesting experiences for children during the program day for their creativity and imagination to guide them to positive outcomes.

The program, licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is ten weeks long and runs five days per week. There are twelve children per teacher, which keeps the groups small enough for youth to receive individual attention from each teacher but also to benefit from group participation and team building activities. The daily schedule includes breakfast, activities and projects, free play time, lunch, outdoor activities each day and an afternoon snack. Learning stations are incorporated to maintain or improve reading

and math levels, and speakers are invited to present different occupations and talents to the children. Weekly field trips occur to either a state park (hiking, exploration of nature, scavenger hunts or park ranger tours) bowling, or roller skating and many other activities. Children are exposed to local, affordable activities that they can participate in with their own families.

This grant would target children from Kindergarten through 6th grade at three of the child care centers: Heights Center, South Wilkes Barre Center and West Pittston Center, however in the summer children from other Luzerne County school districts also may apply to the programs.

Funds will pay for ten additional teachers and six assistants during the two year period, buses for field trips, meals and snacks, office, classroom and playground supplies, a portion of rent and student accident insurance.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

In the past, special funding was available under the Subsidized Child Care Program (Child Care Works) for summer school age programming in Luzerne County. Due to funding reductions, these special funding programs were eliminated. As a result, families in need of summer programs are now placed on extended waiting lists for services. These waiting lists are typically three months or longer which means many families never receive the services. The lack of accessibility to funding for summer programs for school age children puts heavy financial burdens on low income families and endanger children whose families cannot afford private fees for service.

The summer youth programs provided through Child Development Council promote teamwork, good citizenship and positive conflict resolution among children. The more youth can be exposed to these type of programs, the more beneficial it will be to the community and the general well-being of children.

The grantee will administer surveys with both parents and children, to determine their level of satisfaction with the program. These surveys will also be utilized to determine what additional activities and projects may need to be included in the summer programs. Most of the children begin with the summer program in Kindergarten and remain through 6th grade. Approximately 25- 30 children will be served each year.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.



ACTION ITEM
Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-22977

Project Title: Services to Child Abuse Victims

Applicant: Victims Resource Center

Recipients: Victims Resource Center

Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 68,691	70,177 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 68,691.00	70,177.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 41,572	43,384
Employee Benefits	\$ 15,623	15,761
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 750	750
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 10,746	10,282
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 68,691.00	70,177.00

Project Summary:

The Victims Resource Center (VRC) is requesting \$138,868 to provide support services to victims of child abuse in Luzerne County, including crisis intervention, legal options, court orientation, court and forensic medical accompaniment, advocacy, individual and group support. Also included is support services to the child/adolescent victims' significant others.

Staff will provide crisis intervention and crisis counseling in the immediate aftermath of a crime or the disclosure of a crime by a child. This service provides information and support and assesses the child's and their family members' needs related to their victimization. The goal is an immediate reduction of stressors caused by the crisis. Staff also explain the process for making a child line report and any related mandated reporting issues.

The VRC staff will provide orientation and education to the child victims and their family members prior to any accompaniment services. The Counselor/Advocate will ensure a complete orientation prior to and follow up after any proceeding related to the victimization. Counselor/Advocates will use written and courtroom orientation materials that are age appropriate. A miniature courtroom will be utilized to educate children about the court process and the role of each of the participants. Staff will accompany victims and their families to any proceeding related to the victimization. These accompaniments include all legal and forensic medical

proceedings.

Short term/supportive counseling will be provided to child victims and significant others in one-on-one and group settings. The purpose of supportive counseling is to allow child victims the opportunity to begin to heal from the effects of victimization. Supportive counseling assists the victim by utilizing a victim-centered process and in identifying the steps necessary to address his/her concerns. The goal of short term/supportive counseling is the empowerment of the client to build coping and personal safety skills. Group counseling will include age appropriate curriculum for 8 to 12 year olds, as well as 13 to 18 year olds. Groups provide a process for victims of violence to come together and share experiences, gain strength and find healing.

Funds will be used for one full time counselor and partial salaries/benefits for 6 additional employees (including administrative oversight of counselors), office and counseling supplies, local travel and a portion of rent and insurance.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

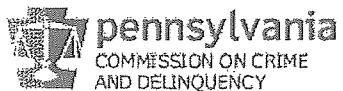
Over the last three years in Luzerne County, the Victims Resource Center has experienced a 62% increase in the requests for services for families of child/adolescent victims who are seeking legal options and support through the various legal systems. Victims Resource Center served an average of 204 victims of child abuse from Luzerne County each year in the last three fiscal years. Specialized court services were provided to ninety-four child/adolescent abuse victims in 2008-2009; ninety-six child/adolescent abuse victims in 2009-2010; and one hundred twenty two child/adolescent abuse victims in 2010-2011. In addition, under that project, one hundred and one significant others of the victims were served in FY 2008-2009; one hundred twenty six significant others of the victims were served in FY 2009-2010; and one hundred ninety three significant others of the victims were served in FY 2010-2011.

As the need for these services increased each year, the funding decreased and ultimately was eliminated this year. As a result VRC is struggling to meet the request for these services.

In order to provide a continuum of care for these children and adolescents, VRC has provided groups for victims of violence to come together, share their experiences and gain support from each other. Currently VRC's funding for support groups for children and adolescents has been cut in half. The requested funding would provide the means to continue to offer these groups for children and adolescents in need.

Through this funding the grantee anticipates that there will be an increase in: understanding of legal options and legal processes; feelings of support in navigating the legal system; knowledge of personal safety options; knowledge of community resources and support; and/or knowledge of supportive individuals; knowledge of emotional dating abuse; knowledge of physical dating abuse; knowledge of ways to protect them self from abuse and knowledge of ways to help a friend in an abusive relationship.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.



ACTION ITEM

Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

**Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis**

**Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23179**

Project Title: A Transition Program for Blind Adolescents

Applicant: Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind

Recipients: Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind

Project Duration: 12 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 24,399	0 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 24,399.00	0.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 6,468	0
Employee Benefits	\$ 1,971	0
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 3,210	0
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 12,750	0
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 24,399.00	0.00

Project Summary:

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind is requesting \$24,399 to implement a 12-month transition to adulthood program for blind and visually impaired adolescents that will focus on: 1) exploring vocational-technical education, community college, and 4-year college education; 2) providing independent living skills and prevocational training; and 3) transition planning to meet school-to-work needs. Participants will be identified with the assistance of social service agencies in Luzerne County, including the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind, Community Services for Sight of Hazleton, and the PA Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services.

Students will work with professional staff and mentors in measuring individual skills and interests and applying those toward identifying possible career choices. The focus will be on helping parents and students set realistic and attainable individualized goals. The program will consist of 10 sessions. Each session is expected to comprise an 8 hour day, unless otherwise indicated (one session will be for 32 hours as it involves two days with one overnight dormitory stay). Sessions begin with a pre-test skills assessment, career inventory, technology lessons, visits to local colleges, workplace visits, organizational skills and time management, independent living and transition planning. The program concludes with a post-test and evaluation. Referrals for follow-up rehabilitation and/or mobility instruction will be made as necessary.

Funds will be used to support program personnel, travel to local colleges and workplaces, as well as transportation for participants to

and from each session, supplies for each session such as screen reading software, view magnification systems and overnight dormitory stay.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Statistics published by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) estimate the percentage of blind and visually impaired high school graduates as 45% compared to 80% for sighted individuals. The percentage of blind or visually impaired individuals who graduate college is 6% as compared to 26% for sighted persons. In addition, the NFB reported that 30% of the blind who are working age are unemployed, or more than three times the national average. IN January 2012,m the AFB reported that in December 2011, just 36.4% of the people of employment age who have a vision loss were in the labor force. When factoring in the bleak employment data for Luzerne County, many would consider the outlook depressing for blind youth seeking implement. In order to compete with sighted individuals in an already competitive job market, blind job applications not only need to demonstrate that they are able to perform the responsibilities specific to the job, but they must also overcome misconceptions and stereotypical attitudes among potential employers.

Through a pre/post test completed with the youth, the applicant will measure an increase in proficiency pertaining to verbal and written communication skills, mobility and professional appearance. Each individual youth will also develop their own program goals that are tailored to each youth's individual needs.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -

Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-22991

Project Title: Education and Transition for At-Risk Youth
Applicant: Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc
Recipients: Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc
Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 85,760	93,220 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 85,760.00	93,220.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 39,985	41,205
Employee Benefits	\$ 13,005	13,805
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 3,100	3,100
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 18,600	23,490
Consultants	\$ 11,070	11,620
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 85,760.00	93,220.00

Project Summary:

The Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc. (WVADS) is requesting \$178,980 to enhance and expand adolescent individual counseling and the Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program (AIOP) by extending their Relapse Prevention Group, developing a family involvement program, hosting Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do seminar, and by enrolling 8-12 youth per year in a form of higher education.

The Relapse Prevention Group will include individual or group therapy as an extension of counseling to reinforce recovery activities. Key areas that research suggests contributes to recovery are reinforced such as selecting healthy peers, effective decision making, self-esteem building, the power of choice, and effective communication strategies.

As an expansion of the adolescent treatment programs, the WVADS will also establish a family involvement program specifically for family members whose children are in various aspects of substance abuse treatment. The family involvement initiative will have a twofold purpose: educating families on the risk factors relative to disease of addiction and teaching families about policies, procedures, trends and challenges related to substance abuse/addiction from professionals and policy makers.

WVADS will be contracting with Dr. Nicole Hurd, the executive director of the National College Advising Corps to present at least two

programs over the course of the funding period for basic education practitioners, local higher education educators, project partners, and the children and their families involved in this project. The event entitled "Helping Students Navigate the Path to College" will provide an overview on what schools can to help students prepare for college and teach youth their role in this process.

Funds will be used to support a full-time case manager, a part-time counselor, supplies, travel and operating expenses, tuition for 10 youth for one 2-credit college or vocational course each, and van rental to transport youth to counseling sessions or classes as needed.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

The number of youth needing drug and alcohol services in Luzerne County has increased. In 2011, 450 adolescents were referred to WVADS for individual counseling treatment for substance abuse. An additional 110 adolescents were referred for the Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program. From 2010 to 2011 across the adolescent treatment programs at WVADS, there was an increase of 40% of children referred for substance abuse and addiction counseling.

Relative to the adolescent population receiving substance abuse and addiction counseling at WVADS, further examination of the data reveals that more than 71% are likely to 1) be failing multiple subjects; 2) be repeat offenders of school policies requiring suspension or expulsion; 3) drop out of school; 4) have families that are not engaged in helping them; and 5) continue to be entangled in the juvenile justice system and the adult criminal system beyond 21 years of age. In order to increase the odds of leading a productive substance abuse and criminal free lifestyle, these adolescents must be part of a strong network of services that can address their myriad of needs integrated with substance abuse and addiction counseling they are receiving at WVADS.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.



ACTION ITEM

Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23159

Project Title: The Magnolia Project
Applicant: Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania, Inc
Recipients: Volunteers of America
Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 86,067	86,447 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 86,067.00	86,447.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 51,680	51,680
Employee Benefits	\$ 14,723	16,303
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 2,200	2,200
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 17,464	16,264
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 86,067.00	86,447.00

Project Summary:

The Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania, Inc. is requesting \$172,514 to implement The Magnolia Project with female youth from grades 9-12 who live within the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The Magnolia Project focuses on preparing young women for effectively dealing with both school-related and non-academic concerns such as low self-esteem, ineffective communication methods, stress, depression, lack of professional role models, lack of exposure to professions to which girls might aspire, and positive, stable support networks.

Program participants will attend weekly support groups with staff and volunteer mentors. The weekly support groups will include academic support, snack and social time, and group processing on various topics ranging from success in school to health relationships, substance use, speaking and listening skills, managing stress, and many others. Each participant will also be assigned to a personal mentor. The mentors will have weekly individual contact with the participants. As part of the project, a Leadership Council will be created and 12 girls will be selected to participate in a week-long leadership training. The project will also include two conferences that will be held on the campus of King's College and will be used to celebrate the participants' achievements, continue the effort to expose young women to strong role models, to build positive and stable support networks, and to learn more positive community building skills. The conference will include seminars, speakers, banquet, and awards recognition as a culmination of the program year and a kickoff for the next program year.

Funds will be used to employ two mentors, a portion of the program manager's salary, benefits, office supplies, liability insurance, and rental of space for meetings, travel, conference expenses, and awards for participation upon successful completion.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Working with students from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, which district administrator Dr. Deborah Mileski characterized as having a student body that is "roughly 80% from low-income families," is a deliberate choice for the Volunteers of America because Wilkes-Barre is home to many of the 19% of Luzerne County youth who are living in poverty. Data published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the unemployment rate in Luzerne County at 8.8% in December 2011, down from an 18-year high of 10.6% in June 2010. There is evidence that poverty and unemployment are often linked to child abuse and that poverty, when interacting with other risk factors such as depression, substance abuse, and social isolation, increases the likelihood of maltreatment (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Children, Youth, and Families). The Magnolia Project will address issues related to behavioral health such as self-esteem, belonging, coping with stress, and resilience at a time when such help is needed for many girls, perhaps for the first time in their lives.

Through self-evaluations, the project will measure an increase in knowledge about the challenges facing female adolescent students, problem-solving strategies to meet those challenges, increases in positive social networking, acquisition of new skills which enhance school and community achievement, and an increase in feelings of self-worth.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.



ACTION ITEM

Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

**Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis**

**Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23161**

Project Title: After School and Summer Programs
Applicant: Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania
Recipients: Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania
Project Duration: 24 months beginning July 1, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 41,286	39,816 35%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 75,000	75,000 65%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total: \$ 116,286.00	114,816.00	100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 69,644	71,639
Employee Benefits	\$ 10,148	10,493
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 12,360	12,360
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 21,084	17,274
Consultants	\$ 3,050	3,050
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total: \$ 116,286.00	114,816.00	

Project Summary:

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania are requesting \$81,102 to implement an after school and summer day camp program. The programs include the following five components: character and leadership development; education and career development; arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and health and life skills. The intent is to enhance growth and development through activities that leave a positive mark on participants' physical, emotional, cultural and social needs. Approximately 150 boys and girls ages 6-18 and residing in low-income housing developments within Luzerne County will be targeted for the programs. All children being served through grant funds will come from household incomes that fall below the federal poverty guidelines.

The after school component of the program includes a snack, homework help and tutoring, a nutritious dinner, recreational and physical activities, and programs to address drug and alcohol prevention, anti-violence/bullying, and internet safety. The summer program component will include structured activities that are educational, preventative and recreational. Also during the summer, the children will have the opportunity to spend two weeks at the Jewish Community Center Summer Camp where they will be able to participate in Club activities. Since the youth do not have a lot of opportunities to engage in activities outside of the housing developments, this program will give them an opportunity to experience the outdoors and summer activities in an entirely different environment/atmosphere.

Funds will be used for personnel, supplies, tuition for 30 kids to attend the overnight camp, lunches and snacks, outdoor equipment and other recreational supplies, and transportation of youth on the various field trips.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Research has shown that after school and during the summer months, youth are more likely to engage in risky behavior. Research has also shown a stronger need for after school and summer programming for disadvantaged youth. There are currently no programs for children residing in Luzerne County that address the following needs: 1) out of school programming, 2) transportation to and from programming; 3) nutritional snacks and dinner, and 4) affordable after school and summer programming. The programs proposed by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Pennsylvania provide an on-site and free of charge after school and summer program in low-income housing developments that includes transportation, meals, snacks, physical activity and programming.

The project will collect the following outcomes: number of youth served; number of youth satisfied with the program; number of families satisfied with the program; and an increase in positive socialization.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Mericle Funds/Programs to Benefit Children of Luzerne County - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comm -
Mericle Funds
Project Summary And Analysis

Subgrant No.
2012-MF-ST-23266

Project Title: YouthFit at Camp
Applicant: Jewish Community Center of Wyoming Valley
Recipients: Jewish Community Center of Wyoming Valley
Project Duration: 4 months beginning June 13, 2012

Project Cost:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal	\$ 0	0 0%
State	\$ 9,800	0 100%
Project Income	\$ 0	0 0%
Interest	\$ 0	0 0%
State Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Cash Match (New Approp.)	\$ 0	0 0%
In-Kind Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Project Income Match	\$ 0	0 0%
Total:	\$ 9,800.00	0.00 100%

Total Budget by Category:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Personnel	\$ 5,800	0
Employee Benefits	\$ 0	0
Travel (Including Training)	\$ 0	0
Equipment	\$ 0	0
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$ 4,000	0
Consultants	\$ 0	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
Other	\$ 0	0
Total:	\$ 9,800.00	0.00

Project Summary:

The Jewish Community Center of Wyoming Valley is requesting \$9,800 to provide a wellness/fitness component to their 2012 summer day camp where at-risk children and adolescents can choose to change their body composition through exercise, diet, and education. This component will be in addition to their daily curriculum and will help with the Center's goal of combating juvenile obesity.

Funds will be used to retain a registered dietitian, certified professional trainer and facilitator. Supplies such as marketing materials, fitness bands, tubes and dumbbells will also be purchased.

On a weekly basis, a registered dietitian will be available to provide nutritional counseling and to educate approximately 100-150 children and their family members about proper nutrition and eating behaviors so that children may better achieve their weight management goals and maintain good health. Educational topics include: the impact of nutrition; actions needed to promote an adequate, balanced diet; maintenance and prevention of vitamin/mineral deficiencies; avoidance of drugs and alcohol; food management including shopping, storage, and preparation; and creating a nutritional care plan for each participating child. The program will initially be 12 weeks starting in June 2012 and ending in September 2012. Intermediate and advanced programming may be initiated to families and youth who are successful.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

According to the Center for Disease Control, the national average for obese children between the ages of 6-17 is 17.1%. Luzerne County is higher than the national average at 18%, while another 19.2% of our county's youth are at risk for being overweight (PA Dept of Health). These numbers have more than doubled within the past 20 years and the trend continues (Wang, G. and Dietz, WH 2002). This is alarming because children who have a body mass index within the 85th percentile or above are considered at risk for increased future health issues such as: high cholesterol; high blood pressure; type II diabetes; and endocrine, orthopedic, gastrointestinal/hepatic, and mental illness. By enhancing the current summer day camp with a nutritional component, the Jewish Community Center of Wyoming Valley hopes to teach youth and their families how to lead a healthier lifestyle so that the youth of Luzerne County can grow to be healthier and happier adults.

The program will measure the following outcomes: an increase in the use of healthy eating habits; an increase in awareness of a healthy weight; and an increase in the use of endurance, strength and range of motion exercises.

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this application.