

Theory of Change: Safe places, structured programs and increased access to supportive services improve learning and enhance self-sufficiency for disadvantaged youth and families.

Program Goal: To support low-income youth and families through comprehensive, evidence-based prevention, intervention and skills-training programs that lead to positive personal and social outcomes.

All proposals submitted to the Foundation should adhere to one of the following strategies:

STRATEGY A

Comprehensive Youth Development

Target Population: Youth from low-income families and under-resourced communities.

Components: Provides a safe space and structured, evidence-based, age-appropriate programming, builds on youth's interests and strengths and involves them in program development and implementation, motivates and engages youth to participate, offers opportunities for skill-building, increases access to employment, education and/or health resources, provides real world activities that connect to broader communities.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Program enrollment, participation, retention and completion rates
- Demonstration of knowledge gains and behavior change
- Demonstration of social and emotional development
- Demonstration of leadership
- Improved relationships with adults and peers
- Improved academic achievement, employability and/or health outcomes
- Increased self-awareness and self-confidence

STRATEGY B

Strengthening Families

Target Population: Low-income families.

Components: Addresses the needs of the family as a collective unit, involves families in decision-making and goal-setting processes so that services are individually tailored and culturally responsive, offers life-skills and parenting classes, individual and family counseling, and case management services, provides increased access to health, education and/or workforce development services.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Program enrollment, participation, retention and completion rates
- Increased confidence, understanding of child development and parenting skills
- Increased engagement of parents in their child's education and family life
- Improved physical and mental health outcomes and economic self-sufficiency for families
- Reduced incidents of child abuse, neglect and violence
- Improved academic performance and behavior of children in school

STRATEGY C

Violence Prevention/Remediation

Target Population: At-risk youth and families and survivors of abuse.

Components: Offers crisis intervention and peer and therapeutic counseling for individuals and groups, helps clients develop safety and personalized action plans, increases awareness of and provides information about options and resources, offers referrals to additional supportive services (housing, health care, etc.), incorporates evidence-based prevention and intervention curricula, engages community leaders in prevention and remediation efforts, offers long-term support, guidance and advocacy.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Program enrollment, participation, retention and completion rates
- Increased positive coping skills, knowledge of personal strengths and protective behaviors
- Increased understanding of the healing process and the effects of violence
- Decreased feelings of shame and responsibility
- Improved ability to make informed decisions and access appropriate resources