

**Lawrence Special Alcohol Fund
6-month Interim Grantee Program Report
Big Brothers Big Sisters 2011**

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities from January through June 2010, that were funded with City Alcohol Tax funds.

The monies requested from this grant were designated for funding of a case management position - with the goal of expanding and our services and maintaining existing services.

This Case Manager supports a mentoring match load of 63 community-based and 20 Bigs in Schools matches, and processes new volunteers and clients. Match support consists of contacting each member of a match – the volunteer, the client, and the client’s parent/guardian – once a month to ensure that the match is functioning well. If problems or issues are present then the Case Manager provides support and guidance. Volunteer processing consists of conducting interviews and home visits, obtaining references and background checks, training each new volunteer, and assessing the volunteer’s suitability for the program. Client processing consists of conducting an interview with the child and parent/ guardian, and assessing the child’s needs.

Our case load during the first half of 2011 has been even with 2010 numbers, with an active community-based case load of 255 and 129 school-based matches. A total of 433 children were served during the period, representing both active matches and matches that closed during the period. BBBS is on target to serve an expected total of more than 575 children (combined community program and Bigs in Schools program) by the end of the calendar year. Match loads for all Case Managers are full and the Alcohol Tax funds continue to ensure that Big Brothers Big Sisters has adequate staffing to meet our current client numbers.

To meet a continuing need for mentors, a Recruitment Committee is focusing on recruitment of volunteers from community organizations, university staff and local businesses.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward the following items, as stated in your logic model:

a) Goals/objectives

- Create and support at least 50 additional community-based matches
- Improve self-esteem
- Promote bonding with caring adults
- Improve academic performance
- Decrease likelihood of truancy
- Prevent aggression, acting out, antisocial behaviors
- Prevent early crime involvement
- Prevent early use of drugs and alcohol

With 42 community-based matches made in the first six months of the year, BBBS is making good progress on the goals for new matches.

For youth attitude evaluations, case managers continue to conduct Program Outcome Evaluation surveys at the six-month and one-year anniversaries of matches, in addition to the regular supervision interviews. While the final numbers have not been compiled for the first half of 2011, the preliminary view is that the program continues to provide the targeted objectives and goals for improvement by the children served.

b) Strategies

- Match children to carefully screened adult mentors

The screening process for volunteers, a standard protocol for all BBBS agencies in Kansas, is a very thorough one. Every volunteer must pass five background checks, receive a minimum of four positive references, provide acceptable answers during an interview, and prove, if a community-based match, that the home environment is suitable for a child to visit.

- Conduct 5-point background check on volunteers

The following agencies and registries are contacted to ensure a positive background check: Department of Motor Vehicles, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, State Child Abuse Registry, Court Diversions, and Registered Sex Offenders.

- Train volunteers in successful mentoring strategies

We have several training opportunities available for our volunteers. First is the initial orientation and screening, followed by a thorough review of agency policies, rules and procedures by the case manager at the time a match is initiated. Occasional group training sessions give volunteers information on age level characteristics, strategies to deal with common issues faced by the children - our "Littles," and a variety of other topics. The agency's monthly newsletter refers volunteers to community activities, training seminars, and other opportunities. We also have an extensive Resource Library available to our volunteers.

- Provide regular supervision by Case Managers to ensure match success

During the initial year of the match, the Case Manager contacts monthly our volunteer mentors – the "Bigs," the children in the matches – the "Littles," and a parent of every child. This can be done via phone, in person, or e-mail. A minimum of three contacts per year must be in person. Matches with more than one year's tenure receive quarterly contacts.

c) Outcomes: Process, Behavioral and Impact

As of June 30, 2011, BBBS has processed 42 new community matches and 22 new school-based matches. As previously noted, by year end we anticipate serving as many as 575 children in our area. This includes continuing matches, new matches and closed matches.

The US Department of Justice did a systematic review of more than 500 scientific evaluations of crime prevention practices. This study was done to identify what programs prevent crime. They identified what works, what doesn't work, and what's promising. Big Brothers Big Sisters is not modeled after a promising approach, it was identified as a working approach. The Department of Justice review identified that Community-based mentoring by Big Brothers Big Sisters substantially reduced drug abuse. They further stated that evaluations of other mentoring programs showed they did not work.

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence reviewed more than 400 delinquency, drug, and violence prevention programs. Of these 400 programs, ten were identified as a "Blueprint" agency, or a program that works. Big Brothers Big Sisters is one of the ten.

3. Review the 2010 line-item budget you provided in your application and summarize how the funds were used, giving detail to any changes that may have occurred since applying and receiving the grant.

Funds allocated for 2011 are \$27,000, of which \$13,500 was received in April, 2010, as a first half distribution. The net allocation of \$27,000 will cover the salary and some benefits costs for the Case Manager. No other expenses were to be covered by this grant.