



## City of Lawrence

### 2011 Outside Agency Funding APPLICATION

**General Information:** Each year, the City Commission considers requests for the allocation of dollars to a number of agencies that provide services benefiting the Lawrence community. The decision on funding a request will be made during the City's annual budgeting process. The decision will be based upon the availability of funds, the need demonstrated through the agency's application, the stated objectives of the applicant's program, past performance by the agency in adhering to funding guidelines (as appropriate), and the ability to measure progress toward the program objectives.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FUNDS WILL BE DISBURSED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED TO IN WRITING:**

- FIRST HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE APRIL 1
- SECOND HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE OCTOBER 1

**Instructions:** Applications for 2011 funding must be complete and submitted electronically to the City Manager's Office at [ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us) by the deadline of 5:00 pm on Monday, May 31, 2010.

**Questions?** Contact Casey Toomay, Budget Manager at [ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us) or at 785-832-3409.

**Please give your answers in the gray text fields below:**

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#### Section I. Applicant Information

Legal Name of Agency: Van Go, Inc.

Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: Arts-Based Youth Employment Training

Primary Contact Person: Lynne Green, Executive Director

Address: 715 New Jersey, P.O. Box 153

Telephone: 842-3797

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E-mail: [lynne@van-go.org](mailto:lynne@van-go.org)

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#### Section 2. Request Information

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2011: \$35,000
  - B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities) in 2011? If so, please describe:  
No funds will be used for capital outlay.
  - C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds in 2011? If so, how: This investment of City funds may be leveraged as matching dollars for \$211,000 in grant and foundation requests.
  - D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2010? If so, list the amount and source for funding (i.e. General Fund, Alcohol Fund, etc.): General Fund: \$35,000 and Alcohol Fund: \$44,000
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1. How would a 2.5% reduction in city funding in 2011 impact your agency? The reduction would come to \$875, which we would try to raise through additional gallery sales or from individual donors.

2. If you are requesting an increase in funding over 2010, please explain exactly how the additional funds will be used: n/a

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**Section 3. Agency and Program Budget information**

- A. How many paid full time employees work for your agency? 4 Volunteers? 124
- B. What percent of your total 2010 budget goes to employee salaries and benefits? 48%
- C. What percent of your total 2010 budget is used for operating expenses? 37%
- D. What is the total estimated cost to provide the program in 2011? \$850,000
- E. What percent of 2011 program costs are being requested from the City? 4%
- F. List other anticipated sources of funding and funding amount for this program in 2011:

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<u>Anticipated Funding Source</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
City of Lawrence, Alcohol Tax	\$ 44,000
City of Lawrence, Outside Agency	\$ 35,000
United Way	\$ 25,000
Grants (Department of Labor, Workforce Initiative Act, Juvenile Justice Authority, Kansas Arts Commission, NEA, etc)	\$ 386,000
Product Sales & Commissions	\$ 80,000
Contributions: Individual, Corporate, Fundraisers	\$ 280,000
 TOTAL 2011 PROGRAM BUDGET	 \$ 850,000

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**Section 4. Statement of Problem/Need to Be Addressed By Program**

- A. Provide a brief statement of the problem or need your agency proposes to address with the requested funding and/or the impact of not funding this program. The statement should include characteristics of the client population that will be served by this program. If possible, include statistical data to document this need.

Van Go’s programs are dedicated to improving the lives of high-needs youth using art as the vehicle for self-expression, self-confidence and hope for the future. By integrating art techniques into the acquisition of job skills, life skills, and crisis counseling, youth at Van Go become better equipped to successfully make a more successful transition into adulthood. A key aid in that transition is the tremendous self-confidence youth gain from the public display and sale of their art in the community.

Archival data shows that youth served by Van Go have "barriers" that prevent them from making healthy life choices. In 2009, 19% of youth at Van Go reported that someone in their immediate family is an alcoholic and 28.6% reported that an immediate family member uses illegal drugs. Nearly one-third of Van Go’s constituents have an immediate family member in jail. 69% of the youth employed by Van Go live in poverty, compared to the Douglas County poverty rate of 12.9% for youth under 18. Most also face the multiple problems associated with poverty—delinquency, academic failure, and truancy.

Van Go youth are those who normally “slip through the cracks” and few programs serve them because they are often quite difficult to reach. Many of those youth continue to struggle as they transition into adulthood, their risk factors translating into unemployment, poverty and reliance on social services.

B. How was the need for this program determined?

From the organization's inception, Van Go has been working to meet the needs of the community it serves. In 1997, long before the need was addressed with the arrival of 21st Century grant funds, Van Go was serving youth in after-school programs at targeted elementary schools. Van Go has since adapted to meet identified needs among Lawrence's teenage and young adult populations.

In 1999, Van Go created the JAMS program (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense) for at-risk teens, ages 14-18, in response to needs cited in the 7th Judicial District's Community Comprehensive Plan, which called for "additional opportunities for youth to participate in community service work as a deterrent to negative behavior." JAMS fills that need by providing constructive experiences for youth during the high-risk after-school and summer hours, deterring negative behavior. Local research shows that substance abuse, for which Van Go youth are at heightened risk, is higher among Lawrence youth than youth statewide. The Kansas Communities That Care survey, administered annually by USD 497, indicated substance abuse levels above state averages among Lawrence 10th graders in 2009:

\*When asked, "If you wanted to get marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?" 42.8% of Lawrence youth responded, "Very Easy." (state average: 29.3%)

\*20.5% reported using marijuana at least once in the past 30 days (state average: 12.5%)

\*19.4% reported being drunk or high at school in the last year (state average: 12.9%)

\*34.5% reported having tried marijuana at least once in their lifetime (state average: 24.1%)

In 2010, in order to most effectively serve the population of young adults who need help transitioning to adulthood, Van Go created The ArtsTrain for out-of-school youth, ages 18-21. The ArtsTrain will help deter unemployment and poverty among young adults by offering practical job training and career exploration, skills that proved lacking among local youth in a 2005 study conducted by the University of Kansas Policy Research Institute for the USD 497 Administrative Task Force on Technical Education. Former USD 497 students who received GEDs rather than high school diplomas—members of the same socioeconomic, racial and health demographic that Van Go serves—reported a lack of preparedness for acquiring jobs. "They did not believe they were well

prepared for employment and desired more help with soft skills, such as resumes, applications, interviews, W-2 forms, body language, how to ask questions about a job, as well as on the job etiquette. They would welcome increased involvement from the business community in career development and exploration programs.” (Krider, Charles E. “Assessment of the Technical Training Needs of the Lawrence Community,” KU Policy Research Institute, May 2005).

C. Why should this problem/need be addressed by the City?

Van Go is the only area organization meeting the City’s identified needs for work opportunities, mentoring and job training for Lawrence’s neediest youth. The prevention of risky behaviors, the development of the local economy, and the improvement of overall community health save the city enormous resources in time and money. Now, more than ever with the downturn in the economy, the job skills and personal support Van Go provides are essential to the success of the young people, enabling them to become productive, employed members of our community. A recent survey of JAMS graduates indicated 85% were participating in secondary education or were employed.

The City benefits in two important ways from the services provided to at-risk young people by Van Go:

1. Van Go Training: Readyng the Workforce

- The ArtsTrain provides vocational training in the high-demand fields of carpentry, painting and digital arts, through a curriculum informed by focus groups of local employers.
- For JAMS youth, “soft skills” like communication are honed as apprentice-artists partner with local business to design and create commissioned art bench through an interview process with clients (a firm handshake and good eye contact are stressed and practiced).
- Attendance, punctuality, time management, goal-setting, teamwork and task completion are charted, measured, evaluated and rewarded.
- Life skills are practiced in sessions on topics such as fiscal responsibility, transition planning, health and employment issues.

2. Van Go Employment: Economic Development

- Van Go works hard to bring revenue into Lawrence from sources outside the community. In 2010, Van Go will bring \$400,000 into Lawrence from state and federal sources. Thus, Van Go leverages the City’s financial support by generating additional dollars that directly benefit our at-risk youth and community.

- Van Go creates at least 90 positions annually for youth who would have difficulty find employment elsewhere. In 2010, approximately \$140,000 will be paid to the youth employees at Van Go, nearly all of which stays right here in Lawrence. With youth unemployment at its highest level since 1948, paying youth in our community is a tremendous benefit.
- Van Go youth attending Lawrence public high schools can receive one hour of credit toward graduation through their participation in Van Go programs, encouraging graduation and the long-term economic impact of a workforce with high school diplomas or equivalents.
- Van Go will generate \$80,00 in commissioned/product sales in 2010, keeping local spending money in the community.

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#### **Section 4. Description of Program Services**

- A. Provide a brief description of the service you will provide and explain how it will respond to the need you identified in Section 3. The description should include how many clients will be served, and should describe as specifically as possible the interaction that will take place between the provider and the user of the service.

Van Go serves 90 at-risk youth each year through two programs:

JAMS - the only arts-based job training program in Kansas is the largest employer of at-risk youth in Lawrence. Each year the program improves the lives of Lawrence youth, ages 14-18, who are alienated from their school or family environments and are accustomed to anonymity or failure. Participants are referred by social workers, counselors, mental health professionals and court personnel; they work 10 hours per week after school, and 20 hours per week during the summer, creating murals, custom-designed benches or other artwork for public display. Youth earn minimum wage, with merit-based raises, while learning valuable job skills and experiencing a creative outlet. JAMS is not designed to create artists, but instead uses art as the vehicle to help youth gain job skills, life skills and economic resources.

The ArtsTrain takes the JAMS mission to the next step by targeting disconnected young adults, ages 18-21, who need guidance to successfully transition to personal, economic and social maturity. The ArtsTrain provides in-depth vocational training in the applied arts: woodworking, graphic design and painting. Soft skills and life skills are addressed as participants work on punctuality, teamwork and communication. The ArtsTrain youth will learn through on-site training and off-site employment, where they will be monitored by Van Go staff. The ArtsTrain curriculum is based on feedback from focus groups of local business owners who are most aware of skill sets required of successful employees. The ArtsTrain youth will have Individualized Life Plans that incorporate a

variety of goals beyond employment (i.e. obtaining G.E.D., moving out of a parent's home, getting out of debt, etc.), continuing Van Go's comprehensive approach to serving at-risk youth.

- B. Describe any efforts your agency has made to explore the community to determine if there are any other agencies providing similar types of services. What efforts have you made to coordination services?

Van Go works with these community agencies to ensure coordination of prevention services and to avoid duplication:

Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center - WRAP social workers refer students to Van Go. WRAP staffers are essential in Van Go's effort to make sure that at-risk children are being identified and that services offered during the school day are continued after school.

Douglas County Youth Services – DCYS staff and juvenile court personnel refer youth to the JAMS program.

The Lawrence/Douglas County Housing Authority – Because many of our low-income youth live in public housing, the Housing Authority sponsors Summer JAMS apprentice-artists' salaries for their residents.

USD #497 – The partnership between Van Go and the school district continues to strengthen. Local junior high school students have attended career exploration events at the Van Go facility, and JAMS participants earn high school credit for their involvement with Van Go. School counselors and social workers are important partners referring and recruiting students as well as communicating grades, attendance, and discipline problems so that a coordinated effort can be made on behalf of each child.

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## Section 5. Program Objectives

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2011. Objectives should demonstrate the purpose of the program and measure the amount of service delivered or the effectiveness of the services delivered. A time frame and numerical goal should also be included. Examples include, “75% of clients receiving job training will retain their job one year after being hired,” “increased fundraising efforts will result in a 15% increase in donations in 2011,” “credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2011,” “new digital arts program will serve 275 students in 2011” etc. **Applicants will be expected to report their progress toward meeting these objectives in their six month and annual reports to the City.**

### Program Objectives

1. Workforce training through the arts will be provided to 90 at-risk youth and young adults, ages 14-21 in 2011
2. 50% of youth will show an improved score on their employee evaluation scores, as measured by pre/post participation staff reviews.
3. Youth will receive 32 lessons on drug and alcohol prevention by Van Go social workers, using the evidence-based Pathways curriculum.

**Please return completed application electronically to [ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us) by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 31, 2010.**