

## **CCIA Request for CDBG Funding Narrative**

### Introduction

The CCIA seeks \$10,000 in funding towards its budget of \$41,000 for its tutoring and after school programs for the 2004-04 school year. The programs serve over 200 children, in excess of 70% of whom are classified by our surveys as having low and moderate incomes. They are also defined as being at-risk students, in danger of not receiving life skills for today's world. Evidence of this behavior includes poor school performance, poor attendance, drug or alcohol abuse, criminal activity, gang membership, teenage pregnancy, and low self-esteem.

The CCIA has operated its tutoring and after school programs for over 20 years in many of our elementary schools and for students at Faust Junior High School, employing experienced and well-trained site coordinators, tutors, mentors and interns. Programs take place at least two days per week during the school year. Several thousand children have been helped to improve their lives over the 20 years.

After-school services, including tutoring, homework assistance, snacks and enrichment activities, including athletic, community service, and social interactions. Staffing includes a program leader, a site coordinator at each site, tutors, mentors, and interns at each site, and activities run by collaborators, such as the police department, arts council, and family development practitioners. We have summer camp programs that are also held with collaborating organizations. We offer field trips as often as possible. Programs are currently held at five elementary schools, from approximately 3-6PM, except for the program for teenage children, held at the John Wesley AME Church. There is some transportation home.

### Seriousness of the Problem to be Addressed

#### In General:

At-risk children pose a danger to their communities.

At-risk children pose a danger to themselves.

At risk children are a danger to their families.

At-risk children create substantial costs to society.

Our school systems are unable to provide the necessary help and support for at-risk children.

#### Specifically:

In the fall of 2003, there were over 500 teacher recommendations for remedial help in reading, math, and ESL in just three of the schools we serve. In these same schools, 70% of the students were eligible for the federally assisted school lunch programs. From this population comes the at-risk child. To repeat, this child is in danger of not receiving life skills for today's world evidenced by poor school performance, poor attendance, drug or alcohol abuse, criminal activity, gang membership, teenage pregnancy, and low self-esteem. Research cited by the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania indicates that the presence of after school programs greatly reduces the incidence of street crime, if only for the simple reason that children are most likely to participate in risky behaviors between the hours of 3 to 6 PM.

### Resolution of the Problem

We believe that the needs of at-risk children include:

- Improvement in academic achievement
- Development of sense of responsibility
- Improvement in social behavior
- Reduction in use of drugs and alcohol
- Reduction in teenage pregnancies
- Reduction of violent behaviors
- Acquisition of vocational skills
- Improvement of personal health management

National research indicates that after-school programs are a major source of help to the at-risk child. In this society, parents and schools are not able, in terms of time, skills, or economic resources, to do the necessary work themselves.

Locally, CCIA has the experience to know that our programming, as described earlier, helps to resolve the problem involving at-risk children in important ways. We cannot do the entire job, however. It is well known that increased parent involvement with their children is also critically necessary to success with at-risk children, so the programs that we develop for parents for parents and children together are an important part of our work.

In fact, Dr. Anthony Ceddia, President of Shippensburg University, has described the CCIA after school program as follows:

“The CCIA is the school district’s only comprehensive elementary after-school tutoring program... Its [Junior High School] program has been successful in convincing students and their parents to consider the significance of graduating from high school and pursuing post-secondary education.”

Based on national studies, we know that after school programs keep kids safe, help working families and improve academic achievement. These are the facts:

- More than 28 million children today have parents who work outside the home.<sup>1</sup>
- As many as 15 million kids have no place to go once the school day ends.<sup>2</sup>
- Studies show that students involved in after school programs get better grades, attend school more and have improved behavior. They express greater hopes for the future and more interest in school.<sup>3</sup>

- Teens who participate in after school are less likely to skip class, use marijuana and other drugs, smoke, drink alcohol or engage in sexual activity.<sup>4</sup>
- Two-thirds of Americans say that it is difficult to find programs in their communities and that not enough programs are available.<sup>5</sup>
- About 13 percent of children and adolescents are now seriously overweight.<sup>6</sup>
- After school programs can provide physical activity and reinforce healthy behavior.<sup>7</sup>

Sources (As quoted by the Afterschool Alliance, Inc.)

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Labor

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Urban Institute estimate, 2000

<sup>3</sup> "Extra Benefits Tied to Extracurriculars," Education Week, October 2000

<sup>4</sup> YMCA of the USA, March 2001 [top]

<sup>5</sup> Afterschool Alliance, Mott/JCPenney Afterschool Poll, July 2001.

<sup>6</sup> National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1999

<sup>7</sup> "Promoting Better Health for Young People Through Physical Activity and Sports: A Report to the President From the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education," Fall 2000

#### Benefit to Low and Moderate Income Persons

Our surveys, taken over several years indicate that over 70% of the children currently and historically enrolled in CCIA after school programs are low to moderate income children. Federal government statistics indicate that nearly the same percentage of our students are classified as eligible for assistance under the federal lunch program.

#### Readiness

Because the CCIA tutoring and after school programs have been continuously operating for over 20 years, they are always ready to accept funding. The proposed funding period begins in September, 2004. Students and program operators will be at work at that time.

#### Capacity

Over the last 20 years, the after school programs have operated with a staff commensurate to student enrollment. For 2003-04, the tutoring program is operating with only three site coordinators due to a limited budget, in part necessitated by a lack of block grant funds. We have been asked by the Superintendent to increase enrollment, but that can only be done with increased budget. In our effort to raise funds for 2004-05, we have included an increased budget, partly to serve 200 students, and partly to serve them better. We expect to have programs at six sites, each staffed by a site coordinator, and qualified tutors and mentors on a two-day per week

schedule. Since activities will take place at sites that conform to all applicable health and safety laws, and since those sites have been used before, all necessary physical capacity and characteristics are verifiable.

Timeliness/Past Performance

The CCIA has received funding from the block grant program many times. Administration history is known.

Local Match

The attached budget for the 2004-05 after school programs includes a listing of all expected sources of matching funds. They include:

Shippensburg University	\$ 7,500
Greater Harrisburg Foundation	7,500
Alexander Stewart Foundation	10,000
Reading Is Fundamental	2,700
Chambersburg Evening Kiwanis	600
Donations from Collaborating Organizations	1,644
CCIA Fund Raising	1,500
Chambersburg Block Grant	<u>10,000</u>
Total	\$ 41,444