

**Agency Name:** Boys & Girls Club of Sherman  
**Grant/App:** 4292501 **Start Date:** 9/1/2021 **End Date:** 8/31/2022

**Project Title:** Truancy Prevention  
**Status:** Pending OOG Review

### **Profile Information**

**Applicant Agency Name:** Boys & Girls Club of Sherman

**Project Title:** Truancy Prevention

**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** Executive

**Address Line 1:** 1500 N. Lockett Street

**Address Line 2:**

**City/State/Zip:** Sherman Texas 75090-3949

**Start Date:** 9/1/2021

**End Date:** 8/31/2022

**Regional Council of Governments(COG) within the Project's Impact Area:** Texoma Council of Governments

**Headquarter County:** Grayson

**Counties within Project's Impact Area:**

Grayson

### **Grant Officials:**

#### **Project Director**

**Name:** Erica Lashley

**Email:** erica@shermanclublife.org

**Address 1:** 295 Pink Hill Road

**Address 1:**

**City:** Bells , Texas 75414

**Phone:** 903-892-9019 Other Phone:

**Fax:**

**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** Program Director

### **Narrative Information**

#### **Project Abstract :**

The Boys & Girls Club would hire a full time Teen Director and create a teen program. The teen director would engage the teens in Club programming as well as serving as a mentor. Most Boys & Girls Club programs are evidence-based. The breath of these programs will be listed further in this application, but they target teens in the areas of character & leadership development, career & education, healthy lifestyles, and the arts. A full list of programs is listed at <https://www.bgca.org/programs/>. In a small community, there is little to do for teens, which often leads to undesired behaviors. The Club Teen Program will allow teens a safe place to go, with extended hours. Having a teen center in a rural community with little available, will help decrease truancy because it would hit the categories of effective education, training, prevention, and diversion.

## **Problem Statement :**

The succinct version is that there is not a lot for teens to do in a rural town, and the adage "idle minds are the devil's playthings" is completely appropriate. When there is nothing for teens to do, behaviors, such as underage drinking and teen pregnancy increase (supporting data below). By maintaining later hours, the Club will be able to decrease underage drinking, teen pregnancy, or gang violence just by being open. The Boys & Girls Club of Sherman Teen Program is not just preventative. It is also enrichment.

## **Supporting Data :**

The Boys & Girls Club offers programming, much of which is evidence based. As mention in the previous section, the target areas are character & leadership development, career & education, healthy lifestyles, and the arts. As a sampling of what the Club offers, Be A Star (antibullying), Keystone (teen leadership), Diplomas to Degrees (matriculation from high school to college), Money Matters (financial literacy), Lyricism 101 (poetry and music), Careerlaunch (job readiness), Be Great Graduate (school graduation as a celebration point and not an end point), Iimagemakers (photography), Youth of the Year (leadership and scholarships), Futurestong (antitrafficking and awareness). Smart Girls/Passport to Manhood (gender-specific 'growing up' programs), Goals for Graduation (as titled), SmartMoves (drugs and alcohol awareness), and DateSmart (navigating teen relationships). The great thing about the Boys & Girls Club of Sherman's Teen Program Proposal is that it will not only prevent the state's defined components of truancy, but it will also enrich our teens, helping them learn right from wrong, and prepare them for life after high school. UNDERAGE DRINKING STATISTICS 87% of teens surveyed in rural Texas communities have consumed alcohol. 46% have within the last 30 days. The top three reasons why: Boredom, To Fit in, To have a good time cited from "Underage Rural Drinking in Texas" - Lasser, Schmidt, Diep, Heubel. Texas State University, San Marcos Alcohol is obtained from their parents or peers There is a higher drinking rate in girls (which increases their chance of sexual abuse) cited from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism TEEN PREGNANCY STATISTICS At 43.3 births per 1,000 girls ages 15 through 19, the rural teen birth rate was higher than both the national and metropolitan rates—34.2 and 32.7, respectively. In 2010, 55 percent of teen girls in rural counties reported ever having sex, compared to 40 percent of their metropolitan counterparts. cited from the National Conference of State Legislators Reasons for carrying a baby to term: Poor access to healthcare, boredom, the "Moral Acceptability" of birth control cited from the National Center for Health Services Grayson County is above the state and national average for teen births cited from The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy THE IMPACT OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS 91% of alumni said they are satisfied with their adult life. 85% of alumni knew right from wrong. 82% of alumni said they had increased self confidence. 78% of alumni said they had more self esteem for themselves. 67% of alumni said the Club gave them goals and aspirations for their adult lives. 67% of alumni said the Club helped them avoid difficulty with the law. 62% of alumni said they became more committed to their education. 57% of alumni said the Club saved their life. cited from Harris Interactive report

## **Project Approach & Activities:**

The goal of the Boys & Girls Club of Sherman would be to hire a full-time Teen Director to run the BGCS Teen Program. The Teen Director would be responsible for implementing the programming, engaging teens, conducting college research with the teens, hiring and training subordinate staff, preparing the teens for "life after high school" (whether that is college, junior

college, trade school, or the military), and working with the high school staff to coordinate success for our teens. To the point of reducing the unfavorable behaviors, the Club would maintain hours from 3pm - 9pm for the teens (the younger kids leave at 6pm). For the time from 3pm - 6pm, teens will be in their designated area, "The Club Teen Center". The BGCS will also host Teen Nights on Fridays or Saturdays in which the Club will be open until midnight. Lastly, mental wellness is often overlooked in rural Texas. In many people's eyes, depression doesn't exist, that kid is just not tough enough. It's a football mentality where the strong survive. Unfortunately, the BGCS sees a lot of members that need some attention toward their mental state. The BGCS knows our limitations and does not claim to be psychologists or counsellors. The BGCS would also include a subscription to BetterHelp.com which is private, personal counselling that is delivered to teens 24h per day through the most accessible means - their phones.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

The Boys & Girls Club of Sherman has served Grayson County since 1966. The staff, including the Teen Director position that we will add, receives a background check and training requirements. Each employee must be certified in CPR and take Presidium's Sexual Abuse training before they can work with any member. The BGCS also designates several programs on BGCA's internal Spillet University for staff certification. While it is widely known among educators and in the nonprofit sector, BGCA's internal trainings offered to all affiliate Clubs are exemplary and cover a range of safety and programming topics. The BGCS has the following partnerships that would fulfill this grant: Sherman ISD, City of Sherman (including SPD), Austin College, Grayson College, and the United Way of Grayson County.

### **Performance Management :**

The biggest success indicator is obviously attendance. The BGCS will want to get as many teens in the program as well. The BGCS will also track categories defined as "success indicators" by the national organization. These include antisocial behavior, school attendance, graduate rates and advancement of grade, and interaction with the law (based on incidences). Our goals are stretch goals for the first two years of this program. We would like to see 270 teens enrolled with an average daily attendance of 125; keep in mind, teens have jobs, all sorts of school activities, and in many cases are mobile so they choose to attend. We would like to have five members apply for the Youth of the Year program with one advancing to the state competition in those two years. Educationally we would have a 99% graduation rate and help our members develop a path for their lives. We would have a <3% interacting with the law.

### **Target Group :**

We will serve any teens in Grayson County.

### **Evidence-Based Practices:**

The Boys & Girls Club of America has a success rate over 100 years of saving lives. Their method of innovative, contemporary programming (both preventative and enriching as well as their Formula for Impact is well proven through the hundreds of thousands of kids that have gone through the program. The Formula for Impact is a road-map for Clubs to help ensure that members achieve our priority outcomes of Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles. The formula is the kids that need us most + an outcome driven Club experience = priority outcomes. The "outcome driven Club experience" consists of (A) the five

key elements for positive youth development: 1. A safe, positive environment 2. Fun 3. Supportive relationships 4. Opportunities and expectations 5. Recognition (B) High-yield activities (C) Targeted programs and populations (D) Regular attendance by our members This was listed above, but it is worth mentioning again. An independent survey by Harris showed the following results as reported by BGC alumni. **THE IMPACT OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS** 91% of alumni said they are satisfied with their adult life. 85% of alumni knew right from wrong. 82% of alumni said they had increased self confidence. 78% of alumni said they had more self esteem for themselves. 67% of alumni said the Club gave them goals and aspirations for their adult lives. 67% of alumni said the Club helped them avoid difficulty with the law. 62% of alumni said they became more committed to their education. 57% of alumni said the Club saved their life. cited from Harris Interactive report

### Project Activities Information

#### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Community-Based Programs and Services	28.00	Offering programs that focus on character and leadership development like the Youth of the Year, Keystone Club, or Torch Club (full description of BGCA programming listed at BGCA.org.
Mental Health Services	15.00	The Club would get a subscription to Betterhelp.com. This is a private counsellor that can meet with teens 24h a day and through their mobile devices, which is the best way to get to teens.
School Programs	28.00	As mentioned earlier in the application, BGCA has a menu of over 75 youth development programs, many are evidence based. The Boys & Girls Club of Sherman offers all of them. Rather than giving the names of the programs, which don't always describe them, the focus area of the program is listed: financial literacy, poetry, getting into college, transitioning from high school to college, a lot of different programs in the arts, poetry and music, anti drug and alcohol, anti bullying, girl empowerment, homework help and tutoring, STEM experimenting, robotics, and programming/creating apps for your phone --to name a few.
Truancy Prevention	29.00	We consider being open as our regular hours, helping combat truancy. The Club would intend the teen program to be open from 3pm-9pm on most nights as well as hosting teen nights where the Club is open until midnight. The weekend will be reserved for field trips.

### Measures Information

#### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of hours of service completed by program youth.	1000

Number of program youth served and considered truant prior to this period who have been referred to a truancy court as defined in Sec. 65.004 Texas Family Code	12
Number of program youth served and considered truant prior to this period who have not been referred to a truancy court as defined in Sec. 65.004 Texas Family Code	12
Number of program youth served who are no longer truant during this period	200
Number of program youth served who were considered truant prior to this period	12
Number of program youth served.	500

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of program youth completing program requirements.	200
Number of program youth who offend or reoffend.	5

Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
-----------------------	--------------

Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
------------------------	--------------

**Budget Details Information**

**Budget Information by Budget Line Item:**

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Director	This is the teen director who will plan and implement the program	\$43,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$43,000.00	100
Personnel	Specialist	Youth development specialist. Based on ratios, there will be six YDPs specifically for the teens.	\$82,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$82,000.00	100

Contractual and Professional Services	Mental Health Assessment Services	Subscription to Betterhealth.com, counselling services, for up to 75 members	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	This would include training for the teen staff and travel for the teens for trips to colleges.	\$11,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,700.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	Sports Supplies Art Supplies Food Only Food Supplies	\$48,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,000.00	0
Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs - Approved Rate	Club membership fees for the teens	\$10,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,500.00	0

### Budget Summary Information

#### Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
Personnel	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125,000.00
Contractual and Professional Services	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
Travel and Training	\$11,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,700.00
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$48,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,000.00
Indirect Costs	\$10,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,500.00

#### Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
\$207,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$207,200.00