

A large, stylized logo for Big Brothers Big Sisters is positioned on the right side of the slide. It features a dark green circular background with a white outline of a person's head and shoulders. The logo is partially obscured by the text.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Evening Reporting Center Expansion

Jessie Juarez - October 9, 2023

Objective



Big Brothers Big Sisters seeks approval and funding for the expansion of the Evening Reporting Center (ERC) program to serve youth in the Ventura and Ojai Valley areas. This expansion aligns with our mission to empower at-risk youth and contribute to reducing recidivism.

BBSVC



- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County (BBSVC) has a rich history of over 50 years serving youth with a strong track record of success.
- Annual audits by an outside firm.
- Overseen by a 17 member board of directors.
- Supported by 19 professional staff.
- Powered by over 800 volunteers.

Previous Contracts



- BBSVC has a history of successful collaborations with organizations like the Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA).
 - MOU from July 2017 - June 2019 with the VCPA for their collaborative Probation and Early Prevention Program (PEPP).
 - The PEPP targeted youth aged 12-16 considered low- to medium-risk to reoffend or who have received lower-level citations in all areas of the county.
 - Under this collaboration, BBSVC provide a range of services to these youth. Services include crisis stabilization, mentoring, tutoring, individual and family counseling, and referrals to needed resources and support systems.

Current Contracts:
Simi Valley ERC



Simi Valley ERC

The Numbers

- **Youth Served: 222**
 - Probation referrals, community referrals, and outreach event participants.
- **Community Engagement: 57 Outreach Events**
 - Active community engagement and promoting the program's benefits.
- **Program Retention: 70%**
 - The high retention rate speaks of the commendable program's positive impact on the youth it serves.

Simi Valley ERC

The Numbers - continued

- **Intakes of Probation Youth: 77 Youth**

- Each probation youth is provided with the support and resources they need to make positive change.

- **Probation Community Service Completion: 46 Youth**

- Each completed community service obligation rehabilitates and builds community for the youth.

Key Personnel Ventura and Ojai ERC

Funding request for **four critical** roles in the successful implementation of the expanded ERC program.



Bi-Lingual Program Manager

Jessie Juarez



- **Role**

- Jessie will oversee the overall project for 20 hrs/week at a rate of \$25/hr.

- **Qualifications**

- Jessie Juarez, AMFT #105610, has been thoroughly vetted by the VCPA. Currently manages the East County ERC contract and previously managed the PEPP contract.

- **Responsibilities**

- Project coordination, attending JJCC meetings, designing and coordinating activities for educational support, job skills training, life skills, financial literacy, volunteer opportunities, and developing effective performance measures.

Full-Time Case Manager



- **Role**

- A full-time case manager will be hired and trained by Jessie Juarez at a rate of \$22.00/hour to handle day-to-day reporting assignments, scheduling activities, and preparing ongoing reporting to VCPA.

- **Responsibilities**

- The case manager will play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth operation of the program and supporting the youth participants.

Activities Coordinator



- **Role**

- The Activities Coordinator will be responsible for planning, organizing, and facilitating program activities that promote educational support, job skills training, life skills development, and creative enrichment opportunities for youth participants.

- **Responsibilities**

- Develop and implement a diverse range of activities that align with program goals.
- Ensure the safe and reliable transportation of referred probation youth to and from the Ventura Youth Room for program activities.
- Work closely with transportation providers to establish pick-up and drop-off schedules that align with program schedules and participant needs.
- Collaborate with the Program Manager to ensure activities meet the needs and interests of youth.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of activities in achieving program outcomes.

Director of Operations

Susan Oransky



- **Role**

- Susan Oransky will serve as the bookkeeper, housed at the corporate office of BBSVC, dedicating 10 hours per month at a rate of \$25.00/hour.

- **Responsibilities**

- Susan will handle financial matters related to the ERC program, ensuring accurate and transparent financial management.

Funding Allocation

Ventura and Ojai ERC



Salaries

Total: \$136,206

- **Program Manager**
 - 20 hrs/wk @ \$25/hr - \$26,000 annually
- **BBBS Case Manager**
 - 40 hrs/wk @ \$22/hr - \$45,760 annually
- **BBBS Activities Coordinator**
 - 40 hrs/wk @ \$21/hr - \$43,680 annually
- **Director of Operations**
 - 10 hrs/month @ \$25/hr - \$3,000 annually

Other Expenses

Total: \$73,766



- **Other Expenses**

- Benefits, 15% of salaries - \$17,766 annually
- Expenses for Van - \$8,000
- Background Checks - \$1,000
- Phones - \$2,500
- Office Rent/Utilities (\$3,000/month) - \$36,000 annually
- Insurance and Liability (including Auto) - \$5,000
- Supplies - \$3,500



Totals

- **Salaries**

- \$136,206

- **Other Expenses**

- \$73,766

- **Total Funding Allocation**

- \$192,206

Facilities - Pacific View Mall Ventura and Ojai ERC



Pacific View Mall

3301 E Main Street, Ventura, CA 93003



Why Pacific View Mall

3301 E Main Street, Ventura, CA 93003

- **Central Accessibility**

- The Ventura Pacific View Mall is centrally located within Ventura, making it easily accessible to a wide range of youth from various neighborhoods and communities within the city. This central accessibility ensures that the program is within reach for those who need it most.



Why Pacific View Mall - continued

3301 E Main Street, Ventura, CA 93003



- **Youth Friendly Environment**

- The Ventura Pacific View Mall is a popular hangout spot for local youth. Its vibrant atmosphere, diverse range of stores, and recreational spaces make it an attractive destination for young people. By siting the ERC at the mall, we meet youth where they already spend their time, creating a comfortable and inviting environment for their participation.

Why Pacific View Mall - continued

3301 E Main Street, Ventura, CA 93003

- **Safe and Well-Lit Space**

- The Ventura Pacific View Mall provides a safe and well-lit environment, ensuring the security and well-being of program participants during program hours. Safety is a top priority, and the mall's security measures align with our commitment to a secure program location.



Why Pacific View Mall - continued

3301 E Main Street, Ventura, CA 93003



- **Extended Operating Hours**

- The mall's operating hours extend into the evening, aligning perfectly with the ERC program's schedule. With access between the hours of 2 pm to 8 pm, we can accommodate the needs of the youth and create a consistent and reliable program schedule.

Why Pacific View Mall - continued

3301 E Main Street, Ventura, CA 93003

- **Community Integration**

- By locating the ERC within the Ventura Pacific View Mall, we facilitate community integration. Youth participating in the program will have the opportunity to interact with peers, mall visitors, and local businesses, fostering a sense of belonging and community engagement.



Program Overview



The proposed Evening Reporting Center (ERC) expansion in Ventura and Ojai Valley represents an exciting opportunity to provide a dynamic and comprehensive program tailored to the unique needs of youth in the region. Our goal is to engage and empower youth aged 12-21, fostering an environment of growth, mentorship, and personal development.

Youth Focused Approach



- At the core of our program is a youth-focused approach that recognizes the potential and resilience of every young individual.
- We understand that each young person is unique, and our program is designed to celebrate and harness their individual strengths, interests, and aspirations.

Peer Mentorship and Open Dialogue



- Central to the ERC experience is the power of peer mentorship and open dialogue. We believe that young individuals can often relate best to their peers, and we facilitate meaningful connections that encourage mentorship among participants.
- Through open and honest conversations, youth can share their experiences, challenges, and dreams, fostering a sense of belonging and mutual support.

Creative Enrichment Opportunities



- Our program goes beyond traditional approaches by offering creative enrichment opportunities that tap into the diverse talents and interests of our youth.
- From artistic expressions to skill-building workshops, we provide a wide range of activities that spark creativity, innovation, and personal growth. These opportunities not only enhance self-esteem but also encourage youth to explore their passions and talents.

A Platform for Self-Discovery



- The ERC serves as a safe and welcoming platform for self-discovery. Youth participants embark on a journey of self-awareness, exploring their strengths, interests, and potential.
- Through a variety of engaging activities, they gain valuable insights into their capabilities, which not only boost their self-esteem but also inspire them to set and pursue ambitious goals.

Strengths Exploration and Future Success



- One of our primary objectives is to empower youth to discover and leverage their strengths. By fostering a strengths-based approach, we enable participants to recognize their abilities and chart a course toward future success.
- We provide the guidance, mentorship, and resources necessary to transform their potential into tangible achievements, whether in education, career, or personal development.

**Empowering Youth
Services at the
Ventura Youth Room**



Ventura Youth Room Services

- Assessment/Evaluation
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Substance Abuse Education
- Anger Management
- Intervention Counseling
- Educational/GED Preparation
- Job Training/Job Search/Job Placement

Ventura Youth Room Services - continued

- Transitional Housing and Basic Needs Assistance
- Budgeting and Money Management
- Parenting and Family Reintegration
- Discharge Planning
- Aftercare
- Community Service Opportunities
- Referrals for Specialized Services
- Life Skills Development

Components of the ERC Program



Mentoring

Unique programs



- **Community Mentoring**

- Every referred youth is offered the opportunity to participate in our traditional Big Brothers Big Sisters community mentoring program. This program involves one-to-one mentoring relationships outside of the ERC, providing additional support and guidance.

- **Youth Mentoring**

- Youth who successfully complete their community service hours or days can act as mentors to younger participants within the ERC setting. This mentorship dynamic has significantly increased the youth ERC retention rate, fostering a sense of responsibility and leadership among participants.

Mentoring - continued

Unique programs



- **Site-Based Facilitated (SBF) Programs**

- Our staff-supervised group service models occur at the same day and time on a weekly basis, promoting a sense of community and shared experiences. The SBF Program also dedicates time to one-to-one match meetups when applicable, creating a comprehensive support structure.
 - College Mentor Program (SBF)
 - Bank of America Professional Mentorship (SBF)
 - Peer2Peer (SBF)
 - BBSVC Youth Leadership Council (Non 1 to 1/SBF)
 - Mentor Academy

Mentoring - continued

Unique programs



- **Community-Based Mentor Program**

- We actively evaluate and encourage participation in our community-based mentorship program. This program connects youth with adult role models in the community, fostering meaningful mentor-mentee relationships that occur off-site with ongoing case management provided for each match.

Community Service
ERC Program



Community Service



- **Internship within the ERC Setting**

- For all 18-year-old referrals, we offer internship opportunities within the ERC setting. These young adults serve as mentors to their peers, offering support and guidance while developing valuable skills and relationships.

- **Participation in Traditional ERC Site-Based Facilitated Program**

- Youth can choose to participate in the traditional ERC site-based facilitated program, engaging with program staff and fellow participants. We offer a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) based curriculum alongside an appropriate pro-social environment.

Community Service - continued



- **Youth-Led Service-Learning Projects**

- Through the Youth Outcome Development Plan (YODP), youth can work closely with the Site lead to create and execute community service projects of their choice. These projects empower youth to make a positive impact in their community while receiving guidance and support from the Site lead.
- This addition enhances the community service opportunities available to youth, allowing them to take an active role in addressing community needs and fostering leadership skills.

Community Needs
Ventura and Ojai Valley



Ventura and Ojai Valley - Needs

Ventura and the Ojai Valley are vibrant communities with unique needs that call for our attention and action.

- **Youth Involvement**

- Our communities are in dire need of engaging and empowering at-risk youth in positive activities and support systems that will guide them away from the perilous path of the juvenile justice system.

- **Limited Access to Resources**

- Far too many families in Ventura and the Ojai Valley grapple with the harsh realities of food insecurity and limited access to essential resources. These circumstances often exacerbate the risk factors faced by youth, increasing their vulnerability.

- **Youth Engagement**

- Engaging our youth in constructive activities and opportunities for personal development is a paramount challenge, particularly in the picturesque yet resource-constrained Ojai Valley. The demand for programs that foster creative enrichment, skill-building, and youth support is evident.

Ventura and Ojai Valley - Addressing Needs

- **Preventing Youth Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System**

- Our primary mission is to prevent youth from entangling themselves in the juvenile justice system. By providing a nurturing and enriching environment through the ERC program, we offer these young individuals an alternative path, steering them away from potential legal troubles and guiding them towards responsible citizenship.

- **Offering Essential Mentorship and Guidance**

- Many of the youth we aim to serve in Ventura and Ojai Valley lack access to adult role models who can provide the guidance and support needed for personal growth. Through the ERC program, we not only offer mentorship but also cultivate a network of positive adult influences who can inspire and empower youth to make wise choices and aspire to a brighter future.

- **Providing Holistic Support**

- Education is a cornerstone of future success, and we are committed to supporting educational aspirations. In Ventura and Ojai Valley, where challenges related to limited resources and opportunities may hinder educational growth, our program steps in to fill these gaps. We offer educational support, tutoring, and resources that empower youth to excel academically, unlocking doors to a better future.

Ventura and Ojai Valley - Addressing Needs

- **Empowering Life Skills Development**

- Beyond academics, we recognize the importance of life skills in equipping youth to navigate the challenges of adulthood. Through targeted life skills development programs, we empower participants with essential competencies such as financial literacy, conflict resolution, and effective communication, enabling them to overcome obstacles with resilience.

- **Fostering Pro-Social Activities**

- In communities where the lure of negative influences such as drugs and crime can be strong, we emphasize pro-social activities that encourage positive interactions and community engagement. By participating in enriching activities, youth can channel their energy into constructive endeavors, building a sense of belonging and purpose.

- **Breaking Cycles of Poverty, Drugs, and Crime**

- Our overarching goal is to break the vicious cycle of adversity that often plagues at-risk youth. By focusing on prevention and positive youth development, we address the root causes of poverty, drug involvement, and criminal activities, setting a course for long-term change and community betterment.

Outreach & Awareness Strategy

Ventura and Ojai Valley



Outreach Strategy



- **Distribution of Informative Materials**

- We will provide handouts and informational materials that succinctly convey the benefits and offerings of the ERC program. These materials will serve as valuable resources for potential participants, their families, and community stakeholders.

- **Engaging Community Presentations**

- Our team will actively engage with the local community through informative presentations. These presentations will offer an opportunity to connect with residents, address their questions and concerns, and showcase the positive impact of the ERC program.

Outreach Strategy - continued



- **Utilizing Local Media and Social Media Channels**

- We recognize the importance of local media and social media channels in reaching a wider audience. By leveraging these platforms, we can amplify our message, share success stories, and foster community engagement.

Our commitment to community engagement is paramount, and through these initiatives, we aim to ensure that the Ventura and Ojai communities are well-informed about the ERC program and its potential to empower youth and reduce recidivism.

Empowering a Brighter Future
Our Request for Support





In conclusion, we humbly request your invaluable support and approval for the expansion of the **Evening Reporting Center (ERC)** program into the vibrant communities of **Ventura and Ojai Valley**.

This expansion represents more than just an opportunity; it embodies our unwavering commitment to **empowering at-risk youth** and creating lasting **positive change** in these communities.