

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska****Federal Tax ID: 80-0064172****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska - Mentoring for Educational Success

State Funding Requested: \$3,000,000**House District: Statewide (1-40)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

In order to increase high school graduation rates, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska will develop and implement a targeted mentoring program designed to provide academic and socio-emotional support to students at high risk of academic failure based on 3rd Grade Standards Based Assessment scores.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$4,536,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$1,536,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$3,000,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

FY 2013 \$512,000 US Department of Education

FY 2014 \$512,000 US Department of Education

FY 2015 \$512,000 US Department of Education

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Performance on 3rd grade standards based assessment tests is one of the first and most concrete predictors of a student's risk for dropping out of school. There may also be some evidence that these test results can be used to predict the need for future prison beds.

Based on the results of Alaska's 3rd grade standards based assessment results, thousand of Alaska's children are at risk of dropping out of school, or worse, entering the juvenile or adult prison system. In 2011, more than 25% of Alaska's 3rd graders -- 2,409 students -- were below or far below proficiency in math on the 3rd Grade Standards Based Assessment and 19% -- 1,755 students -- were below or far below proficiency in reading. That same year, 2,779 students dropped out of school (4.7% of the 7-12th grade students in the state).

This 3rd grade performance data provides the perfect opportunity to implement a strategy that will put struggling students on the path to success. The Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring for Educational Success Initiative is an intensely focused mentoring strategy that will bring together the academic expertise of a number of Alaska school districts all across the state with the proven successes of the BBBS-Alaska mentoring model. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska has been nationally recognized for its ground breaking work in the Juvenile Justice arena, and has been partnering with Alaska school districts for over 15 years.

This initiative is innovative and unlike other mentoring programs for three reasons:

1. The Mentoring for Educational Success initiative focuses intense energy on a specific segment of students -- those who are not proficient on the 3rd grade Standards Based Assessment (SBA).
2. The Initiative develops a robust partnership with school districts, parents and local volunteer mentors to provide intense support for children at risk of academic failure.
3. The Initiative uses student academic and school data to provide continual feedback about the impacts of the mentoring relationship on students' academic progress.

Intense Energy on Specific Students: BBBS-Alaska partnering school districts will identify students to participate in one-to-one mentoring based on their 3rd grade SBA results and their attendance at elementary schools with low SBA scores. Fourth grade students who scored below proficient on their 3rd grade SBA's who attend targeted schools will be identified by each school district and referred to BBBS-Alaska for one-to-one mentoring. In 2011, 959 3rd graders in four of our partner school districts combined were below proficient in reading and 1,323 were below proficient on math on the Standards Based Assessment.

School District	2011 Grade 3 Below/Not Proficient			
	Reading Count	Reading Percent	Math Count	Math Percent
Anchorage	561	15.7%	830	23.1%
Juneau	48	14.9%	73	22.5%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	155	14.5%	217	20.2%
Bethel Elementary Schools	31	35.2%	38	43.2%

Robust Partnership: The Mentoring for Educational Success Initiative will build the infrastructure for an ongoing robust partnership with school districts and local volunteer mentors to provide one-to-one mentoring for students identified by partner schools as being at highest risk for academic failure at a time when the trajectory of their lives can most effectively be changed. Depending on the speed of the project start-up, we expect to serve approximately 170 students per year, over 500 over the course of the three year Initiative.

School District	Number of Students to Be Mentored (3 yr total, estimated)
Anchorage	150
Juneau	60
Fairbanks North Star Borough	90
Lower Kuskokwim (Bethel)	30
Nome	30
Barrow	30
Mat-Su	60
Haines	30
Sitka	30

The above numbers (over 500 students total) reflect the state portion of the project. An additional 300+ students will be served through the US DOE funded portion of the project.

- Partnering school districts will employ a mentoring liaison to facilitate referrals, student data access, mentoring times and locations, and BBBS-Alaska access to school personnel and students. In addition, through collaboration with, and with

written consent of, parents of participating students, BBBS-Alaska professional staff will have access to student records through Power School or other database system (i.e. grades, suspensions, attendance and principal office referrals, etc.). This will provide real-time data to help volunteers address academic and social issues arising with participating students and offer assistance before problems become entrenched. The Mentoring Liaison will allow BBBS-Alaska to survey students whose parents have given written consent for risk and protective factors to evaluate the impact of the BBBS-Alaska program on each child.

- BBBS-Alaska will employ enrollment and matching, and match support specialists to facilitate the mentoring relationship for students. BBBS-Alaska match support specialists will provide intense mentoring support throughout the entire mentoring relationship. Our staff will enroll and match children with professionally screened volunteer mentors and provide training to mentors in child development, volunteer expectations, abuse prevention, values clarification, listening skills, confidentiality and relationship development; provide monthly match monitoring to ensure both adult and child satisfaction with the mentoring relationship; monitor student records on a regular basis; and administer satisfaction and evaluation surveys.

- Volunteer mentors will provide one-to-one mentoring for children. Mentors will meet with students in school-based (activities occur at school) or community-based (activities occur outside of school) mentoring relationships. Our one-to-one mentoring focuses on the needs of participating children, fosters caring and support, encourages children to develop to their fullest potential, helps children develop their own vision for the future, and uses a developmental approach. Mentoring activities are as varied as the interests and personalities of the children and mentors involved and are designed to develop the relationship, enrich children's experiences, and involve fun.

Continual Feedback: At the heart of the Mentoring for Educational Success Initiative is the use of student data to monitor the progress and target future interventions for mentored children. Our partnering school districts have long used student data (absences, tardiness, discipline referrals, and reading and math grades) to monitor student growth and to target interventions for students in need. BBBS-Alaska will replicate this academic model to monitor the impact of one-to-one mentoring on students' academic progress and to adjust mentoring interventions based on problems identified in student data. Student records will be monitored on a monthly basis and match support specialist will work closely with volunteer mentors and school district staff to review student data and make decisions on how to provide targeted supports to students.

For example, when the BBBS Match Support Specialist finds that a student is doing poorly in math, the Match Support Specialist may recommend to the volunteer a variety of activities that involve math (tracking baseball stats, doubling a cookie recipe, etc.) in order to increase that student's math skills and confidence. Similarly, a volunteer may include homework time in match meetings to help a student complete his or her homework when data shows the student is behind in completing or turning in homework assignments. Mentors will also receive information about students' successes -- and will help their "littles" celebrate their achievements.

Outcomes: Our one-to-one mentoring approach produces specific and lasting outcomes for children. In 2011 independent research found that of the children participating in BBBS school-based programs:

- 95.2% maintained or improved their educational success
- 83.4% maintained or improved their ability to avoid risky behaviors
- 96.6% maintained or improved their socio-emotional competence

Moreover, the use of data to monitor progress and target interventions has proven to be a success strategy in other communities, including Eastern Missouri and North Texas.

Our long-term goal is to dramatically increase the odds that each and every participating student graduates from high school. In the short-term, our objectives include the following: 1) to demonstrate positive levels in at least two of the following scales measuring educational outcomes (grades, truancy, scholastic competency, educational expectations); and

2) to improve or maintain positive levels regarding attitudes toward risk and improved relationships (with parents, peers and mentor). In addition, grades, test scores and attendance will be monitored for participating students, as well as any impact on individual school performance.

Community impact: If more at-risk youth graduate from high school rather than ending up in correctional facilities, not only will incarceration costs be reduced, but Census figures indicate that high school graduates earn an average of 75% more than non-graduates. That translates directly to more resources for our communities.

BBBS-Alaska will implement an external evaluation of the Mentoring for Educational Success Initiative to assess the extent to which the initiative met its objectives and what aspects of the initiative were particularly important to the outcomes. The evaluation will follow the initiative for three years and report annually to the partnership. Evaluation data will also be compiled and used to approach foundations, corporations, and other funding sources for both the replication and sustainability of the project.

Project Timeline:

Project Timeline: FY 2014 thru FY 2016
 Funds will be expended over the three year period at approximately \$1,000,000 per year

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Taber Rehbaum
 Title: CEO
 Address: 1057 W Fireweed Lane
 Anchorage, Alaska 99503
 Phone Number: (907)433-4622
 Email: Taber.Rehbaum@bbbsak.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

Contact Name:
 Contact Number:

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

2:03 PM 5/9/2013

State Capital Request - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska

Mentoring for Educational Success Initiative - 3 year project

Total Project: 4.56 million
 Total Request 3.00 million
 Other Sources: 1.56 million Alaska Native Education grant serving Alaska Native students in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau

Break down of Capital Request Budget

Expands Initiative to 6 additional School Districts & increases targeted populations

	Annual	Annual	Annual	Total
BBBS Salaries & Benefits	555,000.00	555,000.00	555,000.00	1,665,000.00
School District Salaries/contract	280,000.00	280,000.00	280,000.00	840,000.00
Other operating Costs	159,970.00	159,970.00	159,970.00	479,910.00
Project Evaluator	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	15,000.00
	<u>999,970.00</u>	<u>999,970.00</u>	<u>999,970.00</u>	<u>2,999,910.00</u>

Notes:

Staffing - 9 locations - includes benefits

Anchorage	50,000	includes additional Site Based Coordinator
Fairbanks	50,000	includes additional Site Based Coordinator
Juneau	50,000	includes additional Site Based Coordinator
Mat-Su	30,000	includes additional Site Based Coordinator
Bethel	65,000	Community Director
Sitka	50,000	Community Director
Haines	50,000	Community Director
Nome	60,000	Community Director
Barrow	75,000	Community Director
Statewide Support	<u>75,000</u>	includes portions of statewide positions to include CEO, Program Director, Small Comm Dir, Quality Assurance, Finance
Total	555,000	

School District - 1/2 time coordinators - salaries or contract with School District

Other operating costs

To include but not limited to: screening, recruiting materials & advertising, mileage, program activities, insurance, contractual costs, AIM (database), computers & communications

March 21, 2013

Dear Senator/Representative:

We are writing to ask that you join us in support of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska Mentoring for Educational Success Initiative by signing and forwarding the attached letter to Senator Meyer and Representative Stoltze. This one-time statewide Capital request of \$3 million will be expended over three years in partnership with school districts across the state to serve children who are struggling academically as indicated by their scores on the 3rd Grade Standards-based Assessment tests. These are the children most at risk for academic failure, dropping out of school, and involvement in the justice system.

Instead of using these scores to predict the need for future prison beds, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program will target students who score below proficiency on the 3rd Grade tests, and through professionally supported volunteer mentors, will change their academic trajectory – improving their chances of avoiding delinquency and graduating from High School.

Partnering School Districts will include Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Mat-Su, Lower Kuskokwim, Haines, Sitka, Nome, and Barrow. Working with schools and parents to identify, enroll, and mentor students at high academic risk, Big Brothers Big Sisters will provide tangible positive academic and social outcomes for participating students. Named the most effective program nationally working with at-risk youth by Philanthropedia (a division of Guidestar, the non-profit watchdog organization), the proven Big Brothers Big Sisters program will provide the state with a significant return on its investment.

The current average cost to incarcerate a juvenile in Alaska for a year is \$140,000. For \$2,000, Big Brothers Big Sisters can provide an at-risk child with the support that will reduce that child's risks for delinquency, and improve academic performance, increasing the odds that child will graduate on time.

Thank you for joining us in support of Alaska's children and Alaska's future.

Sincerely,


(See signatures, page 2)


Signature

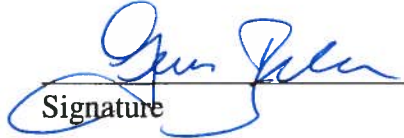
SCOTT A. JONES.
Printed Name BO CHAIR,
SAND ARCHITECTURE, LLC


Signature

Rick Fox
Printed Name
Anchorage Resident
Formerly w/ Shell


Signature

Board Secretary
Jed Chamberlain
Printed Name


Signature

JENS BECK
Printed Name