

FORT BEND COUNTY FY 2010

21

COMMISSIONERS COURT AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Return Completed Form by E-Mail to: Agenda Coordinator, County Judge's Office

Date Submitted: 2/24/2010

Submitted By: Mary Gready

Court Agenda Date: 3/2/2010

Department: Juvenile

Phone Number: 281-633-7317

SUMMARY OF ITEM: To approve the submission of a grant application and Resolution to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, for the 1st year of the "Saved By the Bell II", a new grant to expand the successful Delinquency Reduction Program targeting truant students to apply pro-active casework management strategies with meaningful sanctions in order to address truancy issues and ultimately reduce delinquency.

RENEWAL AGREEMENT/APPOINTMENT

YES

NO

X

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

BUDGETED ITEM: YES ☐

NO X

FUNDNG SOURCE: Accounting Unit:
Activity (If Applicable):

Account Number:

COUNTY JUDGE
RECEIVED
FEB 24 2010

DESCRIPTION OF LAWSON ACCOUNT: _____

Instructions to submit Agenda Request Form:

- Completely fill out agenda form: incomplete forms will not be processed.
- Agenda Request Forms should be submitted by e-mail, fax, or inter-office mail, and all back-up information must be provided by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. to all those listed below.
- All original back-up must be received in the County Judge's Office by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

DISTRIBUTION:

Original Form Submitted with back up to County Judge's Office x (✓ when completed)

If by E-Mail to ospindon@co.fort-bend.tx.us

If by Fax to (281) 341-8609

Distribute copies with back-up to all listed below. If by fax, send to numbers below:

x	Auditor	(281-341-3774)	x	Comm. Pct. 1	(281-342-0587)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget Officer	(281-344-3954)	x	Comm. Pct. 2	(281-403-8009)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilities/Planning	(281-633-7022)	x	Comm. Pct. 3	(281-242-9060)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchasing Agent	(281-341-8642)	x	Comm. Pct. 4	(281-980-9077)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information Technology	(281-341-4526)	<input type="checkbox"/>	County Clerk	(281-341-8697)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:		<input type="checkbox"/>	County Atty	(281-341-4557)

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

Take all appropriate action to submit the grant application and Resolution to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, for first year grant funding of "Saved By the Bell II", in the amount of \$120,990.43 for the term of September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011. No match required.

Special Handling Requested (specify):

3-3-10 Orig. ret. to Mary at Juvenile

“SAVED BY THE BELL II”
A Delinquency Reduction Program Expansion

Narrative Description

“Saved By the Bell II” is an expansion of the original “Saved By the Bell” Delinquency Reduction Program funded by the Texas Criminal Justice Division from 2007 – 2010, which created a partnership between the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department, the Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Court, and Fort Bend Independent School District. The results of the pilot program to date are outstanding and are as follows: 361 chronic truancy students were ordered into the program and 324 (90%) successfully completed. Of the 361 students, 84% had a decrease in school suspensions, 98% had a decrease in overall school discipline referrals and 61% had a marked increase in their grade point averages.

Because of these outstanding results, the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department is seeking to expand into the un-served school districts of Lamar Consolidated ISD, the Fort Bend County portion of Katy ISD, Stafford Municipal School District and Needville ISD. Two certified probation officers / caseworkers will act as direct liaisons with two Justice of the Peace Courts, selected schools in the designated districts, and the families of truant students to address all the issues that are underlying causes of the truant behavior.

The desired outcome of “Saved By the Bell II” is to reduce truancy referrals to the juvenile justice system in Fort Bend County. The positive ripple effect of this comprehensive program will ultimately result in a decline in delinquency referrals, benefiting the educational system, the juvenile justice system, and the community.

State of Texas

County of Fort Bend

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County's Commissioners Court finds it in the best interest of Fort Bend County that the "Saved By the Bell II" be operated for the FY 2011 year; and

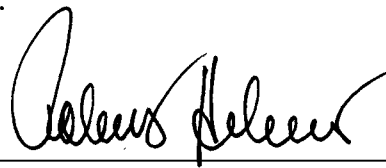
WHEREAS, Fort Bend County's Commissioners Court agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Criminal Justice Division funds, the Fort Bend County's Commissioners Court assures that the funds will be returned to the Criminal Justice Division in full; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County's Commissioners Court designates the County Judge as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Bend County's Commissioners Court approves submission of the grant application for the "Saved By the Bell II" to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division.

Passed and Approved this 2 (Day) of March (Month), 2010 (Year)

BY:



Robert E. Hebert, County Judge

ATTEST:



Dianne Wilson, County Clerk

Grant Application Number: **23622-01**

Grant Application Number:

Agency Name: Fort Bend County
Grant/App: 2362201 **Start Date:** 9/1/2010 **End Date:** 8/31/2011

Project Title: "Saved By the Bell II"

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Fort Bend County
Project Title: "Saved By the Bell II"
Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department
Address Line 1: 122 Golfview Drive
Address Line 2:
City/State/Zip: Richmond Texas 77469
Payment Address Line 1: 301 Jackson Street
Payment Address Line 2:
Payment City/State/Zip: Richmond Texas 77469-3108
Start Date: 9/1/2010
End Date: 8/31/2011

Regional Council of Governments(COG) within the Project's Impact Area: Houston-Galveston Area Council
Headquarter County: Fort Bend
Counties within Project's Impact Area: Fort Bend

Grant Officials:

Authorized Official

User Name: Robert Hebert
Email: werleann@co.fort-bend.tx.us
Address 1: 309 South 4th Street, Suite 719
Address 1:
City: Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone: 281-341-8608 Other Phone: 281-341-8634
Fax: 271-341-8609
Agency:
Title: The Honorable
Salutation: Judge

Project Director

User Name: William Slater
Email: slaterwi@co.fort-bend.tx.us
Address 1: 118 Legion Drive
Address 1:
City: Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone: 281-633-7440 Other Phone:
Fax: 281-633-7407

Agency:
Title: Mr.
Salutation: Mr.

Financial Official

User Name: Robert Sturdivant
Email: Tatyana.Johnson@co.fort-bend.tx.us
Address 1: 309 S. 4th Street, Suite 533
Address 1:
City: Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone: 281-341-3760 Other Phone: 281-341-3769
Fax: 281-341-3774
Agency:
Title: Mr.
Salutation: Mr.

Grant Writer

User Name: Mary Gready
Email: greadmar@co.fort-bend.tx.us
Address 1: 122 Golfview Drive
Address 1:
City: Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone: 281-633-7317 Other Phone: 281-633-7320
Fax: 281-633-7345
Agency:
Title: Ms.
Salutation: Ms.

Narrative Information

Problem Statement:

Please provide a detailed account in the Problem Statement section of the existing issues your project will target.

Enter your problem statement:

Truancy has been referred to as a "first step to a lifetime of problems" for youth (Barry, 1996). Truant students have a higher risk than nontruant students of involvement in drug and alcohol use, violence, and gang activity (U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 1996). It is an early warning sign of a number of potentially damaging consequences. Truancy is one of the biggest problems that school districts have to deal with and most districts are woefully understaffed to deal with it on any level. The most they can do is provide enforcement in the form of Truancy Officers issuing citations. Justice of the Peace Judges run heavy truancy dockets in Fort Bend County that often require more intervention than a mere court appearance and subsequent consequences, i.e., fines and admonishments. Without this intervention, the young people often "graduate" into the juvenile justice system because they have increasingly become

more involved in delinquent conduct.

Supporting Data:

Provide as much supporting data, to include baseline statistics and the sources of your data, which are pertinent to where the grant project is located and/or targeted. Do not use statewide data for a local problem or national data for a statewide problem.

Enter your supporting data:

There are four school districts in Fort Bend County in addition to the Fort Bend Independent School District. They are Lamar Consolidated Independent School District, the Fort Bend County portion of Katy Independent School, Stafford Municipal School District and Needville Independent School District. These districts do not have truancy reduction programs that involve case management intervention modalities. There is a total of 27,954 middle, junior high and high school students in these districts that make up the universal target group for "Saved By the Bell II". Based on information that has been received by the Juvenile Probation Department, these districts had a total of 1,002 students that ended up in the Justice of the Peace courts for chronic truancy during the last school year. The percentage rate of truancy citations per student population for these four districts is the same as the significantly larger Fort Bend ISD. - 2.2%. It is also important to note that the number of chronic truancy citations filed in misdemeanor court represent only a small percentage of the initial warning letters and tickets issued by each district.

Community Plan:

For projects that have a local or regional impact target area, provide information regarding the community plan need(s) that your project will address.

Enter your community planning needs:

The Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department participated in the 2009-2010 Community Plan process. The Number One priority under Juvenile issues is "Juvenile Delinquency and Children In Need of Supervision (status offenses), especially truancy - the 'gateway crime'." (Page 10). The Number Two priority is the "need to expand and diversify programs that identify needs of juveniles and provide early intervention services before they enter the juvenile justice system for delinquent behavior". (Page 11)

Goal Statement:

Provide a brief description of the overall goals and objectives for this project.

Enter a description for the overall goals and objectives:

The goal of "Saved By the Bell II" is to expand this successful truancy / delinquency reduction pilot program to un-served school districts in Fort Bend County by applying proven casework management strategies together with meaningful sanctions in order to address truancy issues and ultimately reduce delinquency. This will be facilitated through a collaboration of four (4) school districts, two (2) misdemeanor courts and the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department.

Cooperative Working Agreement (CWA):

When a grantee intends to carry out a grant project through cooperating or participating with one or more outside organizations, the grantee must obtain authorized approval

signatures on the cooperative working agreement (CWA) from each participating organization. Grantees must maintain on file a signed copy of all cooperative working agreements, and they must submit to CJD a list of each participating organization and a description of the purpose of each **CWA**. Cooperative working agreements do not involve an exchange of funds.

For this project, provide the name of the participating organization(s) and a brief description of the purpose(s) for the **CWA(s)**. You should only provide information here that this project's successful operation is contingent on for the named service or participation from the outside organization.

Note: A **Sample CWA** is available [here](#) for your convenience.

Enter your cooperating working agreement(s):

The following Justices of the Peace will refer appropriate students to the program that have appeared before their respective benches for truancy: Judge Kenneth S. Cannata, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 Judge Gary D. Janssen, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1 The following school district superintendents will assure that the principals and staff of the designated schools will fully cooperate with the probation officers and the truancy program: Dr. Thomas Randle, Superintendant, Lamar Consolidated School District H. D. Chambers, Superintendant, Stafford Municipal School District Curtis Rhodes, Superintendant, Needville Independent School District Alton Frailey, Superintendant, Katy Independent School District.

Continuation Projects:

For continuation projects only, if your current or previous year's project is NOT on schedule in accomplishing the stated objectives, briefly describe the major obstacles preventing your organization from successfully reaching the project objectives as stated within your previous grant application. (Data may be calculated on a pro-rated basis depending on how long the current or previous year's project has been operating.)

Enter your current grant's progress:

Project Summary:

Briefly summarize the entire application, including the project's problem statement, supporting data, goal, target group, activities, and objectives. Be sure that the summary is easy to understand by a person not familiar with your project and that you are confident and comfortable with the information if it were to be released under a public information request.

Enter your summary statement for this project:

Skipping school...failure to attend...truancy: all terms that are referred to as "gateway crimes". Truancy is an early warning sign of a number of potentially damaging consequences. Chronically truant students can go through a series of consequences that begin with warning letters and tickets from the school districts, to referrals to misdemeanor courts for fines and admonishments, to "graduating" into the juvenile justice system. In 2008, an innovative delinquency reduction pilot program began through a unique partnership between the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation

Department, the Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Court and the Fort Bend Independent School District. Funded by a Criminal Justice Division grant, "Saved By the Bell" Delinquency Reduction Program, two certified juvenile probation officers had a special truancy caseload of students as determined by the Justice of the Peace on a priority basis. These probation officers / caseworkers acted as direct liaisons with the Justice of the Peace Court, the selected schools in Fort Bend ISD and the families of the truant students to address all the issues that were the underlying causes of the truant behavior. The results of this pilot program to date are outstanding! They are as follows: 361 chronic truancy cases were ordered into this program; 324 or (90%) successfully completed the program. Of the 361 truancy cases: 84% had a decrease in school suspensions; 98% had a decrease in overall school discipline referrals; 61% showed a marked improvement in their grade point averages. Because of this extremely high success rate, "Saved By the Bell II" seeks to expand to four un-served school districts in Fort Bend County. Lamar Consolidated ISD, Stafford Municipal SD, Needville ISD and Katy ISD schools located Fort Bend County have a combined target group student population of 27,954 middle, junior high and senior high students. During the last school year, a total of 1,002 truancy citations were filed in misdemeanor courts, the last stop before "graduating" to the juvenile justice system. "Saved By the Bell II" will apply proactive casework management strategies together with meaningful sanctions in order to address the truancy issues and ultimately reduce delinquency. This will be achieved through a collaborative effort of the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department, two Justice of the Peace Courts and selected schools from all four of the participating school districts. Two certified probation officers / caseworkers will act as direct liaisons with the Justice of the Peace courts, the selected schools and the families of truant students to address all the issues that are underlying causes of the truant behavior. These two probation officers will each have a special truancy caseload of students as determined by the Justices of the Peace on a priority basis. These officers will interact with the home school of each of the students by constantly communicating with counselors, assistant principals, teachers, etc. They will "walk the halls", routinely checking the status of each client at school. They will work intensely with the student and his/her family in their home to determine the level of social factors that may hinder the child's school attendance. A social history report will be generated that is strength-based and includes recommendations to the Justice of the Peace Judges. These probation officers will provide direct counseling for students and families and make necessary referrals to appropriate crisis intervention programs and/or community resources. Every case will be handled on an individual basis and school/home monitoring contacts will be made as needed - weekly or daily if warranted. During the first year of this program, the two probation officers will interface with and/or supervise 200 truant students. Expanding this proven program into the un-served school districts in Fort Bend County will ultimately benefit more educational systems, the juvenile justice system and the communities.

Project Activities Information

Juvenile Justice Board Priorities

Select the Juvenile Justice Priority that best fits your project:

- ☒ Prevention and Early Intervention at First Offense
- ☐ Gang Prevention and Intervention
- ☐ Specialized Treatment Services
- ☐ Juvenile Justice System Impact

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
School Based Delinquency Prevention	100.00	This program is designed to reduce delinquency by applying pro-active casework management strategies to address chronic truancy issues, which left unabated have the high propensity to go from truancy to delinquency. This unique program creates a collaboration with selected schools in Lamar Consolidated ISD, Katy ISD (only those schools located in Fort Bend County), Needville ISD and Stafford Municipal School District, two Justice of the Peace misdemeanor courts, and the Juvenile Probation Department. Two certified probation officers / caseworkers will serve as direct liaisons with the courts and the schools and the referred students' families to address issues that are underlying causes of truant behavior.

Geographic Area:

Fort Bend County, Texas School districts: Lamar Consolidated ISD, Needville ISD, Stafford Municipal SD, and schools in the Fort Bend County area of Katy ISD.

Target Audience:

Students in designated middle and high schools (6th through 12th grades) who are exhibiting truant behavior.

Gender:

Male and female

Ages:

Approximately 11 to 18 years of age.

Special Characteristics:

Students will be referred to the program by two designated Justices of the Peace on a priority basis.

Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	CURRENT DATA	TARGET LEVEL
Number of program youth served.	0	200

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	CURRENT DATA	TARGET LEVEL
Number of program youth completing program requirements.	0	180
Number of program youth exhibiting a decrease in substance use.	0	180
Number of program youth exhibiting an improvement in GPA.	0	180
Number of program youth exhibiting an improvement in school attendance.	0	180
Number of program youth exhibiting an improvement in social competencies.	0	180
Number of program youth suspended from school.	0	20
Number of program youth who offend or reoffend.	0	20
Percent change in school-related discipline incidents.	0	95

Custom Objective Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	CURRENT DATA	TARGET LEVEL
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Budget Details Information

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	CJD	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UN
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Personnel	Probation Officer	One (1) Probation Officer (salary and benefits for one year): Responsible for securing referrals on the truant students; interface with all appropriate school personnel; conduct initial interview with students and families in order to develop a casework plan for the student and community referral sources for the family; maintain consistent and frequent home and school contacts; keep all records and statistical data for the program; and evaluate the program.	\$64,443.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$64,443.35
Personnel	Probation Officer	One (1) Probation Officer (salary and benefits for one year): Responsible for securing referrals on the truant students; interface with all appropriate school	\$56,547.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,547.08

		personnel; conduct initial interview with students and families in order to develop a casework plan for the student and community referral sources for the family; maintain consisistent and frequent home and school contacts; keep all records and statistical data for the program; and evaluate the program.						
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Budget Summary Information

Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	CJD	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
Personnel	\$120,990.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120,990.43

Budget Grand Total Information:

CJD	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$120,990.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120,990.43