

Community Foundation of Johnson County

2011 Grant Application example

Organization: Hawkeye Family Counseling Services
Contact Name: Zachary Paul
Grant Category: Health & Human Services
Grant Title: Project / Program Support

Contact Information

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Organization Information

Organization Name: Hawkeye Family Counseling Services
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Street Address 1:
City: North Liberty
State: IA
Zip: 52317

Executive Summary:

Hawkeye Family Counseling Services is requesting \$8,000 to provide advocacy services for Johnson County children whose parents have active criminal cases in the Iowa courts system. Although working with an HCFS counselor is proven to reduce the child's risk of developing academic and emotional problems and entering the juvenile court system in the future, most of their parents are unable to afford these services. The requested grant amount would provide services to 40 children and their families.

Grant Description and Need - Part 1

Grant Category: Health & Human Services
Grant Type: Project / Program Support
Geographic Area: All of Johnson County
Grant Title: Advocacy for Children of Parents on Trial
Requested Grant Amount: \$8,000.00
Time Period Grant Will Cover: one year (ongoing project)

Grant Description and Need - Part 2

1. Identify exactly what the grant will fund:

Funds will provide free counseling services and advocacy to children whose parents are charged with a crime and involved in the Iowa courts system and who cannot afford to get help for their children. Judges appoint Hawkeye Family Counseling Services to provide services to a child when custody may be transferred to a family member or the foster care system and these changes and uncertainties threaten a child's sense of well-being.

Through regular counseling sessions with the child, HFCS counselor understands the family situation from the child's perspective. HFCS identifies services that families need, such as anger management, substance abuse treatment, and counseling, and links families to those services. HFCS consults with outside

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professionals to ensure progress and identify creative solutions. Parents are coached on how to lessen the impact of their potentially impending incarceration on their children. HFCS uses a variety of methods to help parents maintain a healthy bond with their child throughout the trial and incarceration process. When multiple custody options are available, HFCS advocates for the child at the hearing so that judges can make more fully-informed decisions. HFCS provides this comprehensive professional intervention until the custody ruling is final, often a year or more. (word count: 199)

2. Identify the specific needs and/or problems the grant will address:

The period leading up to their parent's trial and the subsequent incarceration is one of the most traumatic experiences a child can undergo. Children of these situations are vulnerable and are at-risk to suffer from emotional and behavioral problems, abuse drugs and alcohol, fail in school, and have failed relationships as adults. HFCS clients come from at-risk families that have typically have some combination of substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence. Many parents are so overwhelmed by the litigation against them that they do not attend to their children's emotional needs.

Although families in the court system are eligible for an array of services paid for by the state, child-focused counseling and custody advocacy is not. The judge's job is to determine custody, but without a child's advocate, the underlying problems of addictions, violence, and mental illness are not addressed. Although HFCS is recommended to families by the court, no state funding assistance for our services accompanies the referral.

Without HFCS, children of these parents slip through the cracks. Among HFCS cases, one sixth grade boy with a homeless father had a great deal of anxiety at school and home because he never knew where visits would occur; a teenage girl expressed her anguish by binge drinking; a child was taken to the psychiatric ward three times as a result of family conflict; and in one family alone, police were called five times in one year and DHS was called to investigate abuse eight times. In each of these cases, although the youths' parents were aware of these problems, no one was addressing these issues until HFCS got involved and connected the children with needed help. (word count: 277)

3. Quantify those needs and/or problems as relevant to our community:

In 2010, 1650 parents of children were charged in criminal cases in Johnson County, affecting around 2300 children. Around 1000 of these children's parents were charged with one or more serious felonies.

In Johnson County, 65 percent of HFCS's current client families have an adult who has a drug or alcohol problem (compared to 25 percent of children nationally); 85 percent have been investigated by DHS for child abuse or neglect; 73 percent have allegations of domestic violence.

Children represented by HFCS receive an average of 30 hours of service. To provide equivalent in-depth services, a private counselor would charge at least \$3,500 per case, so this grant provides over \$100,000 in counseling services. The grant's value is even greater because it prevents at-risk children from acting out through harmful and illegal behavior and saves the community the expense of police and judicial intervention.

HFCS began representing children who reside in Johnson County in May 2007. Johnson County judges refer HFCS to parents potentially facing incarceration because they find this program essential to insulate children from the harmful effects of related parental stress, anger and tenuous custody situations. HFCS seeks funding from the Community Foundation of Johnson County to continue meeting this proven community need. (word count: 205)

4. Identify the entire grant timeline assuming assuming a January 2010 award date.

With funding beginning in January 2011, HFCS will be able to accept all new Johnson

County court referrals in addition to continuing its representation in current Johnson County clients. Through this prevention and custody advocacy program, HCFS will represent children during the entire legal process, up to the parents' acquittal, probationary sentence or incarceration, which is often a year or more. The cases require in-depth attention rather than a drive-through approach. (word count: 71)

5. List any community partners collaborating on the activities outlined in this application and describe their involvement:

In Johnson County, HFCS has collaborated on cases with Youth Legal Services (YLS), police, therapists, DHS, medical providers, and school teachers to find specific solutions to children's problems. Upon HFCS's request, the court orders parents to attend parenting skills counseling, specialized for their particular situation. HFCS also received permission from the court to report on the parent's compliance by collaborating with YLS attorneys. HFCS's unique position between those who know the family and the court system ensures that children's needs are met.

6. Identify the population and the geographic area to be served:

Project funding is earmarked for children ages 5-17 who reside in Johnson County and whose parents are engaged in the legal system and face potential incarceration. These children witness their parents under a great deal of stress and uncertainty, including, at times, outbursts of violence and anger. Families are low to middle income and cannot afford a private counselor for the child. This grant will allow HFCS to assure the well-being of at-risk Johnson County children who would otherwise be overlooked.

Prior to 2006, HFCS's services were limited to North Liberty families. At the request of judges and attorneys who saw that HFCS met a critical and previously unmet community need, the organization expanded into Johnson, Linn, Cedar and Iowa Counties. Due to limited resources, services were cut in 2008 to all but Johnson and Linn Counties. (word count: 230)

7. Identify the number of people who will be impacted by the grant:

Forty children from Johnson County will be provided full services by HCFS, positively impacting approximately 25 Johnson County families. (word count: 19)

8. List the measurable objectives for your proposed grant:

Ninety percent of children and adults identified as needing professional services will be linked with them. Families are not only referred to needed services, but HFCS monitors follow-through by coordinating services to ensure that issues are resolved. This decreases the child's risk of entering the criminal or juvenile system.

Seventy-five percent of youth will report a decrease in the amount of parental conflict and stressors witnessed. When children are exposed to less conflict, children achieve improved school performance and have fewer behavioral problems.

Eighty percent of youth will report statistically positive family changes and improved well-being. Youth surveys measure children's ability to confide in parents, spend time with parents, handle emotions, and stay out of trouble.

Eighty percent of custody cases will be settled in a way that is best for children without the necessity of a trial. (Without a child's counseling advocate, only 40 percent of custody cases related to a parent's incarceration would settle.)

Parents who are involved in a child-focused custody placement are more likely to co-parent after their incarceration is complete and are less likely to return to court for future custody issues. HFCS keeps these cases from clogging the court system, which means less conflict for children and a less congested legal system for all users. (word count: 211)

9. Report your organization's experience providing services similar to those proposed in your grant request: HFCS has offered this program in North Liberty since 2003. When HFCS reduces conflict in a family and provides child-focused advocacy in custody placement, the children fare better. Their school performance improves; they receive help for behavioral/emotional problems; more stability in their family and living situation makes them less at-risk to commit crimes and abuse drugs/alcohol. Early intervention prevents bigger problems later and will cost the community less money.

In the last year, HFCS represented 205 children in cases where parents were charged with a crime and would potentially be incarcerated. Of the closed cases, 89 percent of families who needed services received that help. Conflict surrounding the child decreased in 70 percent of cases. 76 percent of custody cases were resolved amicably by parents and their family members or the foster care system, avoiding contentious custody hearings. Of the cases that settled, 87 percent would not have done so without HFCS intervention and recommendations. Children's views were heard. Court orders reflected children's wishes for safety and stability in 94 percent of completed cases. (word count: 174)

10. Indicate how the proposed grant relates to your organization's mission and goals: HFCS's mission is to give children a voice in custody conflicts resulting from their parents criminal trial and incarceration by providing focused counseling services for kids. The project in Johnson County is directly in-line with its mission.

HFCS opened in May 2003 to help children embroiled in their parents criminally-induced legal difficulties and subsequent custody cases by focusing the attention of parents, attorneys, and judges on the needs and concerns of the children. HFCS's goals in every case are to improve children's wellbeing by lessening the amount of conflict that children are exposed to, connecting families with needed services, improving parents' communication and co-parenting, and making children's voices heard in questions of custody placement. Although HFCS expanded into Johnson, Linn, Cedar and Iowa Counties in 2006, HFCS was forced to temporarily halt services in all but Linn and Johnson County in June 2008 because of a lack of resources. HFCS seeks sufficient resources to continue making services available in Johnson County. (word count: 161)

Budget and Financial Information

Identify any other funding that will support a portion of this grant:

For FYE 6/30/11, HFCS will receive \$4,000 in Iowa Kids Counseling Trust Grants funding to support its work in Linn and Johnson Counties. Because Johnson County cases will comprise 80% of HFCS's, \$3,200 of these IOLTA funds will be targeted at Johnson County. All of HFCS's other grant sources require that their funding be dedicated to Linn County cases. To continue to provide services in Johnson County, it is critical that HFCS receive support from the Johnson County community. HFCS will explore other sources of funding to support its work in Johnson County.

Would your grant be viable with partial funding? Please explain:

We will apply any grant received to serve children in Johnson County. If full funding is not received, we will continue our search among other grant and corporate funding sources. The number of children served will be directly proportional to the amount of funds available to us. However, if a threshold of sufficient funding is not secured, HFCS will ultimately be forced to discontinue services to children in Johnson County. (word count: 70)

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Section IV. Financial Information

GRANT BUDGET

Please use this standardized budget format for your CFJC grant application. And, please identify other grant funds that your organization has applied for but not yet been awarded in the section "income source."

Organization Name: _____

Grant title: _____

Grant budget for the period beginning _____ to _____ .
mm / dd / yyyy mm / dd / yyyy

INCOME			EXPENSE			
<i>line #</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>line #</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Amount</i>	
1	Government grants / contracts (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	1	Employee compensation	_____	
2	Foundations (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	2	Fringe benefits and payroll taxes	_____	
3	Corporations	_____	3	Consultants and professional fees	_____	
4	Religious institutions	_____	4	Travel	_____	
5	United Way Campaign	_____	5	Equipment	_____	
6	Individual contributions	_____	6	Supplies	_____	
7	Fundraisers and products	_____	7	Training	_____	
8	Membership income	_____	8	Printing/copying	_____	
9	In-kind support	_____	9	Phone/fax/internet	_____	
10	Earned income (<i>fees for service, consulting, etc.</i>)	_____	10	Postage	_____	
11	Other (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	11	Rent and utilities	_____	
12	Other (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	12	Website and tech support	_____	
13	Other (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	13	Other (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	
14	Other (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	14	Other (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	
15	Other (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	15	Other (<i>specify below</i>)	_____	
TOTAL INCOME		\$0	TOTAL EXPENSE		\$0	
					BALANCE	\$0

Line # Income/Expense Provide specifics and additional details, if applicable:

Name of preparer of grant budget worksheet

NOTE: The deadlines and selection dates are as follows:

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- October 3** Deadline for submission of grant application for December awards
 - December 15** Date of approval and announcement of awards
 - Early January** Funding