

Benton County Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative



Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative

2016 YEAR-END REPORT

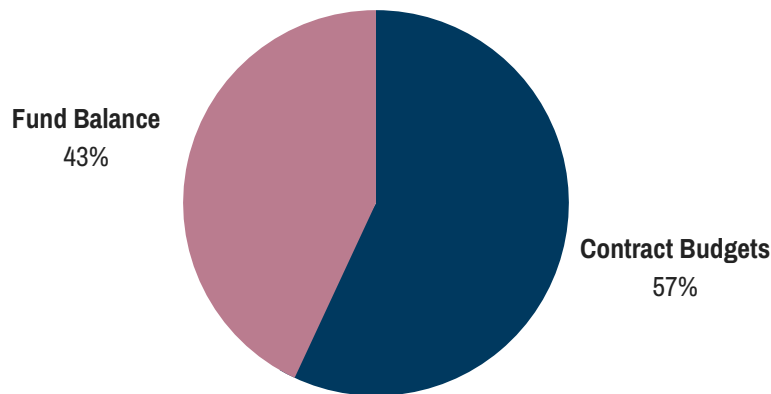
At the request of the Benton County Law and Justice Council, on March 25, 2014, the Benton County Board of County Commissioners signed a resolution placing a public safety sales tax on the ballot in August, 2014 for voter approval.

In August 2014, the voters of Benton County approved Proposition 14-5, a 0.3% sales and use tax pursuant to RCW 82.14.450 to fund criminal justice and public safety programs in Benton County. Included in this ballot proposition was the Benton County Gang and Crime Prevention Initiative.

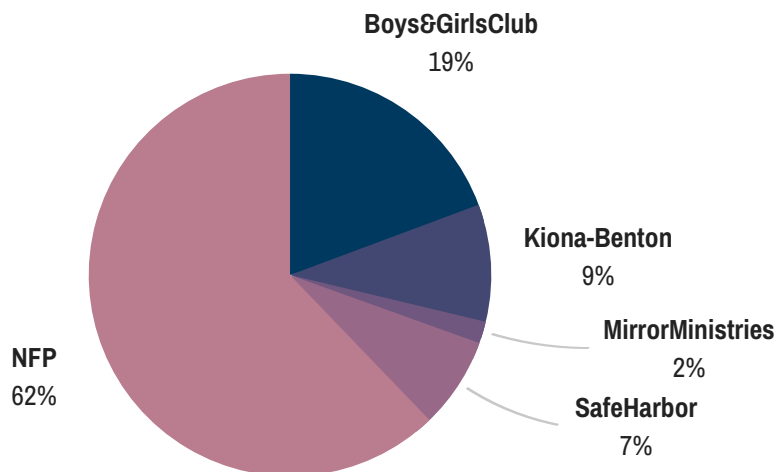
The goal of the Benton County Gang and Crime Prevention and Intervention Initiative is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Benton County by reducing the incidence of gang-related and other crime in Benton County.

Details about this program and other portions of the Public Safety Sales Tax can be found on the Benton County website at www.co.benton.wa.us.

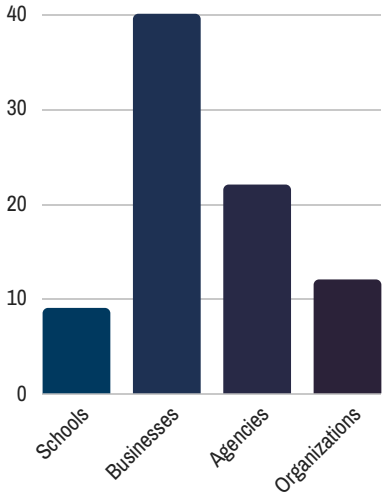
TOTAL FUND BUDGET OVERVIEW



CONTRACT BUDGETS OVERVIEW

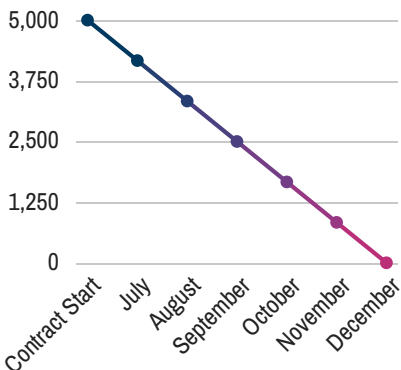


July-December 2016
Awareness Trainings



2016 BUDGET
\$5,000
JULY - DEC

Total Remaining Budget



Total 2016 Unused Budget
\$0.00

Human Trafficking Survivor Services

MIRROR MINISTRIES

Since its inception, Mirror Ministries has been a vibrant and robust advocate for the prevention and intervention of human trafficking. The organization has worked with a number of law enforcement officials to change lives and reduce gang related criminal activity. Thanks, in part, to the contract with Benton County, Mirror Ministries has provided much needed outreach, prevention and intervention with at-risk populations, specifically those persons victimized, or at threat of being victimized by, domestic sex trafficking (Commercial Sexual Exploitation- CSE). These vital programs are being delivered through our Survivor Services Human Trafficking Advocates to increase public safety.

In 2016, 38 victims and survivors of CSE had been identified and were being served by a Mirror Ministries advocate. About half of these victims were affiliated with or victimized by Benton County gangs. Mirror Ministries Advocates have played a crucial role in the interruption of gang activity and violence through education, intervention and direct victim advocacy.

Mirror Ministries has brought human trafficking awareness, education, partnership and training to 9 local schools, 40 businesses, and 22 agencies. In addition, Mirror has done presentations to a dozen local organizations including Rotaries, Kiwanis, B&I groups, and PEOs. We have hosted awareness training to the community at booths in various events in the Tri-Cities such as the Family Expo, Convoy of Hope, and WSU-TC expo. We had two local showings of SOLD: The Human Trafficking Experience with over 320 guests and 3-dozen volunteers trained. Mirror Ministries hosted BEST (Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking) working groups and training for our local hospitality industry and law enforcement to form a more productive partnership as a continuation of our SUDS (Stop Underage Domestic Sex-trafficking) campaign.

This community education allows for earlier identification and intervention for victims; as business owners, service providers, staff and students are made aware of the warning signs and the help available, more victims will be brought forward to receive services. As victims have earlier intervention, they are likely to commit less crime under coercion from the trafficker, and they will not be formed into traffickers themselves (a common trafficking tactic). Education of the greater population prevents human trafficking, which decreases the potential victim pool. As people become aware of the tactics used by traffickers and gangs, new crimes/victims will be prevented.



Human trafficking awareness training for businesses has brought more cooperation with law enforcement and more suspected activity and viable tips being reported clearly. Mirror Ministries is available and has been utilized as a resource to law enforcement in Benton County and each city therein. Victims respond more expediently to an advocate that they can trust; that trust takes time to build. Having an advocate to whom officers can confidently entrust a victim for ongoing services in a complex situation reduces their Out of Service time.

Each victim's written statement, achieved through the relationship with the advocate, usually points to multiple traffickers who are trafficking multiple victims each. This evidence is crucial for Prosecutors to build strong cases against an otherwise hidden crime. This results in more cases prosecuted and fewer criminals on our streets.

Mirror Ministries is working closely with SARC, My Friend's Place, Juvenile Justice Center, TC-UGM's Women's Shelter, Tri-City Pregnancy Network, DSHS, local schools, and other agencies to identify human trafficking victims among their clients and provide advocacy services. This extends the reach of their organizations and our outreach as we work together towards education, intervention, and restoration. Mirror hosted a working group with Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ) to begin a data collection resource for our community. Mirror Ministries is an active member of Tri-Cities Coalition Against Trafficking, a local coalition consisting of law enforcement, legal system, and social service agencies.

We are successfully connecting trafficking victims to local services to address their needs for housing, counseling, drug rehab, education, parenting skills, survivor support group and employment. As we seek to empower these victims to find their way to healing physically, mentally, and spiritually, we find the measure of success when we see them living as fully engaged, thriving members of our community. This measurement is best taken in small steps as this healing can take many years, so we will measure the day-to-day victories.

At the end of 2016 we are celebrating young ladies making healthy choices for their future, finishing high school, 3 of them have begun college, youth connected to mentors, healthy babies born and young parents connected to parenting classes and resources, statements given to police and charges being pressed, the completion of a federal trial and the trafficker sentenced, businesses and citizens reporting suspicious activity and agencies offering assistance, and healthy partnership with law enforcement. We are pleased with what 2016 has brought, and we are looking forward to even more progress in 2017.

Kiona-Benton Crime Prevention Program

KIONA-BENTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kiona-Benton Crime Prevention Program (KBCPP) seeks to reduce and eventually eliminate gang and other criminal activity for young people age 14-21 in the Benton City area of Benton County. Specifically, the project will target young people who have dropped out of public school or who are in danger of dropping out of school and connect them with an advocate to help them access necessary mental or medical health, educational, vocational resources so they can become a productive adult. We believe that bridging this gap for our at-risk youth will prevent them from participating in gang and other criminal activities.

APPROACH

In late September of 2016, Kiona-Benton City School District hired a student support specialist to be located at the high school :

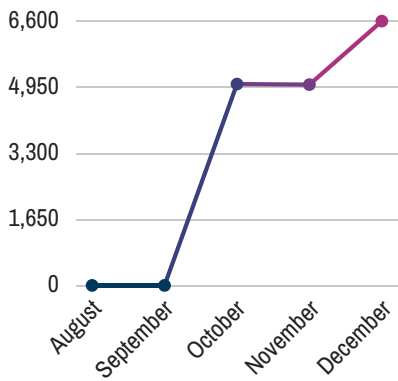
- Gather and mobilize local community partnerships including the Benton County Sheriff's department, the Benton Franklin Community Action Committee, and local medical and mental health providers.
- Work with school administrators and staff to build a site problem solving team to assess needs and provide supports to the school and students.
- Establish relationships of trust with troubled youth and their families.
- Work with partners to deliver tiers of support to the school, students and their families.

Since that time, Alyse Pivovarnik has worked hard to meet the goals of the program. The following details the activities in each area.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

In 2016, we met with Catholic Family Services, Ignite Youth Mentoring, Lutheran Community Services, Chaplaincy Behavioral Health, Grace Clinic, Cork's Place, and Public Health. We have arranged for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)/Resilience training for January 20th of 2017, organized a Girls Circle group (from Ignite Youth Mentoring) at the high school, and distributed a Home Base Connections Resource Guidebook to our parents from Grace Clinic.

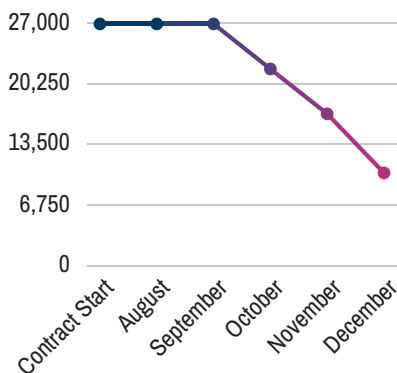
Funds Provided by County



Total 2016 Funded Amount:
\$16,579.51

2016 BUDGET
\$26,800
AUG - DEC

Total Remaining Budget



Total 2016 Unused Budget
\$10,220.49

SUPPORTING HOMELESS STUDENTS

In October 2016, we established Heather's Pantry, a homeless student resource and supply system in the high school that discretely distributes food, clothing, and school supplies to students who are homeless or otherwise in need. This was established through donations from local area churches and businesses in memory of Heather Duncan, who passed away in October of 2016. We have also connected to Martha's Cupboard in Richland to provide new infant and family care packages that include needed household items. Alyse actively problem solves with students who find themselves in adverse situations to keep them in school and facilitate meeting their needs so they can stay in school.



Heather's Pantry at Kiona-Benton High School

PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT

On November 16, 2016, the Kiona-Benton City High School in partnership with Strong Families, a parenting class program, provided an introduction to the program alongside dinner. Both a Spanish and English-speaking facilitator were present and it was well received. Over 50 parents attended and we are planning a 7-week, 13-session program to Benton City in the Spring.

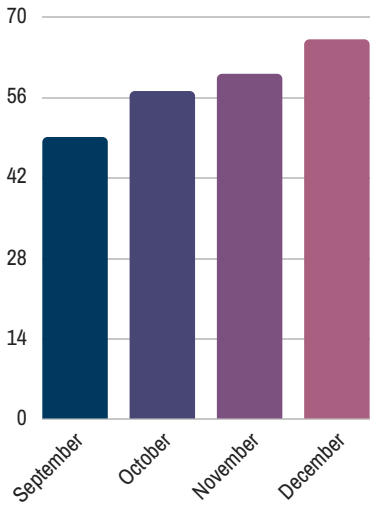
DROP OUT PREVENTION AND RETENTION

We have entered into a formal contract with Educational Service District 123 to bring the Open Doors program to Kiona-Benton City High School. This program allows youth ages 16-21 who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out to re-engage in school through working toward a GED. We have arranged to have this service available at our campus so students do not have to travel to the Tri-Cities for services.

SUMMARY

Benton County's Support for the Kiona-Benton Crime Prevention Program has definitely been a benefit to the community of Benton City by working with students with difficulties that may cause them to drop out and by re-engaging students who may feel their situation is hopeless. By keeping students in school and working toward graduation, they are not as likely to fall into criminal behavior. We anticipate this will have a significant impact on increasing the number of students enrolled in school in Benton City and a decrease in criminal activity by youth in our community. We are sincerely grateful for the support in this area that is not funded by the state allocation model. It is making a difference!

Total Teen Enrollment



Prosser Teen Program Investment

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

The Boys & Girls Club – Prosser Park has seen five successful months in contract with Benton County under the Public Safety Tax award. Three different area objectives were highlighted in the contract, all of which were successfully fulfilled. The first objective was to average a minimum of 8 teens during the summer months. With just 1 summer month left when the contract was signed, the Club hit the ground running making sure to pack August with enjoyable activities quintessential to being a teen. They went to movie matinees, Get Air Trampoline Park, and bowling. Youth also enjoyed a day shopping at the mall and discount stores preparing and shopping for back-to-school items.

Chef K hosted a cooking class at the Walter Clore Center where 16 teens prepared two different types of enchiladas and later cooked them in our kitchen and enjoyed them during a teen night. Prosser youth also opened their doors to 32 teens from Skagit County Boys & Girls Club and hosted them for a night of swimming and fun. A total of 38 members were registered on August 1st. This number grew to 41 by the end of the month and an average of 22 youth participated in activities daily throughout the month.

The second objective was to enroll 55 youth members in grades 6-12 and maintain a daily average of 15 by December 31, 2016. September 1st, we started the school year with 41 members. This number steadily grew through December 30th to reach a year ending total of 66 youth members between grades 6-12. This was 61% increase in enrollment.

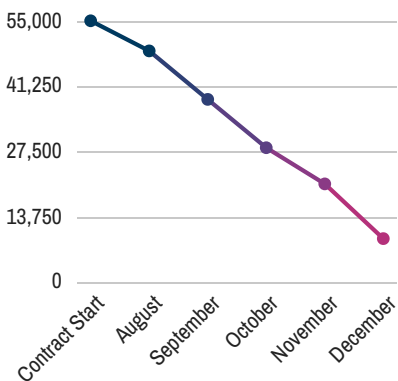
Adding value to the enrollment numbers are the daily attendance numbers. For the 4 months ending the year, the average daily attendance was 24 per day with 28 different members averaging club attendance of more than 2 days per week. During the month of December, with the 2-week winter break, an average of 22 members attended each day with 13 per day during the break and 20 for the New Year’s party.

The steady increase in both enrollment and daily attendance can in part be credited to the fulfillment of the third objective, new appliances in the kitchen and new furniture in both the homework and general teen areas. New appliances in the kitchen have made it possible for teens to prepare healthy, fresh after school snacks daily.

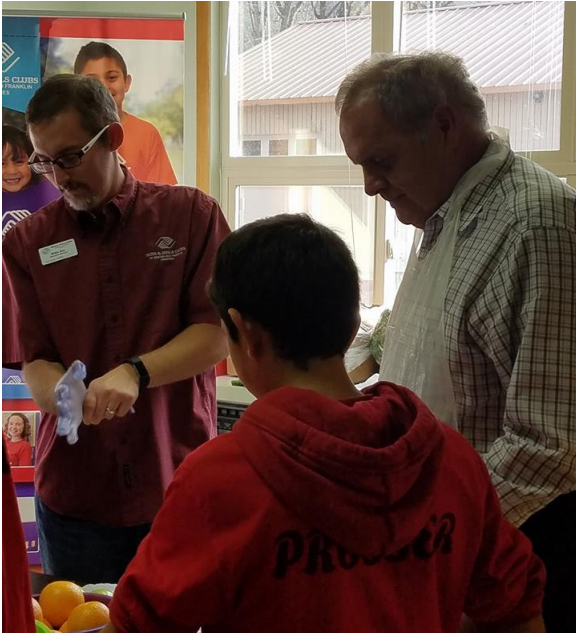
While healthy snacks were a part of programming prior, the new appliances and accessibility to these appliances has made it easy for teens to come in after school and eat the healthy foods they enjoy.



Total Remaining Budget



Total 2016 Unused Budget
\$9,157.74

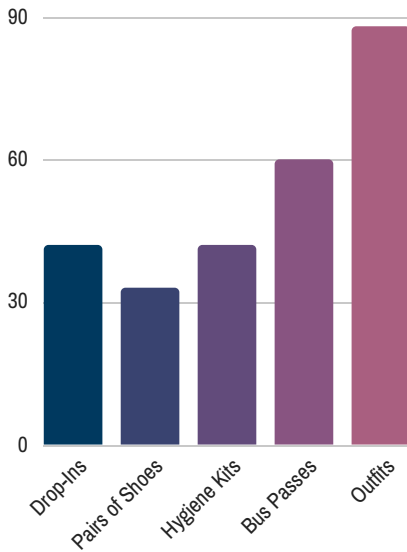


Members also enjoy the cooking classes and preparing special treats for younger members and staff. Teen members are learning important skills that allow them to prepare health, budget conscience meals for themselves and their families. As we look into the new year, members will also be given the opportunity to train and earn a food handlers license and practice other entry level skills desirable in the food industry.

The additions of new desks and a newly created homework area have made after-school study time something easy to participate in. The space is full daily, and teens enjoy using the quiet computer areas. New furniture was also added to the open teen space where teens can just relax and be comfortable. Many of our current members find it easy to invite friends and build relationships with staff in this welcoming space. Our teen members have really taken ownership of the new spaces and are showing pride of ownership.

The Boys & Girls Club has held many outreach programs the past four months. September and October saw many community youth participate in our Flag Football Club held at Market Street Park. Community members met with club members to play football and learn about the club. We saw membership increase because of these connections. Additionally, the club continued to maintain a presence in the community by hosting Monday Night Football events at Shy's Pizza and after-school coffee and treats at Brewminatti. These events allow youth and staff opportunity to build relationships away from the club in an even more comfortable and familiar setting, reaching those that may still think of The Club as "just a place for kids".

Number of Services Provided



Overnight Emergency Youth Shelter

SAFE HARBOR/MY FRIENDS' PLACE

With the hiring of Case Management Services, there has been a significant increase in outreach efforts. Monthly there is contact with the high schools, middle schools, and community events. Relationships have been established with each school district, with the Student in Transition Coordinator. Initially, we began attending weekly events at *Live at 5* where kids and staff attended. Through the summer, various known locations that homeless teens hang out were visited to distribute information. We held a neighborhood block party as well.

Since receiving funds from the County, the program has arranged:

- 104 hours of tutoring
- 23 overnight youth
- 42 drop-ins
- 32 pairs of shoes
- 60 bus passes
- 42 hygiene kits
- 5,020 hot meals
- 88 outfits of clothes

We have housed 15 males and 8 females since August 2016. Of those, 92% were American Citizens and 8% were immigrants. 54% were Caucasian, 4% were African American, and 26% were Hispanic. 96% of those housed identified themselves as straight and 4% identified as LGBTQ.

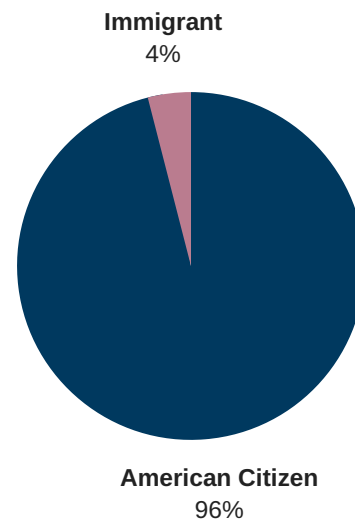
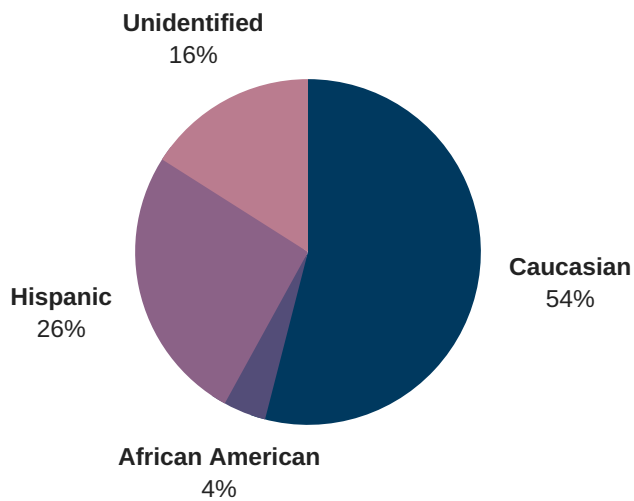
Two youths entered the facility and identified themselves as gang members. This is not representative of all gang-involved youth, only those who openly stated they were active members. We had six others that are believed to be gang affiliated.

We housed five youth brought to us by the Juvenile Justice staff, and housed one sex-trafficked girl. Nine children were chronic runaways prior to entering My Friends' Place. We also had a Jubilee Youth Ranch youth who entered our shelter.

Out of the numbers of youth, 19 were enrolled in school, five were placed in a GED program, but all are required to remain in school. 54% of youth were returned home, 35% were able to move into a rental, and 11% found a job. One youth graduated in the GED program and one entered into the Job Corps.

Along with these programs, we also began offering a weekly girls group empowerment program.





2016 OUTREACH EVENTS: JULY - DECEMBER

JULY

- University of Washington outreach
- Drug training with Benton County Sheriff
- All-shelter meeting
- Goodwill outreach
- Gang training with Kennewick Police Dept.
- Washington State University Outreach

SEPTEMBER

- Washington State University nursing outreach
- Port of Kennewick outreach
- Pancake Breakfast
- Planned Parenthood class at shelter
- BFHS outreach/tour
- Senator outreach/tour
- Tri-City Prep/Dress for Hope outreach
- Chiawana High School outreach
- Kamiakin High School outreach
- Richland High School outreach
- Tri-Cities Advocacy outreach
- Christ the King outreach
- Southridge High School Outreach

NOVEMBER

- Richland High School Tri-City Advocacy outreach
- National Homeless Teen Awareness month

AUGUST

- Planned Parenthood training - 6 hours
- KVEW outreach
- University of Washington outreach
- Somerset outreach
- Goodwill outreach
- ABC outreach
- GESA outreach
- Block Party
- Homegoods outreach
- GESA class at shelter

OCTOBER

- Kiona-Benton High School outreach
- Prosser High School outreach
- Highlands outreach
- Pasco High School outreach
- Planned Parenthood Class
- United Way outreach
- Goodwill outreach
- Kadlec Hospital outreach
- Tri-City Leadership Panel outreach
- First Lady Inslee outreach
- Women's Expo outreach
- Hanford High School Outreach

DECEMBER

- Boys & Girls Club outreach
- Alternative Gift Fair
- Washington State University outreach
- PFLAG Group outreach/meditation
- Highlands outreach
- Ochoa Middle School outreach

Nurse-Family Partnership Program

BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT

WHAT IS NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM?

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), an evidence-based community health program, helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time moms and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a health pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient.

From pregnancy until the child turns two years hold, NFP Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children - and themselves. Long-term outcomes include reduction in criminal activity for the client and her child, reduction in accidental injuries and poisonings, reduction in child abuse and neglect, and an increase in school readiness.

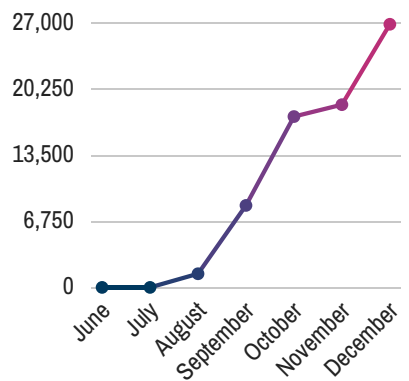
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) met with community partners, sharing information at community meetings and visits to agencies. The response to the information sharing has been overwhelming, with three new agencies making referrals. NFP requires Nurse Home Visitors to limit the number of clients they enroll during a month because of the intense visit schedule at the time of enrollment and following the birth of their baby. For this reason, BFHD will not be making a formal announcement until the second Nurse Home Visitor position is filled. Community partners who serve first-time moms have been identified for outreach with an increased caseload and a plan has been established for tracking purposes. BFHD also met with local legislators to raise awareness of the program's beneficial outcomes.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Signed agreement with Benton County on June 1, 2016
- Extensive advertising and recruitment for Nurse Home Visitors
- Advertising and recruitment for Data Entry Clerk
- Hiring, training, and orientation of Data Entry Clerk
- Hiring, training, and orientation of Nurse Home Visitor position. This included Nurse-Family Partnership education (all Nurse Home Visitors have to complete this training before enrolling clients)
- Nurse Home Visitor began enrolling clients on November 24, 2016
- Currently pending an offer for second Nurse Home Visitor position

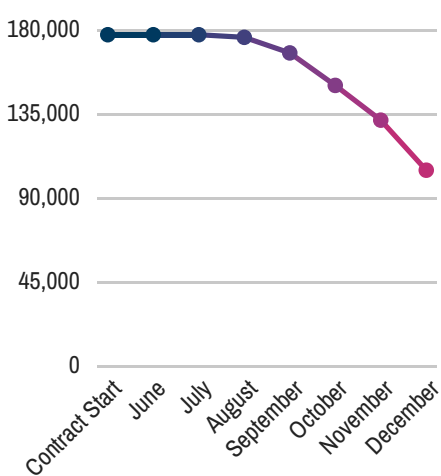
Funds Provided by County



Total 2016 Funded Amount:
\$72,502.70

2016 BUDGET
\$177,034.08
JUNE - DEC

Total Remaining Budget



Total 2016 Unused Budget
\$104,534.38

IDENTIFIED BARRIERS

Filling the second Nurse Home Visitor position has been a challenge. Public Health Nurses are the backbone of NFP's success; it is important to find the right nurse that will embrace the program and hopefully stay long-term. Since the program's beginning, nurses have been instrumental in shaping and delivering evidence-based, community health programs. Because of their specialized knowledge, the public health nurses who deliver the NFP program in their communities establish trusting relationships with young, at-risk mothers during home visits, providing guidance for the emotional, social, and physical challenges these first-time moms face as they prepare to become parents. But most importantly, NFP nurse home visitors make a measurable, long-lasting difference in the lives of their clients.

DATA COLLECTED

- 28 referrals in November and December 2016
- 7 families enrolled
- 15 home visits completed
- Clients range in age from 15-26, with a mean age of 19
- 1 client is monolingual Spanish
- The first baby is due at the end of February



2017-2018 New Programs

Building Resilience Through Family Support

PARTNERS FOR EARLY LEARNING

Partners for Early Learning will provide home visitor support to high-risk families with young children (ages birth-5) in high-poverty areas within Richland School District. It is designed to build resilience within the family, mitigate toxic stress, promote school readiness, and connect families to much-needed resources; thus decreasing gang involvement and future crime and incarceration.

According to research published by the organization "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids", quality early care and education programs are highly effective crime prevention tools as they cut crime and put children on the path to productive and healthy lives.

2017 Budget: \$44,860.00

2018 Budget: \$33,412.50*

**(75% of requested budget - to increase independent sustainability)*

Step-Up Program

CHAPLAINCY HEALTH CARE (TRI-CITIES CHAPLAINCY)

Step-Up is a nationally recognized adolescent-family violence intervention program originally developed and implemented in King County, Washington. Step-Up is designed to address youth violence and controlling behavior toward family members and to be an instrument for crime and gang prevention.

Step-Up is a skills based and restorative practice group intervention for youth and their parents that focuses on non-violence and respect between family members. It uses a Restorative Justice model of accountability, empathy, making amends and competency development to restore family relationships.

The purpose of Step-Up is to reconnect adolescents and their families in mutually respectful and secure ways so that the youth is able to function as a responsible community citizen and complete their developmental and educational goals. At its most basic level, Step-Up helps youth to stop violence and abuse and develop respectful family relations so that all family members feel safe at home. Step-Up restores parental authority and a safe living environment where family members can thrive.

2017 Budget: \$15,000.00

2018 Budget: \$15,000.00