

## **I. Project Summary**

### **a. How did your organization use the Community Foundation Grant:**

The Community Foundation Grant was used to support the "Get to School, Stay in School!" project supporting a part-time Attendance Outreach worker who worked with students and their families to identify barriers to regular school attendance and provide positive supports to address these barriers and increase school attendance.

### **b. What were the highs and/or low points of this program?**

Although the primary focus of this attendance intervention was originally aimed at students who were already at a Tier III level of need (19+ days absent from school the previous school year) it was after several data reviews regarding effectiveness of intervention that we realized our target audience was wrong. Students at Tier III are in need of more intense services as well as drop-out prevention services at the secondary level.

Once the focus of the program became Tier II -prevention, many individual success stories were noted.

## **II. Results**

### **a. What are the measurable outcomes for this project? How are they measured?**

Measurable outcomes: Improved student attendance for targeted groups

Measured through report card grade data, attendance reports, and parent and teacher comments.

### **b. What if any were the internal or external factors that presented obstacles to success? How did you overcome them?**

The largest obstacle was finding ways to get parents more actively involved in turning around attendance trends. The more the parent/s "bought in" to the

efforts the greater the chance for student success. In several cases the parents were only willing to give tacit support.

- c. We understand the variance from original project plans occur.  
How does the completed project compare to your original proposal?

As reported above, the focus of this project needed to switch from Tier III intervention to Tier II prevention. Once such a switch was made many successes were noted.

- d. What were the most important lessons learned?

Despite best efforts some students at the secondary level had established attendance habits that were impossible to successfully reverse. Targeted students should have been more borderline (i.e. 10-17 days absence in the previous school year) and at earlier grade levels.

- e. What was the public/private reaction to the project with the community? What impact has the grant made on the community you serve and your organization?

Generally speaking, the reaction from parents was positive and welcoming. Hopefully the impact will continue to be positive as the district embarks on the 13-14 school year.

### **III. Cooperation**

- a. N/A

### **IV. Future**

- a. What are your future plans for this program/ project? Please describe steps taken to ensure sustainability as well as plans for changes.

In order to continue to address the significant effects that consistent attendance at school has on student outcomes the Elmira Heights School District's Attendance Committee meets on a regular basis. Constant discussion regarding specific

students/ families, ongoing system efforts, and needs for future intervention programming occurs.

## **V. Working with the Community Foundation**

- a. How could the Community Foundation be more helpful? Please list any comments or suggestions you have.

It would be helpful if it were possible to re-new grants like this to move forward and establish some continuity in addressing problems like attendance.

## **VI. Expenditure Report**

