

CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

RISING SUN NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH PANEL
PROGRAM

and

EXPANSION OF PROGRAM

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PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Rising Sun Neighborhood Youth Panel (RSNYP) is a successful community-based diversion program which gives first time juvenile misdemeanor offenders the option of appearing before a panel of community volunteers rather than entering the juvenile court system. The RS NYP program provides administration, recruitment, training for community volunteers who serve as panelists and mentors, and compliance monitoring for sanctions and, if necessary, reparation to victim(s).

Substantial interest has been determined to support replication of the RSNYP program in another county town. Based on initial juvenile arrest data, replication of the program will be explored and planned for either the Town of North East or Town of Elkton. Our intention is to identify the need in both towns, hold community meetings to build support for the program, and choose one of the towns based on juvenile arrest data, and the interest and mutual collaboration with the Town Officials and the Police Department to begin the initial steps of establishing a new program.

PROJECT NARRATIVE:

On Feb. 12, 2007 16 Cecil County agency representatives (Elkton Police Department, Cecil County Sheriff's Office, Department of Social Services, State's Attorney's Office, Cecil Partnerships for Children, Youth and Families, Cecil County Health Department, North East Police Department, Cecil County Public Schools, Drug Court, and Cecil County Commissioner's Office) met to identify existing strategies, proposed initiatives and collaborative partners, and baseline data available regarding the County's criminal and juvenile programs. Both the Honorable William Manlove, President of Cecil County Commissioners and GOCCP Chief, Gregory Joy of the Juvenile Division attended the work session. Three initiatives were prioritized for 2007 funding priorities: #1 - anti-gang initiative; #2 – in-county drug and alcohol treatment center, and #3 prevention strategy by public and medical community for awareness of juveniles with prescription drugs.

The Department of Juvenile Services application is for the continuation of the existing Neighborhood Youth Panel program in Rising Sun, and seed funds for planning a second program to be established either in the Town of North East or the Town of Elkton based on initial juvenile arrest data, local law enforcement and Town Official interest in the program, and community forums to solicit support and participation in the program. Once the determination has been made on the new town, funding is requested for start-up costs for recruiting and training for 8-10 panelists to mentor proportionately more first time misdemeanor juvenile offenders in the newly identified Cecil County town.

The Neighborhood Youth Panel program is a juvenile diversion program which gives first-time juvenile misdemeanor offenders the option of appearing before a panel of community volunteers rather than entering the juvenile court system. A youth offender who accepts and completes the contractual obligations offered by the panel avoids the stigma and possible effects of a juvenile record, that is, he/she is diverted from the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) intake and the juvenile court system.

The direct involvement by community volunteers in the process of Balanced and Restorative Justice has proven to be the successful component - the community works collaboratively with local law enforcement focusing on the lives of the targeted youth within the setting of home, social environment, and community. Community members have a vested interest in assessing harm, damage, and causative factors. From this assessment they are then able to suggest and develop reparative approaches using community resources. This also helps the community youth and adults to bridge communication, and work together towards building a safe and healthy community.

Geographic and Demographic Information: Cecil County is a northeastern MD jurisdiction and covers 360 square miles bordering the Chesapeake Bay to the southwest, DE to the east, and PA to the north. Cecil County's population grew between 1990 and 2000 by 20.5%, and ranked as the 5th fastest growing county in MD. In 2000 residences included 246.5 people living per square mile with 31,223 households. The County's per capita income was \$21,384 (1999) and the median household income was \$52,800 (2003). The 2005 estimate for the population is 97,796. Based on 2004 data the County's ethnicity reflects the following: White – 93.2 %; Black – 4.7%; American Indian & Alaska Native – 0.3%; Asian – 0.9%; 2 or more races 0.9%; Hispanic or Latino origin – 1.8%. The youth population in 2004 was 25.7% <18 and the 2005 estimate for the entire County population was 97,796. (Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau)

Understanding the Problem:

The Rising Sun Neighborhood Youth Panel program has been in operation since 2001. The program is a successful collaborative effort of the Town of Rising Sun Police Department and Officials, the Department of Juvenile Service in Cecil County, other law enforcement agencies, County Government, and the Rising Sun community to quickly address first time misdemeanor juvenile offenders to offer a diversion from the juvenile court system. Data for juvenile offenses in the Rising Sun NYP program during Fiscal Year reflect the following: vandalism – 15%; Assault – 24%; theft under \$500 – 18%; drugs – 16%; alcohol – 13%, reckless

endangerment – 7%, and other – 7%, See Appendix A.

Department of Juvenile Services Data for Cecil County 2004 – 2006

	African American			White			Other		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2004	60	25	85	755	251	1006	16	9	25
2005	79	26	105	680	245	925	17	5	22
2006	102	36	138	587	162	749	17	4	21
Totals:			328			2680			68

(Data compiled from the Annual Dept. of Juvenile Services Statistics Report for 2004, 2005 and 2006)

Considering the 20.5% growth from 1990 to 2000 and the projected growth for Cecil County from the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decision and general residential building pressure based on location and proximity to the I-95 and Route 40 corridor, we expect to see a substantial increase in our population and in the number of juvenile arrests.

Cecil County Juvenile Arrests jurisdictions listed for 2003 – 2005

	2003	2004	2005	3-12/2006	1-2/2007
Rising Sun	29	28	13	NA	NA
North East	377	534	486	215	37
Elkton	237	228	260	NA	NA
Cecil Co. Sheriff's Office	288	267	212	NA	NA
MD State Police, North East Barracks	11	19	5	NA	NA

(Statistics provided by the Cecil County Sheriff's Office)

The juvenile arrests based on the statistics from the Cecil County Sheriff's Office clearly identify a need in the North East and Elkton areas. The funding for planning to duplicate this program would take the initial data provided and determine the misdemeanor offenses that would qualify for participation if a Neighborhood Youth Panel program were established in the town. Establishing a new program would be determined based on the data, collaboration with the Town Officials and Police Department, and community interest and participation.

This Department of Juvenile Services proposal is in alignment with JABG Purpose Area 11: Establishing and maintaining accountability-based program, the Rising Sun Youth Neighborhood

Panel, was designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel or agencies.

Results/Goals/Evaluation:

Purpose/Mission	Results/Goals	Strategy	Objective	Indicators
Early intervention in the lives of youth, holding them accountable for their actions, while developing character skills leading to becoming productive, community citizens.	Provide a prevention and early intervention program for youth (residing in the attendance area for Rising Sun Middle School) who commit misdemeanor offenses.	<p>Include juvenile offender and family and victim in panel hearings culminating in a sanctioned contract.</p> <p>Recruit and train community panelists as needed -Use available resources and character development skills (community stakeholders and volunteer panelists) to impose sanctions.</p> <p>Provide one-on-one mentorship with juvenile offenders to produce character and teach positive community values.</p>	<p>Provide direct and swift accountability of juvenile offenders to the victim and community;</p> <p>Empower community stakeholders and volunteer panelists to participate actively in changing the behavior of first time juvenile misdemeanor offenders by imposing sanctions and acting as mentors and positive role models.</p> <p>Provide an opportunity for juvenile offenders to bond with responsible community members producing character and community values.</p>	<p>Comply with sanctioned contract. Restore victim's rights.</p> <p>Track number of participants in the program & sanctions</p> <p>Include community resources (NYP mentors) in personal, character development and community involvement.</p> <p>Provide a NYP Survey for each participant</p> <p>Acceptance of mentor and successful accountability for sanctions and actively pursuit of positive character development.</p>
Early intervention in the lives of youth, holding them accountable for their actions, while developing character skills leading to becoming productive, community citizens.	Provide a prevention and early intervention program for youth (residing in selected 2nd town – North East or Elkton, MD) who commit misdemeanor	Same as above.	Same as above.	Same as above.

	offenses.			
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The NYP Coordinator, Dawn Rodenbaugh provides the following duties: 1) administers the program weekly (16 hours/week); 2) recruits and trains volunteers as Panelists; 3) screens youth candidates for the program and coordinates all hearings, monitors youth compliance, and acts as a mentor; and 4) maintains statistical data and prepares monthly reports. The following misdemeanor offenses will be heard by the Neighborhood Youth Panel; misdemeanor theft or attempt, trespassing, harassment, tobacco citations, disorderly conduct, false alarm, graffiti, loitering, gambling, telephone misuse, truancy, tampering with a motor vehicle, etc. See Appendix A for the RS NYP statistical data on youth involved in the program since its' 2001 inception.

This Department of Juvenile Services proposal is in alignment with JABG Purpose Area 11: Establishing and maintaining accountability-based program, the Rising Sun Youth Neighborhood Panel, was designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel or agencies.

The Rising Sun program will continue to track each participant for 1 year after completion of the program. The expanded program either in North East or Elkton and any future programs will comply with the evaluation requirement.

Collaboration: Partners include: law enforcement, juvenile justice, and municipal and county professionals and trained community volunteers have been involved with the Rising Sun program. All stakeholders have acted collectively working with the youth to reduce recidivism rates.

A similar set of partners will be recruited as part of the planning process and each will also become actively engaged in the expanded program either in North East or Elkton. The expanded program will require 10 NY Panelists.

<u>Collaborating Partners</u>	<u>Roles</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>
Martin Salmon, Cecil Co. DJS Area Director	Plays a minimal role.	Provides general oversight.
Tanya Kenly, Cecil Co. DJS Supervisor	Supports program as an initial & follow up contact	Provides verification of 1 st time offender & initial follow up consultation
Vicky Rinkerman, Cecil County Administrative Assistant	Serves as County administrative contact.	Provides administrative oversight (programmatic & financial).
Al Michael, Rising Sun Police Chief	Provides programmatic support.	Provides program awareness to parents and provides officers @ hearings.
Judy Cox, R.S. Mayor	Provides general support.	Provides support for the program and press coverage.
Parents/guardians	Serve as responsible adult.	Provide support and cooperation for own youth.
Youth	Participate in a merit program.	Act cooperatively in program.

See Appendix B Letters of Support and Appendix C for NYP Youth Surveys from participants.

Proposed Activity: The NYP Rising Sun Coordinator, Dawn Rodenbaugh, has worked directly with the Rising Sun Police Department for the Town of Rising Sun in a part time capacity and reports to the Cecil County Commissioners Office and Rising Sun Town Mayor. She has also developed strong relationships with Cecil County Government and the Juvenile Services Department in Cecil County. The Rising Sun program provides a diversion mechanism holding first time youth offenders accountable for their actions through immediate sanctions; compliance is monitored and recorded by the Coordinator and panelists who also serve as youth mentors.

We are requesting additional planning funds to explore expanding the program into another Cecil County municipality, either the Town of North East or the Town of Elkton. The funding will be used to make a determination based on juvenile arrest data, interest in the Town and Police Department for creating the program, and community support and involvement.

Target Population: The Youth Neighborhood Panel (a juvenile diversion program) targets youth who meet the following profile criteria: 10-17 year old; charged with a misdemeanor offense; 1st time or low risk offender; admission of involvement in the offense; and voluntary consent to have sanction determined by the NYP. The current program is comprised of

residents of Rising Sun Middle School district.

The successful Youth Neighborhood Panel program will be replicated based on the same profile criteria in North East or Elkton, MD. Potential targeted youth will be either residents of Elkton, representing the following schools: Cherry Hill Middle School, Elkton Middle School, or from North East, representing North East Middle School.

	Town Youth <18/ County	NYP Races	NYP Ages	NYP Genders	Co. Census Tracts
Rising Sun	2,166/8,683	White – 94 % Black/AA – 1.5% Asian – 1.5% Hispanic – 3%	<12 – 6% 12-14 – 44% 15-17 – 50%	F – 35% M – 69%	309.01
Elkton	1,149/5,099	_____	_____	_____	304, 305.03, 305.04
North East	1,142/4,622	_____	_____	_____	309.03

(Sources: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau and Fiscal Year 2007 Rising Sun NYP data)

Target communities: Cecil County’s towns of Rising Sun and the 2nd town to be identified through public forums and meetings with Town Officials and Police Department fiscal year 2008 with projected implementation in Fiscal year 2009. Immediate diversion activities: provide sanctions and assign mentors.

Type of action to use: Examples of sanctions that youth have served in the Rising Sun Neighborhood Youth Panel Program: community service, research project/essay, counseling, apology letter, restitution, victim awareness education, substance abuse education/counseling, drug testing, and jail tour.

Number of youth to be served: See above chart for rising Sun data. As part of the planning process for expanding and duplicating the Rising Sun program, data for North East and/or Elkton will determined based on arrest data and potential number of eligible youth.

Services to be provided: Panel hearing, follow-up hearings as needed, action plan/assigned sanctions, mentoring, monitoring, access to county-wide resources (including DJS sponsored programs).

Referral process to the Neighborhood Youth Panel: Referrals will be directly from the

Department of Juvenile Services for Cecil County upon identifying eligibility, the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, and municipal town police of the jurisdiction, and Maryland State Police.

Services delivery: Via programs sponsored by DJS, through community service hours, and on a case by case basis with a mentor as approved by the panelist and program Coordinator.

Requirements (experience and education levels) for Neighborhood Youth Panelists: The candidate would be required to be a least 21 years of age, able to work with youth, pass a background screening, sign an agreement of confidentiality, and complete required training as outlined below:

Panelist Training:

- Legal/procedural – relevant juvenile law and rights
 - Confidentiality
 - Guidelines for hearings
 - Victim awareness and rights
- Special Needs/Resources
 - Review of substance abuse, mental health issues
 - Community resources
- Family/Child Issues
 - Family dynamics and adolescence
 - Communications and conflict resolution
 - Monitoring and mentoring

Potential impact of the program to address high-risk youth and /or needs of the local

DSJ: Youth involved in the program receive needed attention and direction from positive adult role models. The community plays a role in changing the behavior of juvenile offenders and prevention of future delinquent behavior.

Timeline for Rising Sun Neighborhood Youth Panel:

Continue coordinating the Rising Sun Neighborhood Youth Panel. On an ongoing basis activities include: meetings with the Cecil County Department of Juvenile Services, Town of Rising Sun Police Department and youth involved in the program, recruiting and training new volunteers to serve on the panel as needed.

Timeline for planning and expansion of NYP to North East or Elkton:

MONTH	ACTIVITY
July – August	Schedule meetings with Town of North East Officials

	and Police Department to discuss NYP program and review juvenile arrest data
September	Schedule one-on-one meetings with several North East community leaders to discuss the panel
September	Schedule & advertise first community forum meeting in North East to introduce the program
October	Meet with Town Officials and Police Department Schedule & advertise second community forum
November - December	Schedule meetings with Town of Elkton Officials and Police Department to discuss NYP program and review juvenile arrest data
January	Schedule one-on-one meetings with several Elkton community leaders to discuss the panel
January	Schedule & advertise first community forum meeting in Elkton to introduce the program
February	Meet with Town Officials and Police Department Schedule & advertise second community forum
March	Form a committee to review juvenile arrest data and level of community involvement from each town and make a decision on the next town for a Neighborhood Youth Panel
April – May	Schedule a kick off for the new Program Recruit and train volunteers to serve on the Panel
May	Schedule volunteers to attend a Neighborhood Youth Panel meeting in Rising Sun Replicate all material used for the Rising Sun Program
June	Schedule first Neighborhood Youth Panel Meeting
2009 – 2010	Neighborhood Youth Panel Program would continue On an ongoing basis activities would include: meetings with the Cecil County Department of Juvenile Services, Town’s Police Department and youth involved in the program, recruiting and training new volunteers to serve on the panel as needed.

Sustainability: The County would seek all grant funding opportunities available to continue the programs. If funding was not available, Cecil County would initiate meetings with the Town Official’s currently administering the programs, Cecil County Department of Juvenile Services, Cecil County Sheriff’s Office, and other local law enforcement agencies to develop a collaborative plan to fund the Programs using all available resources from each agency.

III PROJECT BUDGET

A. BUDGET SUMMARY:

The following table is to be completed using the totals from the budget categories A-F. Enter the totals from all expenditure categories in the application spaces. The grand total must correspond to the total projected costs. All amounts in the budget section are to be rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Expenditure Category Total	Federal Fund Request	State Fund Request	State Cash Match	Local Cash Match	Private Funds	In-kind Match	TOTAL
A. Personnel		25,773		3,147			28,920
		384				1,300	1,684

B. Operating Expenses							
C. Travel		384					384
D. Contractual Services							
E. Equipment							
F. Other		480					480
Grand TOTAL		27,021		3,147		1,300	31,468

B. BUDGET DETAILS:

This section of the grant application includes a table for each major budget expenditure. Each table is on a separate page. Please itemize and explain the following categories of project expenditures: Personnel, Equipment, Operating Expenses, Travel, Contractual Services and Other. Space is provided at the bottom of each page for justification and explanation of the itemization.

Category A - PERSONNEL

Includes salaries, social security, and fringe benefits for personnel required to implement the project including full or part-time contractual staff (excluding consultants, which should be listed in Category D). Time and attendance records must be maintained for all personnel included in the grant project.

Description of Position	Annual Salary or Daily Rate	Percent of Time or Number of Days	TOTAL
Neighborhood Youth Panel Coordinator	\$15.50 per hour	32 hours per week 52 wks/year	25,792.00
Sub-Total			25,792.00
*Social Security & Fringe Benefits %	3,128.00		3,128.00
TOTAL Personnel Expenses			28,920.00

*Social Security and fringe benefits not to exceed 30%.

Justification and/or Explanation of Above: (Attach additional sheet if necessary.)

Neighborhood Youth Panel Coordinator to continue operating the Rising Sun Neighborhood Youth Panel Program and initiate and plan replicating this program in the Town of North East or the Town of Elkton.

Category B - OPERATING EXPENSES

Project Supplies, Rental Space, Printing and Communications

Communication expenses include items such as telephone, fax, postage, and other expenditures such as photocopying.

Operating Expense	Cost/Unit	Quantity	TOTAL
Office Supplies	Ink cartridge, pens staples, paper clips	2 ink cartridges @\$50/each As needed from supply closet at Commissioners Office	\$100.00 \$50.00 in kind from County
Stationery			
Printing			
Rental Space (including rate/sq. ft.)	1 year	144 sq ft office in County Bldg	950.00 in kind from County
Communication Expenses			
Postage	.41 / mail unit	400 letters, information packets, etc.	164.00
Telephone	\$30.00/month Long distance requires calling card	1 land line 3 cards/\$10 each	300.00 – in kind Town of Rising Sun 30.00
Fax			
Photocopying	Copy paper/\$30 per case	3 cases	\$90.00
Miscellaneous			
TOTAL Operating Expenses			\$1684.00

Justification and/or Explanation of Above: (Attach additional sheet if necessary.)

Operating expenses for Neighborhood Youth Panel Coordinator

Category C - TRAVEL

Travel expenses may include mileage and/or other transportation costs, meals and lodging consistent with the local jurisdictions' travel regulations and cannot exceed the State of Maryland reimbursement rate*.

Type of Travel Expense (Indicate appropriate rate/rates)	Cost/Travel	Quantity	TOTAL
Assisting youth in the Rising Sun Program and community meetings in North East and Elkton	.48 per mile	800 miles/year	384.00
TOTAL Travel Expenses			384.00

* 48 cents/mile as of 9/21/05.

Justification and/or Explanation of Above: (Attach additional sheet if necessary.)

Coordinator:

Mileage for transporting youth in the Rising Sun program in order for them to complete sanctions designated by the panel 600/miles 288.00

Mileage for conducting community meetings to promote the Neighborhood Youth Panel program in North East and Elkton 200/miles 96.00

Category D - CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

For each contract, enter the nature of the service to be provided and the basis for computing the amount to be paid. Consultant contracts for training or evaluation should be included here and shall be consistent with federal guidelines. Construction projects are ineligible for funding under grant programs and expenses for construction may not be included.

Description of Contractual Services	Rate	Quantity	TOTAL
TOTAL Contractual Services			

Justification and/or Explanation of Above: (Attach additional sheet if necessary.)

Category F - OTHER

Include all other anticipated expenditures, which are not included in the previous categories such as indirect costs, if allowable, and audit expenses.

Type of Expense	Cost	TOTAL
Fingerprinting for Youth Panel volunteers	20 participants at \$5/each	\$100.00
Public Notice Advertisement for Community meetings for expansion	4 @ \$95.00/each	\$380.00
TOTAL Expenses		\$480.00

Justification and/or Explanation of Above: (Attach additional sheet if necessary.)

Youth Panel volunteers must be fingerprinted to participate in the program.

Public Notice Ads for community meetings 2 for North East and 2 for Elkton