

Project Narrative Forms

Legal Name of Organization:	City of College Station			
Title of Project:	Decision Making for First Offenders			
Grant Period:	From:	8/1/2005	To:	7/31/2006
Current Grant Number (If Continuation):	JB-03-J20-15530-05			

PART 1: PROBLEM STATEMENT AND DATA

1.1 Problem Statement

Provide a brief statement of the specific problem or problems this project is designed to address.

At the Municipal Court level, we deal with many first time offending youth. Many are very immature and irresponsible and make mostly stupid decisions during the period between 12 and 18 years. Often their decisions get them into trouble with the law and therefore, they have a record before they have reached an age and maturity that they begin to make wiser decisions. Through the Municipal Court referral, first time offenders who have parental support may elect to go through the diversionary program of Teen Court. In this process, they are required to pay a small fine of \$20 per offense, do community service, and jury duty as sentenced by a jury of their teenage peers, and most are assigned some form of class to help build skills in the area of their offense. Traffic takes Defensive Driving Alcohol and Tobacco awareness classes.

In order to provide classes that were meaningful and relevant and would develop better decision making, for those who committed other criminal offenses such as theft, assault, disorderly conduct and including alcohol and tobacco offenses we developed and require the Decision Making for First Offenders class. This is an all day Saturday class conducted by a certified educator. Classes are limited to 20 participants and they each must discuss their offense and what they are thinking. Classes focus on LIFE SKILLS and have them discuss their values, goals and attitudes and to make short term and long term goal plans. This class has been very successful.

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1.2 Supporting Data

Provide data that supports the problem. Use only data that is verifiable and relevant to your target population. The data should be derived from baseline statistics. For example, do not use statewide data for a local problem and do not use national data for a statewide problem. Also, provide citations for the sources of your data.

Through the College Station Municipal Court since 2000, we have notified 2000 minor offenders that they might be eligible for this Teen Court program. 699 of those eligible (first time class c offense, age 12-18, still in school)for T Court were referred by the judge to the program. Of that 699, 280 were referred to the Decision Making For First Offenders class and 253 completed the class. Of that 253 completions , only three of those (1%) had any type of repeat offense within one year of completion and that included even a traffic ticket after completion. (First time traffic offenders are not sent through the program.)

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1.3 Community Plan

If this is a local or regional project, the grant applicant must have participated in a local community planning process or the proposed project has to be in response to priorities set in a community plan. IDENTIFY what priority(ies) this project addresses within your community plan. (See T.A.C. §3.51)

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PART 2: GOAL STATEMENT

Based on your problem statement, provide a brief goal statement. It should be a general statement reflecting the overall impact that you intend the project to attain. Do NOT list activities in the goal.

The goal is to give first time offenders an understanding of the impact of their offenses, an awareness of the difference in outcome from various decisions, and the skills to evaluate their own choices and determine if those choices are to help them reach their life goals or if they will hinder achieving success in life.

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PART 3: TARGET GROUP

Briefly explain the target group for your project. Include the geographic area targeted, the target audience, and the relevant characteristics of those persons.

3.1 Geographic Area

Offense must be committed within the jurisdiction of the City of College Station Municipal court. Though this offense must be committed in College Station, we receive MANY offenders, from out of the city, and the county due to the location of Texas A&M and its events and activities here. These teens who are in our jurisdiction away from home are also served by this program when possible.

3.2 Target Audience

First time Class C misdemeanor offenders between the ages of 12-18, or 19 if still in high school. They must be w to plead guilty or no contest and be judged by a jury of fellow teens to community service, jury duty and this Decision Making for First Offenders if it is a non-traffic offense.

3.3 Gender

All genders

3.4 Ages

12 years to 19, if they are still in high school. No college students accepted.

3.5 Special Characteristics

At risk of further encounters with the law due to their first time citation for a class c misdemeanor in a non-traffic offense

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PART 4: PROJECT ACTIVITIES

4.1 Program Type

Designate the Program Type that best describes the primary purpose for this project. Definitions are located in the Application Instruction Kit. Note: Active program types will vary by fund source. While you can view all Program Types, you can only select one that is active for this fund source. (**SELECT** only one)

- Enforcement/Investigation Prosecution Alternative Sanctions Supervision Training/Education
 Treatment/Counseling Prevention Early Intervention Victim Advocacy Crisis Intervention

Other (Specify):

4.2 Activity Description

Describe the activities or services your project provides. Be sure the activities support the goal statement and are consistent with the selections made in the Fund-Specific Criteria tab.

This program is an all day Saturday group discussion, analysis, and skills building session to help teens who are a to make better decisions through education and awareness of the impact of their offense on themselves, their family their community and society.

A certified educator conducts the class of 8-20 first time offenders between the ages of 12 and 19, if still in high school. Each participant must tell the group what their offense was and why they committed the offense. They are quizzed by other participants and asked to determine how they might have made a wiser decision.

They are all asked to identify and rank their values from a lengthy list and then to set down some short range and long term goals and objectives for themselves. Though simple, such as :

Goal: Pass the math test next week

Objectives to help get there: Study every night next week

Don't hang out with friends past 7 pm during the weeknights

Get some help from the teacher.

Setting down these goals on paper seems to help PROGRAM these kids for how better to succeed and how to make WISER FUTURE DECISIONS. The class participants are allowed to evaluate the class and the ratings are very high. Most do not want to attend, but when they have finished say that it was a great class and they would do it again. This class is about THEM, they get to discuss themselves, their feelings, their actions, their anger and get feedback from other teens at the same time.

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PART 5: PROJECT OBJECTIVES

5.1 Performance Measures

Provide both output and outcome measures for this project. Output measures show the level of activity of a project. They reflect the amount of services being provided (e.g., number of people served; number of classes held). They are not intended to show impact. Outcome measures show impacts of a project in targeted areas (e.g., percentage of program graduates). They reflect the extent to which the goals of the project have been achieved.

	<u>Current Annual Activity</u>	<u>Target Level of Activity for the Grant Period</u>
Output Measures - Required for All Projects		
This class will be offered to a minimum of 65 and a maximum of 100 teens who have committed their first criminal offense during the project year.	40	100

	<u>Current Annual Activity</u>	<u>Target Level of Activity for the Grant Period</u>
Outcome Measures - Required for All Projects		
Of those who complete the class, less than 3% will repeat any type of offense within this municipal court jurisdiction within the next 12 months.	1%	0%

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5.2 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.)

Present project is on schedule as planned.

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PART 6: 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.

This grant request is to fund an 8-hour class for first time class C misdemeanor offenders between the ages of 12-17 years of age. The class is a life skills type of format with a limit of 20 students per class and taught by a certified educator. Students must discuss with the class their offense and their attitudes about this offense and receive feedback from the teacher and other class members regarding their actions. They are asked to identify different ways or decisions they could have made and compare the outcome of those verbally. They are also required to identify and rank some of their own values from a list provided along with setting short, medium and long term goals with short objectives for reaching their goals.

The day is intended to help these teens reflect on their past decisions and plan ahead for future issues that might arise where they are going to be confronted with a difficult choice. The students who participate in these classes love them because they are able to discuss their own feelings, attitudes, and frustrations with other teens. Many said they would take the class again and the recidivism for those completing is extremely low 1% presently.