



Memorandum

TO: ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE
COMMITTEE

FROM: Sara L. Hensley

**SUBJECT: HOMEWORK CENTERS
PROGRAM STATUS REPORT**

DATE: 03-06-03

Approved

Date

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this memo is to provide a background and update for the new members of the All Children Achieve Committee on the Homework Centers Program. This memo will include a brief history on the Homework Centers Program leading to the current status in FY 2002-03.

ANALYSIS

The program was initially funded by the City Council in response to concerns about the safety and educational needs of San José youth. It began operation in FY 1993-94 with a budget of \$250,000, serving 27 sites. The purpose of the Homework Centers Program has since evolved to be providing homework assistance/tutoring, access to computers and related technology education. The program has grown to currently include 235 sites in FY 2002-2003, with a budget of \$3.3 million. Through this program, grants are awarded to public school districts and public/non-profit agencies, including the San Jose Public Library to implement before and after school programs that provide the above mentioned services.

The Homework Centers Program contributes to the goals and strategies of the Youth Services Master Plan, "*Blueprint for Bridging the Digital Divide*," by providing programs that support the following *Blueprint* outcomes:

1. Children, youth and families will feel connected to their schools and communities and will live, play, and work in safe and capable communities and schools;
2. School children will be educationally at or above grade level, and will choose healthy behaviors; and
3. Teenagers will have a sense of purpose and graduate from high school with a plan for higher education or career preparation.

This program supports the following key youth development components:

1. Educational support activities such as tutoring, and studying skills, which develop academic competencies and progress in the classroom;

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2. Collaborate with School Districts in conducting special academic institutes and programs;
3. Positive relationships with caring adults such as tutors and teachers;
4. Improved academic self-esteem as a learner, school attendance, and motivation to try harder; and
5. Safe community environment where children feel protected and valued.

During FY 1999-00, City Council set a program expansion goal that by 2002, every public elementary, middle and high school student in San Jose would have access to our homework centers which provide a clean, and safe place to study. With the completion of the expansion program in 2002, there are a total of 235 operating sites, which include 190 schools (130 elementary schools, 35 middle schools and 25 high schools), 12 libraries and 33 community-based organizations or centers. Total participation in the Homework Centers Program is projected to be at 31,800 students for FY 2002-03.

Homework Centers Program Funding

The following chart shows the history of Homework Centers Program funding since 1993 and the number of sites that have been funded in each year:

Year Fact Category	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Funds Allocated	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$625,000	\$900,000	\$1.15M	\$1.15M	\$2.15M	\$2.63M	\$3.27M	\$3.58M
Programs Funded	27	34	63	95	120	139	163	192	220	235

For FY 2002-03, funds were allocated from both the General Fund (\$2.46 M) and the Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund (\$1.12M) for a total FY 2002-03 operating budget of \$3.58M. Of this, \$3.17M (89%) was allocated to Homework Center sites, \$228,000 (6%) to Council-approved designated projects, and \$180,000 (5%) to administration costs. Attachment A, shows the number of sites by Council District and funds allocated.

For FY 2001-02, Community Crime Prevention Associates (CCPA) conducted the Homework Centers Program evaluation. This same consultant firm will be conducting the evaluation for FY 2002-03. Youth, staff, parent and teacher surveys will be administered to all of the students attending a homework center on a selected day during the week of March 17, 2003. The final evaluation report for FY 2002-03 will incorporate the following:

- ◆ Site monitoring reports;
- ◆ Youth, parent, and staff surveys; and
- ◆ Student performances in reading, science, math, computer applications and homework assignment completion.

This report will be completed by June 30, 2003 and will be included in the status report to the ACA Committee during fall 2003.

In addition, in the March 2002 budget message, the Mayor and City Council directed staff to conduct an assessment of all City funded after-school programs. The direction is to identify program duplication and/or management overlaps and formulate recommendations for program improvement and/or re-organization. The Homework Centers Program is being included in the assessment, and recommendations will be forthcoming on better coordination and implementation of the Homework Centers Program with other City and non-city after-school programs.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Applications are distributed to all school districts. An application assistance meeting was held on February 14, 2003. Participants received program information packets that included re-application, program-reporting requirements and survey instruments.

COORDINATION

This memo has been coordinated with the City Attorneys office.

SARA L. HENSLEY
Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services