



Memorandum

TO: NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES &
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: Albert Balagso

SUBJECT: PROGRAM STATUS UPDATE
FOR SAN JOSE B.E.S.T.

DATE: February 22, 2008

Approved

Date

2-26-08

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-Wide
SNI AREA: N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the final evaluation report for the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) and Bringing Everyone's Strength Together (B.E.S.T). Program Cycle 16, FY 2006-2007 and the program status update for the B.E.S.T. Program for Cycle 17, FY 2007-2008.

OUTCOME

City Council will be informed on the program status of the MGPTF and the San José B.E.S.T. program.

BACKGROUND

The San José B.E.S.T. Program was created as the funding arm of the MGPTF, providing funds to public and non-profit agencies to implement gang prevention, intervention and suppression programs for youth exhibiting high-risk behaviors and their families. Each year the San José B.E.S.T. program determines the priority service areas and needs through a "Hot Spot" exercise, with the MGPTF Technical Team and Policy Team. The exercise considers the current needs assessments, San José Police Department crime statistics, violent gang climate and input from community-based organizations (CBO). Service agreements are negotiated with qualified service providers based on the priority service areas and needs identified by the MGPTF and approved by City Council.

For FY 2006-07 the BEST program contracted with Community Crime Prevention Associates (CCPA) to evaluate services provided through the B.E.S.T. program and the MGPTF. The Final Evaluation report was approved by the Policy Team on February 22, 2008. This memo highlights the results of the FY 2006-07 evaluations and provides a program status report for FY 2007-08.

ANALYSIS

Evaluation Highlights for the Mayor's Gang prevention Task Force

Eighty-three percent of the Task Force members indicated that the Policy Team and the Technical Team have been effective in improving relationships between members and in providing networking opportunities. Other highlights from the MGPTF evaluation are listed below:

- 80% of members reported that their involvement in the MGPTF allowed them to take action with other members to meet needs and solve problems in the City of San José.
- 76% of members reported that their involvement in the MGPTF assisted them and/or their agency to form partnerships with related local, state and national initiatives being implemented in the City of San José.
- 80% of the members reported that they have either established new relationships and/or strengthened existing relationships due to their involvement in the MGPTF.

Partnering with the National League of Cities, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the California Cities Gang Prevention Network, the City of San José has received state and national recognition of its gang prevention efforts. The City of San José's MGPTF staff has met with representatives from Stockton, Vacaville, Sacramento, Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa and made presentations to assist them in developing a gang prevention task force in their cities. Due to the growing number of requests for information regarding the City of San José MGPTF, an informational DVD was created in collaboration with San José Police Department and is available for distribution.

San José BEST Final Evaluation Report for Cycle 16 FY 2006-07

For FY 2006-07 a total of 4,534 participants were served by 24 agencies. Of these, 53% were gang-impacted with the remaining 47% at-risk or high-risk youth. Other notable findings in the FY 2006-07 Report are as follows:

- 88% of B.E.S.T. customers were satisfied with services received.
- 79% of the participants reported that the services received were effective in producing a change for the better.
- 86% satisfaction rate of the participants in Parent Awareness Trainings.
- 609 of the 701 participants (87%) who were arrested before, did not get re-arrested.
- 237 of the 524 school age participants (45%) who were not in school before, returned to school.

The San José B.E.S.T. evaluation report for Cycle 16 FY 2006-07 is available online at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/grants/best.asp>.

San José B.E.S.T. Program Update for Cycle 17, 2007-08

For FY 2007-08, the City of San José has contracted with 24 agencies to provide intervention services. Services are provided based on priority service areas and need in each Police Division

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(Central, Foothill, Southern, Western). Services include: Gang Mediation and Intervention, Truancy Intervention, Services to Adjudicated Youth, and Outpatient Substance Abuse Services.

For FY 2007-08, San José B.E.S.T. allocation included an additional \$1M for a total allocation of \$4M. In addition for 2007-2008, the program will allocate a total of \$297,940 in additional funding from the San José Police Department (\$82,310 for truancy services), the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice Detention Prevention (one time funds of \$84,000) and the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Program (\$131,630) for a total available allocation of \$4,297,940.

A minimum of \$250,000 was allocated to each Police Division with the remainder allocated based on priority needs citywide. A breakdown of each Police Division allocation, including the additional \$297,940, is as follows:

CENTRAL	\$535,980	WESTERN	\$698,213
FOOTHILL	\$1,198,763	CITY-WIDE	\$300,000
SOUTHERN	\$409,289		

In addition, an Emergency Fund to provide diversion activities targeting gang impacted youth, during times of crisis was established. The goal of these activities is to defuse dangerous situations preventing further escalation of violence. For FY 2007-08, these funds have been used to provide recreational and intervention services at one community center in each Police Division.

An overview of the allocation distributed by San José B.E.S.T. is as follows:

Funding Activity	Amount
Direct Intervention Services	\$3,142,245
Emergency Fund	\$300,000
Miscellaneous Projects (leverage for CalGrip, intervention staff development and development of GIS mapping)	\$205,695
Administrative/Program Support	\$650,000
Total	\$4,297,940

CONCLUSION

The San José B.E.S.T. program is committed to reclaiming San José's youth by providing gang intervention services to high-risk and gang impacted youth. The program goals include: getting at-risk youth back into schools, reconnecting them with their families and communities, providing them with a supportive and healthy environment to learn and grow, and redirecting them toward more pro-social behaviors. To that end, San José B.E.S.T. will continue to provide appropriate services that will meet the needs expressed, with qualified service providers.

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PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criteria 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criteria 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

This memo does not meet any of the above criteria. A copy of the memo will be posted on the City's website for the March 25, 2008 City Council Agenda. A presentation on the program status for FY 2007-08 and the FY 2006-07 Evaluation Report was made at the February 22, 2008 MGPTF Policy Team meeting.

COORDINATION

This report was prepared in coordination with the City Attorney's Office.

COST IMPLICATIONS

None

CEQA

Not a project.



Albert Balagso

Director

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

For questions, please contact Abraham Chacko, Senior Analyst at: 408-793-5560