



Combating Gang Violence Through Prevention and Intervention Strategies within the County of Kern

The Joint City and County Standing Committee to Combat Gang Violence was created by the County of Kern and the City of Bakersfield in the Fall, 2006 in an effort to combat gang violence in the community by developing a plan of attack against the root causes of gang violence. As a result of this plan, funding opportunities were provided to vendors based on their proposals to establish gang prevention and intervention programs. The agencies funded and their programs are as follows:

Ebony Counseling Center - After-School, Community Service and Community Learning Programs.

- ❖
- ◆ Provide After-School Program curriculum focusing on gang prevention subject matter to specific elementary and middle schools in Bakersfield.
- ◆ Provide Community Service Learning Projects to those youth focusing on involvement of youth in positive activities and projects in the arts, school sports, club sports, sporting events and development and involvement in public forums.
- ◆ Establish a Community Service Youth Advisory Committee utilizing youth from identified High Schools to assist with workshops and participate with the younger youth in the Community Service Learning Projects.

Garden Pathways, Inc. - Comprehensive Youth and Adult Mentoring Services.

- ◆ Provide comprehensive group and individual youth mentoring services promoting healthy life skills to at-risk youth ages 14 to 21. Additional services include group mentoring events with practical applications of daily-living and relationship skills, crisis intervention, resource and referral, and long-term follow up to address individual needs. Mentoring events encompass community services projects, sports events, and other life enrichment experiences.
- ◆ Provide comprehensive group and individual adult mentoring services promoting healthy life skills to parents of at-risk youth. Additional services include crisis intervention, resource and referral, and long-term follow up to address individual needs. (Referrals through County gang-prevention funding are limited to the Probation Department.)

Garden Pathways, Inc. - Performing Arts After-School and Day Camp Services to Youth.

- ◆ Provide opportunities to at-risk youth ages 6-12 to engage in a broad spectrum of the arts, academic enrichment, physical activities, and character education in the arts-based after-school and day camp programs of E3 Performing Arts, a fully-licensed day care center. (Referrals through County gang-prevention funding are limited to a designated school.)

Kern County Superintendent of Schools Youth and Family Services Programs and parent Project Facilitator Training.

- ◆ Coordinate the early identification and referral of at-risk students and their families to after-school mentoring and parent skills building programs.
- ◆ Expand and recruit the Parent Project facilitators, including the outlying areas of Kern County in Delano, McFarland and Mojave.

Mothers Against Senseless Killings (MASK) - Youth Leadership Program and Crises Intervention Services.

- ◆ Organize a variety of rallies and meetings aimed at outreaching to youth in the community.
- ◆ Respond in homes at the point of immediate need or other crisis event and conduct support group meetings on an as needed basis to address community

needs in response to acts of gang violence.

- ◆ Develop a youth leadership program called Teens Against Senseless Killings (TASK) through collaboration with South High School for the development of a non-violent anti-gang culture for youth.

New Life Recovery and Training Program - Vocational Training and Employment Program.

- ◆ Provide training program to males who “age out” of the Foster Care System, those identified in the CalWORKs and Cal-Learn programs and those in the Independent Living Program and to other low income disadvantaged male youth who are at-risk of gang involvement.
- ◆ Provide, in conjunction with Bakersfield College Construction Technology Program, six months of classroom instruction and six months of employment development activities.

Stay Focused, Inc. - Mentoring, Crisis Intervention Programs and Community Based Outreach.

- ◆ Provide individual or group mentoring services to youth between the ages of 4 and 18 identified as high risk, at risk, and gang involved..
- ◆ Provide a training session for youth released from incarceration to change future decision making. Provide home calls to the homes of youths in the training program to stay involved and connected.
- ◆ Provide community based mentoring and partnership with organizations to provide opportunities for attendance at athletic events and socialization.
- ◆ Conduct outreach events including Neighborhood Rallies and Summits, and gang awareness training for parents, school staff, community members and workshops in neighborhoods as needed with the use of the Youth Intervention Specialists..

Stop the Violence - Community Rallies and Youth Leadership Opportunities.

- ◆ Conduct community rallies to promote gang awareness through speakers from law enforcement, youth and gang-involved individuals.
- ◆ Conduct outdoor week-end leadership outings for at-risk youth.
- ◆ Conduct monthly outings that are cultural, educational or recreational to at-risk youth.

