

REPORT 2019 October Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name:	Federal Tax ID#:		
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Head Of Organization

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Application Contact

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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2019 October Cycle	Report Date: 09/15/2020 12:00 am
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 40,000	Date: 10/13/2019
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

All objectives cited in our original proposal were met. Through the help of this funding during the 2019-20 school year, 1,184 students received direct services in 14 middle schools in Comal and Guadalupe counties through the support of our CIS Middle School Student Success Program. The anticipated goal was 1,180 students served. The objectives for the students we served were: 95% will stay in school, 95% will be promoted to the next grade, and improvement in 85% of students with behavior issues, 70% of students with attendance issues and 85% of students with academic issues.

The grant funds specifically supported the salaries of on-campus professional Site Coordinators who work directly with at-risk students addressing their needs with intensive services and building positive relationships at a critical time in their educational process and during a time in their lives when they are the most vulnerable socially and emotionally. Students who are overwhelmed by food and financial insecurities are less likely to thrive and more likely to only focus on surviving. Students received comprehensive integrated services including counseling, mentoring and supportive guidance; basic needs such as food, clothing, shoes, family assistance; mental health support to include therapeutic counseling; academic support such as tutoring; behavioral support; and linkages to community resources such as rent and utility assistance, medical services, and transportation. Our Site Coordinators are standing in the gap by providing kids the encouragement, love and resources they need to change the course of their lives and succeed.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

While our program is traditionally delivered in person, on campus, there was a significant period of time our Site Coordinators were unable to see students as normal. This year, we learned the importance of being flexible and pivoting our delivery of services and continued ongoing face to face support through "porch" visits and virtually or over the phone, so they could continue to be supported and encouraged through a very difficult season. We believe the CIS program is not a "one size fits all" paradigm and we are especially proud of our staff taking all lengths necessary to ensure students and their families received the assistance they needed so that students could focus on their remote learning academics and their own overall health. Relationships that had been developed helped to sustain the work more effectively via virtual resources.

4: What needs were addressed?

These at-risk students are facing challenging home situations, inadequate medical, dental, and mental health care which can lead to increased feelings of despair and hopelessness, reflecting in poor academic performance, lack of motivation, and self-harm or suicide. We see an increase in dropout rates, harmful behaviors, and a bleak future for our community when these risk factors remain unaddressed. We know from the results of our school-based suicide prevention and education programs that middle school students need our support now more than ever to navigate an uncertain and chaotic time in their lives. The number of students exhibiting crisis level anxiety, depression and self-injury ideation continues to increase every year and Site Coordinators spend more of their time addressing these critical issues. In many cases, therapeutic counseling was provided to students whose families could not afford these resources. Additionally, many students found themselves separated from their only support net when schools closed in March due to COVID-19. Students were able to continue with therapeutic counseling via telehealth sessions if their parents consented. Our Site Coordinators had ongoing face to face support through "porch" visits or regular phone call check-ins, delivered school prepared meals daily to families, school supplies, emergency groceries and health items. All of this became the priorities in their lives during this time.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

Program success is measured by improved grades, grade progression, attendance, behavior and social/emotional state of the students served. Measurement tools include data points from school district portals that Site Coordinators use to evaluate progress at every grading period and at year end. Reports include: school report cards/grades, attendance rates, growth in STAAR scores and health and wellness pre and post-surveys that measure social/emotional functioning. The success of this program directly correlates to the achievement of program goals set through the TEA contract. A total of 60,601 services were provided to these students by staff, mentors and community resources coordinated by CIS staff. This represents a total of 19 hours on average per student in activities including individual or group counseling, crisis intervention and leadership training, building academic skills, problem solving, tutoring, decision-making, character development and mental health support. Of the students in this program, 99.9% stayed in school (exceeded goal of 95%); 99.7% were promoted to the next grade (exceeded goal of 95%); 84% improved in academics (exceeded goal of 85%); 81% improved in behavior issues (goal of 85%); and 80% (goal of 70%) improved in attendance.

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

This project will continue to be a component of the CIS South Central Texas programming. As the middle school population becomes more vulnerable to social issues that threaten their well-being, school districts are recognizing that CIS provides the support needed to provide intervention and address these needs. In 2018, suicide was the second leading cause of death in ages 10-34. The suicide rate for youth ages 10-14 tripled from 2007 to 2017 and nearly twice the homicide rate by 2017. Sadly, we see this statistic play out in our own communities. We feel it is imperative that this program endures so that vital lifesaving support is available to the youth in our schools. CIS is fortunate to be supported by state funding, school district contracts, foundations, United Way, community donations as well as the hard work of staff and generosity of our donors that together results in successful fundraisers. The CIS Thrift Store continues to be a solid source of income and has the potential to become an even more robust stream of income in the coming years. CIS is dedicated to committing the resources necessary to continue this important work whose purpose is to support the well-being and success of our community's children, through the support of foundations, including the Najim Charitable Foundation, is critical.

7: Please provide any other comments or information relevant to this grant.

We are grateful to have expanded our program into more schools this year emphasizing the community and school districts recognition that this highly at-risk student population requires more support and guidance beyond what school personnel can provide them. The communities we serve place the highest priority on the well-being of their children and have placed great trust in CIS' ability to protect the most vulnerable. This new school year brings new challenges for students as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause new concerns and issues. At the beginning of the school year in the 14 schools served through this program, there are approximately 35% to 60% remote learners and 40% to 65% in school learners. Many are already struggling with factors preventing them from focusing on their academics and now they are in desperate need of consistent encouragement and support to help them be successful in remote learning as well as a new way of life on campus. The support of our Site Coordinators has always been crucial, but now in an even more profound way we are empowering students so they can face the myriad of new challenges with courage.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
Personnel	\$1,004,892	\$40,000	\$709,481	\$40,000
Operations	\$37,410	\$0	\$61,680	\$0
Insurance	\$8,527	\$0	\$8,357	\$0
Professional Services	\$10,429	\$0	\$8,207	\$0
Facilities	\$8,251	\$0	\$5,347	\$0
Community Outreach	\$6,443	\$0	\$910	\$0
Technology	\$12,514	\$0	\$12,362	\$0
Other	\$145,868	\$0	\$4,708	\$0
TOTAL:	\$1,234,334	\$40,000	\$811,052	\$40,000

Signature

Christine Douglas