

REPORT 2020 April Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Connections Individual and Family Services		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2179169	
Address: 1414 West San Antonio Street	City: New Braunfels	State: TX	Zip Code: 78130
Website: www.connectionsifs.org		Fax: (830) 608-1262	

Head Of Organization

Name: Jacob Huereca	Title: Chief Executive Officer
E-Mail Address: jhuereca@connectionsifs.org	Phone: (830) 608-1262

Application Contact

Name: Jacob Huereca	Title: Chief Executive Officer	E-Mail Address: jhuereca@connectionsno nprofit.org	Phone: (830) 629-6571
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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2020 April Cycle	Report Date: 02/10/2021 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: 25,000	Date: 04/24/2020
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

Goal one objectives:

- o Ensure crisis stabilization for youth
- o Once admitted to counseling services, comprehensively assess each youth's unique strengths, and needs
- o Ensure plans to assist the youth with a path to success are developed and implemented beginning from the start of services
- o Ensure an effective continuum of service linkage within the agency and community to promote positive outcomes/reduce risk factors that impact youth's life trajectory
- o Reduce youth maladaptive coping mechanisms and increase each youth's decision-making ability to make appropriate choices through education and skills training
- o Ensure that all services are provided within a framework of trauma-informed and evidenced-informed practices to facilitate long term recovery from trauma/victimization

Goal two objectives:

- o Decrease youth risk factors/Increase youth knowledge about the dangers of risk factors that may affect a healthy lifestyle so youth can make healthy, informed decisions

- o Provide awareness of and link at-risk youth/families to resources in the community
- o When family is involved in counseling, improve family protective factors through counseling services and parenting classes

All staff are trained in Trauma Based Relational Intervention and this is used a foundation for how the atmosphere of the agency operates; staff receive annual crisis intervention training; and we ensure that all clinical staff are able to attend trauma focused evidenced-informed practice trainings. As youth discharge from services they are connected to aftercare services in their home community. Youth take part in the learning process for positive coping skills and decision making.

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

There were no changes from the original proposal.

4: What needs were addressed?

The needs that the agency is addressing are providing trauma recovery for crime victims, prevent child abuse; working with families to resolve family conflict; work with youth to reduce risk factors that threaten the safety and stability of youth and families, such as substance abuse, emerging mental health issues, runaway behaviors, truancy, and exposure to criminal activity.

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

Each program has its own evaluation plan to measure/assess effectiveness. These measures are collected at intake and at discharge. The agency's outcome measures for the purposes of this grant are as follows:

- o 75% of youth receiving counseling/trauma recovery within residential services will show improvement in risk factors utilizing the THRIVE survey from the time of admission to the end of services. Youth exiting residential services have an average overall total score on the Thrive of 3.95 points out of 5 or 79%.
- o 80% of clients and referral sources will report satisfaction with program services. 77% of clients indicated a positive experience at the end of services.
- o 75% of youth and families participating in counseling will accomplish desired goals and client improvement. At the end of our first quarter 75% of youth/families had improvement.
- o 90% of youth participating in curriculum-based education within the substance abuse prevention program will show improvement in knowledge and perception of risk factors from pre to post-test. The first groups did report a 96% improvement from pre to post test.

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

Yes, we do plan to continue this project. The agency values and regularly maintains investment from foundation investors, knowing that many children benefit from this project results for generations to come. Connections has been working to deepen our relationships with community stakeholders to increase these investments in services and to prepare for future needs. The agency has also been building relationships with corporations and charitable foundations that have not funded the agency in the past in order to increase awareness of community needs and engage potential donors in the agency's mission. The agency also regularly evaluates its organizational structure in order to maximize resources, address community needs, and maintain cost-effective stewardship of all funding.

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

Connections is extremely grateful to the Najim Foundation for their support. We would not have been able to operate last year with the significant impact COVID had in our communities without the commitment of amazing individuals that make up the Najim Foundation. Thank you so much for everything that you do for our local communities and we look forward to partnering with you in the future.

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
Salaries-3 counseling supervisors, 14 counselors	\$801,070	\$25,000	\$742580.00	\$25000
Fringe Benefits	\$120,000	\$3,500	\$111387.00	\$0
Training and Travel	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$20852.00	\$0
Cost of Office Space (Rent, Utilities, Commun)	\$66,000	\$0	\$63790.00	\$0
Supplies/Printing/Postage/Computer Svcs	\$17,250	\$2,500	\$15791.00	\$0
Other-Insurance, Audit, etc.	\$15,000	\$0	\$15626.00	\$0
Indirect Cost (administrative costs to program)	\$137,000	\$0	\$135803.00	\$0
TOTAL:	\$1,176,320	\$36,000	\$1,105,829	\$25,000
Signature Jacob Huereca				