

REPORT 2019 October Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

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Application Contact

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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2019 October Cycle	Report Date: 10/08/2020 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: 50,000	Date: 10/08/2020
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

A. Student Goal: JA will serve 7,000 students in new JA Finance Park location

Actual: 6,701 students participated in JA Finance Park program. The new location of JA Finance Park successfully opened its doors on January 9, 2020. Recognition of the Najim Charitable Foundation as legacy sponsor is prominently featured on the Philanthropy kiosk. The Najim Charitable Foundation's continued investment in JA Finance Park will play a vital role in hosting and providing the program to thousands of students.

B. Goal: Through their participation, students will have an increased understanding of financial management and affirm a newfound understanding of the value an education have on their ability to secure higher paying jobs..

Actual: After their participation, students experienced a 13% increase in financial literacy understanding confirmed by the improvement from pre-test scores to post-test scores. 90% of students expect to graduate from high school with 77% stating they will set goals for their future.

C. Goal: JA students share how their plans for the future have matured (the understanding of the importance of a complete education, the potential for further formal education after high school graduation, etc.) through the use of open-ended questions on tests.

Actual: Overall 94% agreed that doing well in school, graduating from high school, continuing their education, and setting goals for their future will lead to a successful future. 74% strongly agreed that they will probably graduate from high school along with 78% of student participants planning to attend at least two years of college.

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

JA was on track to exceed this 2019-20 student goal until school campuses closed due to the COVID pandemic at the beginning of March 2020. San Antonio companies also mandated employees to refrain from volunteering and work from home including JA Finance Park. With school visits scheduled until end of May 2020, JA immediately pivoted the delivery of JA Finance Park by providing educators and students with online program resources to continue the delivery of JA Finance Park program virtually. As a result, JA provided the JA Finance Park program to 6,701 students.

Educators responded immediately by implementing the virtual delivery and utilizing program materials online.

4: What needs were addressed?

At-risk youth, emanating from financially challenging family situations, usually do not have the opportunity to learn effective money management or career enhancing strategies at home. Their parents or guardians are working hard just to keep their modest existence in place. At JA Finance Park, the playing field is leveled where every student is treated the same regardless of financial status. At risk youth realize that in order to move away from poverty, they must not only secure the education and training needed to acquire their desired job, but effective budgeting of that income is what will lead to a stable, financially secure home life.

During the 2019-20 school year, 82% of JA Finance Park student participants were socio-economically "at-risk". The Najim Charitable Trust's investment supported the delivery of classroom lessons where students learned all aspects of personal finance - budgeting, credit, saving, investing and how education affects earning potential. During their JA Finance Park site visit, students put their knowledge into action and learned effective money management by becoming adults for the day charged with preparing a balanced budget. They made decisions that helped them understand the challenges of daily life for their parents and families. This is not an opportunity that at-risk youth usually have. Through their participation, at-risk youth now have the ability to put this knowledge into action at home with their parents and family. They now have the power to teach their parents and/or family how to develop and live within a budget.

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

JA utilizes both quantitative and qualitative measures to evaluate its effectiveness through the administration of pre/post-tests. The evaluation protocol consists of administering a pre-test at the beginning of the program to establish baseline financial literacy knowledge for the students. A post-test is administered following the completion of the program to the same sampling of students. This process is then scored to measure growth and impact.

Results from 2019-20 surveys included an overall 13% increase in financial literacy knowledge. Attitude and behavioral responses affirmed a newfound understanding of the value of setting goals, graduating from high school, education attainment, and the vision of creating their own future. The majority of students made a connection between real life and education and realized the importance of staying in school.

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

Yes, JA will continue the delivery of JA Finance Park program during the 2020-21 school year. Although the on-site simulation will not be operating during the first half of the school year because of mandated school district policies concerning field trips, JA will replicate the delivery of online program resources to educators and students as done successfully last spring.

JA Virtual Finance Park is the virtual simulation developed by JA USA to mirror the on -site simulation. It is designed to help middle and high school students better understand how to manage money by assigning them simulated life scenarios and challenging them to successfully manage their finances. Like JA Finance Park, the program is delivered by the teacher with the support of a remote volunteer from the local business community. Students use computers or mobile devices to participate in the virtual simulation helping them gain a better understanding of how to assess difficult financial situations and create balanced family budgets.

JA will sustain the operation of JA Finance Park through the renewal of current sponsors of business kiosks and securing new sponsors from the business community. JA Finance Program's expansion plan is a continual strategy involving the recruitment of new schools and educators who understand the benefits of student participation and the program's correlation to state standards.

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

JA Finance Park educators and volunteers are an integral part of the program's success. Volunteers and educators recognize the impact the JA Finance Park program has on the lives of students.

JA Finance Park volunteer feedback:

"I really enjoyed the Finance Park experience and thought it was very fun and presented the students with real-life decision-making choices and options. This is something I felt I would have enjoyed as a student."

"It really helps kids see where all the money actually goes each month and how their choices impact other decisions and the bottom line for the family."

JA Finance Park educator feedback:

"The Finance Park curriculum leaves students with the revelation that "Adulthood" is not easy. They learn about budgeting, salaries, and walk away with a sense of responsibility."

"I really enjoyed doing this program with my students! The curriculum is engaging especially with the extension activities. The students' knowledge that helps with our financial literacy TEKS."

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
Program Materials	\$15,700	\$2,952	\$15,700	\$2,952
Program Implementation and Evaluation	\$123,270	\$23,175	\$123,270	\$23,175
Program Insurance	\$9,162	\$1,723	\$9,162	\$1,723
Program Fees/Outside Service	\$7,070	\$1,329	\$7,070	\$1,329
Program Administration	\$1,937	\$367	\$1,937	\$367
License Fees	\$20,753	\$3,902	\$20,753	\$3,902
Rent/Utilities	\$71,193	\$13,384	\$71,193	\$13,384
Miscellaneous	\$11,450	\$2,153	\$11,450	\$2,153
Utilities	\$5,400	\$1,015	\$5,400	\$1,015
TOTAL:	\$265,935	\$50,000	\$265,935	\$50,000

Signature

Janie Cook