

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Communities In Schools South Central Texas		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2653402	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 161 S. Castell Ave.	City: New Braunfels	State: TX	Zip Code: 78130	
Website: www.cis-sct.org		Fax: (830) 620-4247	United Way Funded: Yes	

Fiscal Year:
September 01 to August 31

Head Of Organization

Name: Chris Douglas	Title: CEO
E-Mail Address: cdouglas@cissct.org	Phone: (830) 620-4247

Application Contact

Name: Jennifer Clarke	Title: Grants Manager	E-Mail Address: jclarke@cissct.org	Phone: (830) 620-4247
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2008	\$25,000
2011	\$30,000
2012	\$22,000
2014	\$30,000
2015	\$35,000
2016	\$35,000
2017	\$35,000
2018	\$35,000
2019	\$40,000
Total	\$287,000

Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?
No

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$40,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$1,105,492	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$4,127,633
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Mission Statement:
The mission of Communities In Schools of South Central Texas is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to succeed in school and achieve in life.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

Championing the CIS Middle School Success Program: Addressing the risk and building protective factors that influence children's academic success in Guadalupe and Comal counties.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
09/01/2020	08/31/2021

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Education

Education Priorities:

Elementary to High School

Program / Project Description:

Funding is requested to champion the CIS Middle School Student Success Program in which our on-campus Site Coordinators provide life changing comprehensive services to at-risk students in the 14 middle schools served by Communities In Schools of South Central Texas in Comal and Guadalupe Counties. At-risk middle school students are at a critical juncture in their lives. Students facing challenging home situations, inadequate medical, dental, and mental health care can experience increased feelings of despair, 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.

CIS will make a positive change for the youth served through this program by: 1) Identifying students who are in crisis and providing direct services or accessing community resources to address the issues, including access to mental health services and 2) Providing students the tools they need to encourage resiliency, self-awareness, positive decision-making and goal setting.

Through this program, CIS will serve 2,468 highly at-risk middle school students with comprehensive, evidence-based and integrated services including supportive guidance and counseling; mentoring; health and human services; academic assistance; enrichment activities; and parental and family strengthening activities. CIS provides these services through campus-based Site Coordinators who build relationships and stand in the gap by providing kids the encouragement, love and resources they need to change the course of their lives and succeed.

A staggering 71% of the families we serve are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Education is the most effective tool for breaking the cycle of poverty. However, students in poverty are at highest risk for dropping out. Dropping out of school is not an event, it is a process. Children who fail to graduate are more than twice as likely to live in poverty, three times as likely to be unemployed, and eight times as likely to be incarcerated. When risk factors go unaddressed, the community misses an opportunity to nurture a productive citizen. By bringing targeted services to individual students, CIS works to eliminate the factors that keep students from being able to focus on learning.

CIS continues to work with the most vulnerable population in our community--children whose lives are negatively impacted by poverty, family dysfunction, mental health issues and other concerns that can prevent them from achieving a successful path in life. These concerns often lead to feelings of hopelessness, low self-worth and an inability to see a way to overcome these barriers. These students often have no hope. We can ameliorate this and help them to have hope.

This new school year brings news challenges for students. The COVID-19 pandemic that first affected students in March 2020 continues to cause new concerns and issues for the students we serve. In the 14 schools to benefit from 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.

Mental health issues faced by this population are a significant factor in negatively impacting academic success. Add the strain students are feeling from having their world turned upside down when the pandemic hit and for many, this means a loss of a very important protective factor in their life. Having ongoing face to face support from our staff whether on campus or through "porch" visits are continuing to help students through this period of so many unknowns. Our professional staff focuses on identifying these mental health related issues and addressing them with both direct and brokered professional services.

The Site Coordinator works closely with school administrators, counselors and teachers to assess the needs of students and provide resources that will help them overcome their specific barriers. These services are not stopping because of the non-traditional way students may be learning this year. CIS has been and will continue to adapt to these circumstances evaluating how our services need to change to serve our students, especially now. Since March 2020, we have continued to stay connected to our students and their families to provide the services and support they need during this very unprecedented time. We have learned much during this time and feel especially ready and capable to accept the challenges that lie ahead during this school year with the foremost goal being to help our students achieve in school and life.

The outcome goals for the students we will serve are: 95% will stay in school; 95% will be promoted to the next grade; 85% who present behavior problems will demonstrate improvement; 70% who present with attendance problems will demonstrate improvement; and 85% who present with academic problems will demonstrate improvement.

The CIS program is not a "one size fits all" paradigm. CIS provides the skills, tools and support at-risk youth need to overcome their academic and environmental obstacles. The result of this program is to increase an at-risk student's ability to pursue post-secondary education, training, or meaningful employment and to participate in and contribute to, the social, economic, and political life of their community. It is imperative that intervention and prevention programming must focus on youth at critical developmental stages to ensure success.

Evaluation Plan:

Program success will be realized with an improvement in grades, 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.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Our 27-year history demonstrates our ability to successfully achieve sustainability. CIS has developed a diverse network of support that includes state funding (25%), private foundations (12%), United Way (1%), fundraising activities (7%), community donations (14%), and contracts with the school districts we serve (41%). Monthly financial reports provide ongoing monitoring of funding levels and the board and staff respond to any funding challenges if they arise. In addition, the CIS Thrift Store continues to be a solid source of income and has the potential to become a more robust stream of revenue in the coming years. All are facing a rigorous challenge to fundraise during this time. Several of our larger foundations and numerous civic as well as private contributors may have to diminish their giving due to the economy. Our entire board and staff are intensely focused on maintaining the critically important services through new and creative funding streams.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
3,625	2,468

Please provide the percentage of each group below that will be served by the project in which funds are being requested. Do not leave any area blank. If that specific group will not be served, include zero. The percentage should total 100%.

A. Population Served Age	B. Population Served Ethnicity
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Infants (0-5)	0%	African American	5%
Children (6-13)	81%	Asian American	1%
Young Adults (14-18)	19%	Caucasian	35%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	59%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

Outside San Antonio

Counties applicant is in:

Comal, Guadalupe

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Personnel	\$1,017,250	\$40,000
Operations	\$33,862	\$0
Insurance	\$7,377	\$0
Professional Services	\$13,328	\$0
Facilities	\$8,193	\$0
Community Outreach	\$3,752	\$0
Technology	\$3,314	\$0
Other	\$18,416	\$0
TOTAL:	\$1,105,492	\$40,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Kronkosky Foundation	\$12,500
Kerr Foundation	\$700
Community Contributions	\$82,691
Baptist Health Foundation	\$85,217
TOTAL:	\$181,108

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
McKenna Foundation	\$12,500
Texas Education Agency (Middle Schools)	\$288,760
School District Contracts	\$562,333
United Way of Comal County	\$13,750
United Way of Guadalupe County	\$1,440
Hope 100 Foundation	\$5,600

TOTAL:	\$884,383
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Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Kronkosky Foundation	\$37,500
Kerr Foundation	\$1,800
Baptist Health Foundation	\$54,783
McBryde	\$4,000
Caterpillar	\$40,000
Sundt	\$3,000
Community Contributions	\$290,520
TOTAL:	\$431,603

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Hope 100 Foundation	\$14,400
School District Contracts	\$1,405,167
Texas Education Agency (HS and Elem)	\$742,526
United Way of Comal County	\$41,250
United Way of Guadalupe County	\$2,560
TOTAL:	\$2,205,903

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?
100%

If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?
The Board of Directors is comprised of 25 highly engaged and devoted individuals representing education, government, business and volunteer sectors of the community. Meetings are held on a regular monthly basis, with additional special meetings held as needed. The board demonstrates their commitment to the mission of serving at-risk students in the community. The board has an active committee structure which meet on a monthly basis and report back to the full board on the goals set per our Annual Operations Plan. All board members receive a Board Member job description and acknowledge their understanding of the expectations which include serving on a committee, giving financially, soliciting financial support, and advocating for the organization. Members receive permanent name tags and CIS shirts to proudly identify themselves at community and CIS events. Board members continuously exceed the goal of required consistent attendance at board and committee meetings.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Jenny Faulkner, President	Retired (ISD) Director of Technology
Keith Moore, Past President	E. Keith Moore CPA
Jerry Perkins, Treasurer	Business Coach, Realtor
Barbar Doeppenschmidt, Secretary	Retired school administrator

James Jeffers, President Elect	Owner, J&R Gymnastics
Tricia Albrecht	Volunteer
Jill Bassett	Owner, Rudy's BBQ
Susan Bell	Retired RN, School Nurse
Gary Bird	Retired Physician
Steve Chapman	Retired
David Etrheim	Occupational Safety Mgr. RAFB
Chris Humphries	Owner, A/C and plumbing company
Joann Lange	VP, First Commercial Bank
Jon Lindholm	Human Resource Director, Marion ISD
David Ramirez	Valero Energy
Rick Seibert	Sr VP, Jefferson Bank
Margie Skolaut	Owner, Lazy L&L Campground
Frances Soechting	Substitute teacher, NBISD
Judy Wohlfarth	Retired USAF/SCUCISD
Mike Wohlfarth	Retired Principal/Field Supervisor Teachers
Elizabeth Zwak	Executive Manager, Hunter Industries
Carolyn Allen	Retired, Valero
Maurice Edmundson	Senior Acquisition Consultant
Barbara Gettig	Retired Public School Administrator
Denise Andabaker	Realtor, Global Realty Group, LLC
Signature	
Chris Douglas	