

City Year San Antonio (CYSA) Letter of Inquiry to the Najim Family Foundation

Project Title: City Year's *Whole School Whole Child* Learning Model at MLK Academy

To support the Whole School Whole Child program at MLK Academy, providing critical tutoring, mentoring and school-wide supports to help 472 students succeed in school and beyond.

Amount of funding request: \$100,000

Brief statement of the organization's purpose and history: City Year partners with San Antonio public schools to help students graduate, ready for college or career. By focusing on educational needs of high-poverty schools and harnessing the human capital of AmeriCorps members, City Year fulfills its mission through national service as an effective part of the solution in public education and producing high-caliber talent for a vibrant workforce.

City Year was founded in 1988 in Boston with a pilot corps of 50 young people to make a positive impact in local communities. CYSA was launched in 1995 with the support of the bipartisan Texas Commission for Volunteerism and Community Service, the City of San Antonio and H-E-B Grocery and currently serves 6,300 students in seven San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) schools. CYSA began partnering with SAISD in 2006 to deliver its data-driven Whole School Whole Child (WSWC) model, consisting of year-long academic activities, social-emotional skills development, and school-wide enrichment. Throughout the day, 89 CYSA AmeriCorps members tutor and mentor students one-on-one, provide in-class support, and organize school-wide initiatives – providing schools with the people power necessary to give every child the opportunity to succeed.

Project description: At SAISD's Martin Luther King Jr. Academy, many students are behind academically and are not receiving the attention they need to achieve in school. Only 57% have met state assessment benchmarks in reading, and just 15% of students meet postsecondary readiness standards in two or more subjects. MLK Academy serves a predominantly African-American (46%) and Hispanic (52%) student population, and 96% of students come from households that are economically-disadvantaged. These students face significant adversity and low-income challenges, often lacking substantial cognitive and social-emotional skills that create barriers to learning and sticking with school.

Fortunately, we know that at-risk students can achieve with the right support at the right time (Balfanz 2013); however, these students require extra supports that under-resourced schools do not have the capacity to provide. WSWC bridges this resource gap to help pave the way to on-time graduation and future career success. The WSWC model at MLK Academy will provide:

- Research-based academic interventions in math and literacy to help at-risk students improve;
- Social-emotional skill-building for students in need of attendance and behavior support to develop critical competencies needed for 21st century jobs; and
- School-wide initiatives to boost learning, school connectedness and college/career readiness.

CYSA will deploy a 12-member AmeriCorps team, 1 team leader and 1 impact manager to MLK Academy to support students and whole grades every day, starting before school begins and finishing after school ends.

"As young, committed professionals, City Year AmeriCorps members serving at MLK Academy form powerful relationships with our students that create a sense of belonging for success in school." - Natasha Pinnix, Principal, Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy

Brief statement of any previous funding received from The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation: City Year San Antonio deeply appreciates the continued funding support of the Foundation since 2007 (\$75,000 in 2016, supporting WSWC in our SAISD partner middle schools) providing valuable program investments for our work in schools and with students.

How the proposed project relates to The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation's funding priorities: CYSA shares the Foundation's priority of serving the educational needs of our community's children and is fully committed to helping SAISD students reach their full potential. CYSA is in Phase 1 of its Long Term Impact plan to ensure that more students are meeting essential academic benchmarks and set up for future success. In the next 5 years, our goal is to implement the WSWC model in one complete high school feeder pattern to provide continuous, yearly support for our students, keeping them on track from elementary to high school.

Line-item budget for project in which funds are being requested:

	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2018
	City Year San Antonio	City Year San Antonio	Najim Family Foundation
	WSWC Program Budget	MLK Academy Budget	Budget Request
Staff Salaries & Benefits			
Staff Salaries	678,687	72,536	22,103
Staff Benefits	135,459	14,477	4,411
Total Staff Salaries & Benefits	814,146	87,013	26,514
AmeriCorps Member Stipends & Benefits			
AmeriCorps Member Stipends	1,114,893	180,659	55,051
AmeriCorps Member Benefits	156,119	25,298	7,709
Total Corps Stipends & Benefits	1,271,012	205,957	62,760
Other Non-Personnel Expenses			
Consulting and Professional Services	8,683	1,220	374
Transportation and Travel	66,960	9,408	2,867
Conferences and Training Seminars	4,300	604	184
Advertising and Recruiting	6,631	932	284
Promotional/Appreciation	8,583	1,206	367
Program and Office Supplies	54,737	7,691	2,344
Information Technology	11,781	1,655	504
Telecom Expense	29,650	4,166	1,269
Dues & Fees	1,600	225	-
Insurance	8,022	1,127	343
Occupancy	5,167	726	221
Event Venue Expense	46,000	6,463	1,969
Total Other Non-Personnel Expenses	252,114	35,423	10,726
Subtotal Operating Expenses	2,337,272	328,393	100,000
Shared Costs*	617,286	86,730	-
Total Expenses	2,954,558	415,123	100,000

*Shared Costs represents costs for ITS, Human Resources, Finance, Communications, Marketing, Recruitment, Training and Evaluation incurred at a National level and allocated to all of City Year's operating sites.

Children impacted:

WSWC will impact 6,300 unduplicated children.

NFF requested funds will impact 472 unduplicated children.

Organization total revenue and expenses for current fiscal year:

FY18 Budgeted Revenue: \$3,408,225

FY18 Budgeted Expenses: \$3,306,870

Project timeline: July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Brief project evaluation criteria: In WSWC's holistic model, CYSA expects MLK students to measurably become more motivated, activate their true potential, and attain durable skills both emotionally and academically. Ultimately, we wish to see these students enter 10th grade prepared to successfully pursue their high school diplomas. At-risk students who reach 10th grade with passing grades, 90% attendance rates, and controlled behavior are four times more likely to graduate than their peers who do not (Balfanz and Fox 2011). By offering long-term tactical support, CYSA helps students develop the right skills and confidence to continue to graduation.

Our evaluation strategy is comprised of: surveys of AmeriCorps members, teachers and principals; school data on attendance and course performance; the Devereaux Student Strengths Assessment tool (DESSA) to measure social-emotional skills; and databases to track interventions with students.

For 2017-2018, we plan to achieve these goals at MLK Academy:

- 200 targeted interventions to off-track students in math, literacy, behavior and/or attendance in grades 3-8
- 8-10 school-wide initiatives, including an afterschool enrichment program
- 40% English Language Arts and 40% math intervention students improve in their assessment scores or grades to reach grade level benchmarks (grade C or higher)
- 50% attendance intervention students improve their daily attendance average to above 90%
- 100% of behavior intervention students increase their DESSA composite score

List other project funders (pending and committed foundations):

Currently, there are no dedicated funders to City Year's program at MLK Academy. At this investment level, the Najim Family Foundation would be named the exclusive Team Sponsor, which includes the Foundation's logo prominently displayed on the front of the signature red bomber jackets, for the CYSA team serving at MLK Academy.

Major committed and pending funders to date for CYSA's Whole School Whole Child model across seven schools:

Committed: SAISD \$1,112,500, AmeriCorps \$947,440, City of San Antonio \$50,000, H-E-B Grocer \$50,000, Carlos Alvarez \$50,000, San Antonio Area Foundation \$40,000, Frost Bank \$10,000, and Full Force Foundation \$12,500.

Pending: Nancy Smith Hurd Foundation \$100,000, Valero Energy \$250,000, Brown Foundation \$25,000, HRJ \$100,000, and Kenedy Foundation, \$25,000.

Contact information of primary and secondary person within organization:

Primary: **Scott Meltzer**, Managing Director of Philanthropy, City Year San Antonio, 109-B North San Saba Street, San Antonio, TX 78207, p. 210.774.0099, smeltzer@cityyear.org

Secondary: **Kelly Hughes Burton**, Executive Director, City Year San Antonio, 109-B North San Saba Street, San Antonio, TX 78207, p. 617.899.6233, khughes@cityyear.org