

Nonprofit Grant Proposal for The Youth and Family Activity Zone

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Critical Reflection

The reason I choose to create this capstone project is to gain further knowledge on developing a grant proposal for a nonprofit that will benefit the community. I used research and evaluation throughout this process to help guide me. Additionally, I used my knowledge of social work practices to have a deeper understanding of the population this nonprofit can benefit.

Using best practice from the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers and core social work competencies; I gathered data applicable to the needs of the community and funneled it into a service utilizing that information to develop and organization design to help meet those needs. This was done through quantitative and qualitative research. By using these methods of research, I was able to develop the knowledge needed to develop a grant proposal that will support a nonprofit design to meet the needs of the community.

By gaining a deepening understanding of a grant proposal and nonprofits, I believe this will further support my contributions to the social work field to help provide needed resources and services to communities. This research provides a greater understanding of the field and population served and furthered my development and knowledge in the field as I pursue my career in social work. Social work is about supporting communities through micro, mezzo and macro work and nonprofits work at all levels to combat social issues that affect all of society.

Executive Summary: The Youth and Family Activity Zone

The Youth and Family Activity Zone (YFAZ) is a new nonprofit (501C3), that is community driven to support teens and families. The mission is providing the community of Dickinson, North Dakota with expanded opportunities for education, services, connection, and resources. Dickinson is a small rural community centrally located amongst many other small communities. Dickinson and surrounding areas have limited resources and need more opportunities for teens, families, and people with disabilities. The YFAZ will be accessible to all teens in the area and their families who are enrolled in an educational program. The YFAZ foundational goals are to provide ongoing educational opportunities, resources, community engagement, fun, and services to youth and their families to help reduce substance use and build stronger familial ties along with increase graduation rates. The YFAZ will also provide job opportunities to an underrepresented group of people in the community to help with inclusion and community growth.

This organization can offer an array of support to the community that provides ongoing education to help support individuals and their families' bringing teens and parents together in a supportive and positive environment. The YFAZ will also provide many job opportunities for the special needs community with equal pay to their colleagues. This will help individuals have more opportunities to grow and meet their life goals while also building a stronger fiscally smart community.

To make this program possible YFAZ is requesting \$128,000 for program startup cost with the total startup cost of the program being \$1,879,900. Thank you for taking this time to consider The Youth and Family Activity Zone as a recipient for the one-year grant period starting January 1, 2023.

Statement of Need

Dickinson is a small town in western North Dakota with a population of about 25,679. Like many areas of North Dakota, it is remote and lacks much needed services and activities for youth. Additionally, this area of the state lacks resources to help support needs, and educational opportunities outside the classroom and services for the whole person and family.

Due to the lack of services, resources, and activities, youth in Dickinson have about a 7% drop out rate. Furthermore, there are issues with truancy, attendance, and other safety issues, including alcohol and drug use. North Dakota has a rate of 62.1% of youth using alcohol, 14.5% using prescription drugs, and 35% using tobacco to name a few. Alcohol alone causes many problems including drinking and driving offences, a chemical dependency, with about 13% of those youth being charged with an offence, which can impact their futures in many ways.

Another population that is greatly impacted by the lack of services in Dickinson are people with disabilities. In North Dakota, only 33% of people with disabilities are working. Moreover, of that 1/3, the US Census Bureau in 2016 reports that people with disabilities make on average \$10,000 less a year than those without a disability. People with disabilities have always been underrepresented in communities and tend to not get paid equal wages. This prevents them from inclusion and growth and puts them at a greater risk of living in poverty.

The community of Dickinson is centered around school and sports; however, these activities do not provide opportunity for all kids and families. For many, there is a critical need for resources and opportunity. Providing a community resources center like YFAZ will allow the inclusion of everyone, creating a community in which all members are engaged and feel like a part of the community. When people feel they are a part of something, they tend to be more engaged and make better choices.

Goals and Objectives

Process 1: Provide classes and activities to the community to teach skills and enhance community life.

Outputs:

- During 2023, the community center will provide 12 different classes based on community interest and expertise.
- During 2023, at least 5 individuals will attend each class.
- During 2023, a total of 90 individuals will attend at least one class at the community center.

Outcomes:

- 75% of the youth who participate in the classes will indicate that they gained skills and interests as a result of the class as reported on a post-class survey.
- 60% of the parents and teachers of students who attend at least one class in 2023 will report an improvement in pro-social behavior as reported on an outcome survey in December 2023.

Process 2: The Youth and Family Activity Zone will employ people with disabilities at equal pay to all employees.

Outputs:

- By December 31, 2023, 50% of the employees of the YFAZ will be people with disabilities.
- \$ 15 an hour will be earned by people with disabilities through their work at the YFAZ in 2023.
- At least 20 people with disabilities will be employed by the YFAZ in 2023.
- 100% of the people employed at the YFAZ will be provided with training and ongoing mentoring.

Outcomes:

- 80% of the employees of the YFAZ will report an increase in their sense of community inclusion as self-reported on the outcome survey in December 2023.
- 75% of the employees of the YFAZ will gain skills, as documented by their supervisors on their quarterly review and skill checklist.

Project Description

The Youth and Family Activity Zone (YFAZ) will provide youth, families, and the community with job opportunities, ongoing education, services, resources, and a safe place for teens to go when not in school.

Engagement Zone

YFAZ creates a safe place for teens to interact with one another while not attending school. They will be open after school from 3pm-8pm, weekends and during the summer from 8am-10pm. There will also be holiday hours for Christmas and spring break. The Zone is geared towards teens enrolled in school and between the ages of 13-21. This is an environment that is monitored and has engagement by positive mentors to help provide a space of community engagement and thought-provoking activities. The staff at YFAZ will engage with the youth to provide fun entertainment (art room, hydroponics, cooking, gaming room, crafting room, dog training, science technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) room, photography room, meditation/ calming room, board game room, etc.) while also encouraging ongoing educational opportunities. In 2023 we will enroll at least 300 youth. They will decide when they want to come and go based on their individual needs and wants.

Goal: To provide access to a safe and positive environment for youth to find engaging activities.

Objective: The youth that will be enrolled will have activities and continued learning opportunities to help prevent substance use and juvenile delinquent behavior.

Job Growth

The Youth and Family Activity Zone will employ people with disabilities at equal pay to all employees. In 2023 50% of the employees at YFAZ will be people with disabilities. With an intended large staff, this will provide jobs for an anticipated 20 people with disabilities the first year. This program is designed to help increase inclusion with this population as well as provide equal pay.

Goal: To increase employment of people with disabilities in the community.

Objective: It will address equal opportunity employment to encourage growth for future job opportunities and personal growth.

Continued Education

Throughout the year there will be ongoing continued education for individuals and their families. Courses will be put on by YFAZ staff and professionals around the community. They will range from mental health services, help with taxes, hygiene care, job support, sex education, social/ emotional skills, financials, cooking/ meal prep, etc. We encourage families to learn these things together and support the whole family.

Goal: Provide community and internal educational classes for continued education.

Objective: Each child enrolled, and a family member will attend at least one class of their choice in the first year.

Evaluation of Plan

The Youth and Family Activity Zone (YFAZ) will be providing classes and activities to the community to teach skills. To meet the goals the YFAZ will provide a survey to all participants when they first enroll to collect data on interest, skills, and social behavior, in addition to a suggestions from staff. Throughout the year the YFAZ will offer 12 different classes based on that survey and at least five individuals will attend each class with 90 individuals attending at least one class throughout the year. At the end of the year, a post survey will be conducted to measure the outcome. The outcome of 75% of youth who participated gained skills, and 60% of parents/ teachers of students who attended will report pro-social behavior outcomes.

Additionally, the YFAZ aims to employ people with disabilities at equal pay to all. In doing this, 50% of YFAZ employees will be people with disabilities. These employees will all be paid equal pay to those without disabilities. By doing this it will provide inclusion to all employees and offer new skills. This will be measured by a survey conducted at the start of all new employee hires and a post survey will be conducted at the end of the year with all employees, with 80% of employees having an increase in their sense of community inclusion. The goal of 75% of employees noting they have gained new skills while on the job as well. Measurement of this will be done as with all employees and separate based on employees who have documented disabilities and those that do not. Additionally, a summary of all employees pay will be provided to collect data on equal pay.

Measuring the impact of how these programs affect the students, parents and employees is critical to understand how this program can impact our community. The surveys conducted will use qualitative and quantitative measurement to have a deeper understanding of how the

program has helped and how it can do better to meet the needs of the community. YFAZ hopes to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of Dickinson families and residents by conducting these surveys. By doing this, we hope to gain a deeper understand of what the wants and needs are to furth support the employees, students, families, and the community. We take this evaluation seriously and plan to use it to continue to refine and grow our program.

Budget

Income	
Fundraiser	\$50,000
Individual Donors	\$1,108,500
Program Fees	\$35,000 (\$5/ person/ day+ 20 people a day for 350 days a year)
Corporate Donors/ Grants	\$100,000
Foundation Grants	\$252,000
Government Grants	\$180,000
Start Up Grant	\$128,000
In Kind Donations	\$26, 400
Total for the year	\$1,879,900

Expenses	
Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance • Daily employees • Program Manager • Executive Director • Cleaning staff • Tech Staff • Social Media/ marketing strategist • Grant writer • Food/ travel • Benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$120,000 • \$624,000 • \$55,000 • \$70,000 • \$31,000 • \$50,000 • \$70,000 • \$50,000 • \$10,000 • \$108,500
Office Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers/ tech • Office Supplies • Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$46,600 • \$8,000 • \$100,000
Maintenance/ Upkeep of monthly bills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric • Gas • Internet • Fixes/ repairs • Taxes • Rent/ Mortgage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,500/ month or \$18,000/ year • \$1,000/ month or \$12,000/ year • \$300/ month or \$3,600/ year • \$1,200/ month or \$14,400/ year • \$2,500/ month or \$30,00 a year • \$10,421/ month or \$125,052 a year
Daily Use Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art supplies • Tech • Science materials • Hydroponic materials • Furniture • Other room needs • Food/drinks • Dinning supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 • \$10,000 • \$10,000 • \$10,000 • \$40,000 • \$50,000 • \$40,000 • \$30,000
In Kind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionals putting on classes/ events • Professionals assisting with training of staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$14,400 • \$12,000
Total for the year	\$1,879,900

Budget Narrative

Personnel

Full time employees:

Executive Director -\$70,000
 Program Manager-\$55,000
 Maintenance-X2 \$60,000 each = \$120,000
 Tech Staff- \$50,000
 Social Media/ Marketing Strategist-\$70,000
 Grant Writer-\$50,000

Part Time Employees:

Cleaning Staff -\$50,000
 Zone Staff-(40 employees working 20 hours/ week at \$15/ hour)

Trainings and Meetings:

Food/ Travel-\$10,000

Benefits for Fulltime Employees:

\$108,500-(7 employees x \$15,500 contribution a year)

Total Personnel Costs

\$1,188,500

Other Expenses

Office Supplies/ Technology

Computers and Tech \$46,600- Office/ staff use for business use.
 Security \$100,000- Cameras, professional security company, other security measures
 Office supplies \$8,000- paper, ink, pens, printer, etc.

Total organizational office supplies expenses are \$154,600

Program Supplies

Art supplies- \$10,000 For art room

Tech-\$10,000 For tech room

Science materials-\$10,000 For science/ STEM room

Hydroponic materials-\$10,000 For gardening room

Furniture-\$40,000 For tables, desks, couches, furniture throughout the facility

Other room needs-\$50,000 For 5 other rooms to be added with \$10,000 to be used for needs in each of those rooms.

Food/drinks-\$40,000 This will be for the startup cost of purchasing food and drinks for youth and their families to cook together and eat at the facility.

Dinning supplies-\$30,000 Silver wear, dishes, etc.

Program Expenses= \$200,000*Maintenance/ Monthly Bills*

Rent/ Mortgage-\$125,052

Electric-\$18,000

Gas-\$12,000

Internet-\$3,600

Fixes/ repairs-\$14,400

Taxes-\$30,000

Total Maintenance/ Monthly bills =\$203,052*In Kind expenses – volunteering*

Professionals putting on classes/ events- \$150/ hour- with about 96 class a year = \$14,400 a year.

Professionals assisting with training of staff from other organizations, job training like Vocational Rehab-\$15/ hour- With a projected 20 person with special needs being hired throughout the year, this could cost up to \$12,000 a year.

In Kind expenses (Volunteers/ Donations) \$26,400**Total other expenses = \$632,600****Total program expenses for the Youth and Family Activity Zone = \$1,879,900**

Capacity and Sustainability for the Youth and Family Activity Zone

The Youth and Family Activity Zone (YFAZ) is a new program, because of that the program does not have a history and this grant being a planning grant that is program specific; it is not possible to provide a rich history of financial records. However, YFAZ does have deep ties with the community and their generous support. The community has helped support us with a fundraiser where \$150,000 was raised. The YFAZ has strong connections with local individual and corporate donors which have raised \$1,208,500. Moreover, The YFAZ also receives funding through program fees with a projected \$35,000 the first year with a projection of 25% increase in the next year. Furthermore, the YFAZ has strong relationships with our in-kind donors and project an increase in this for donations and volunteerism.

The YFAZ has a board of professionals that represent longevity in financial knowledge that help guide and support with appropriate data collections and projected financial needs to help manage the day-to-day operations alongside our paid professionals. Speaking of our staff, the YFAZ have a dedicated staff that helps manage our everyday needs while also looking to the future of how YFAZ can continue to grow and be self-sustaining. They do this by continuing to build community relationships with other organizations to help make the program a wraparound service and community driven.

YFAZ needs to raise an additional \$128,000 to fulfill their needs to get this program up and running. We look forward to your support.

