



Allegheny County Department of Human Services

RFP Response Form

RFP for Teen Programming

PROPOSER INFORMATION

Proposer Name: East End Youth Ministry

Authorized Representative Name & Title: Alex Ruzanic, Executive Director

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: aruzanic@beulahpresby.org

Website: n/a

Legal Status: For-Profit Corp. Nonprofit Corp. Sole Proprietor Partnership

Date Incorporated: Church was incorporated many years ago.

Partners included in this Proposal: Our program is under the Nonprofit of Beulah Presbyterian Church. We also have these are partners in work

- Beulah Presbyterian Church
- First Baptist Church of Monroeville
- Penn Hills Clergy Association
- Waverly Presbyterian Church

How did you hear about this RFP? Jace Ransom share this information with me.

Does your organization have a telecommunications device to accommodate individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing? Yes No

REQUIRED CONTACTS

	Name	Phone	Email
Chief Executive Officer	Jeff Gelpi	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Contract Processing Contact	Alex Ruzanic	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Chief Information Officer	Tori Zido	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Chief Financial Officer	Deb Perry	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MPER Contact*	Alex Ruzanic	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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* MPER is DHS's provider and contract management system. Please list an administrative contact to update and manage this system for your agency.

BOARD INFORMATION

Provide a list of your board members as an attachment or in the space below.

Executive Director-Alex Ruzanic

President-Jeffery Gelpi

Treasurer-Susan Kinchelow

Secretary-Pam Hansen

Board Members-Andy McGhee, Chuck Cooper, Eric McIntosh, Michael Gehrling

Board Chairperson Name & Title: Jeffery Gelpi

Board Chairperson Address: [REDACTED]

Board Chairperson Telephone: [REDACTED]

Board Chairperson Email: [REDACTED]

REFERENCES

Provide the name, affiliation and contact information [include email address and telephone number] for three references who are able to address relevant experience with your organization. *Please do not use employees of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services as references.*

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Reyes Filmore [REDACTED]

Brian Johnson [REDACTED]

Rev. Brian Wallace email- [REDACTED]

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Date Submitted 3/1/2022

Amount Requested: \$225,000

CERTIFICATION

Please check the following before submitting your Proposal, as applicable:

RFP for Teen Programming

I have read the standard County terms and conditions for County contracts and the requirements for DHS Cyber Security, EEOC/Non-Discrimination, HIPAA and Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.

By submitting this Proposal, I certify and represent to the County that all submitted materials are true and accurate, and that I have not offered, conferred or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit or other thing of value for the receipt of special treatment, advantaged information, recipient's decision, opinion, recommendation, vote or any other exercise of discretion concerning this RFP.

Choose one:

My Proposal contains information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information and I have included a written statement signed by an authorized representative identifying those portions or parts of my Proposal and providing contact information.

OR

My Proposal does not contain information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information.

ATTACHMENTS

Please submit the following attachments with your Response Form. These can be found at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations>.

- Partner commitment letters, if applicable
- MWDBE and VOSB documents
- Allegheny County Vendor Creation Form
- Audited financial reports or other financial documentation for the last three years
- W-9

REQUIREMENTS

Please respond to the following. The maximum score a proposal can receive is 100 points. Your response to this section should not exceed 12 pages. (Pages 1-3 are not included in the page count).

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Organizational Experience (20 points possible)

1. Describe your organizational experience serving the target population, specifically teens from diverse communities and populations. Please including examples of ways in which your organization connects with teens.

History

The East End Youth Ministry (EEYM) was formed in response to the rise of poverty and youth violence surrounding Beulah Church. In 2017, four teens from Woodland Hills School District were killed within walking distance of the church, prompting us to start a new initiative to serve the community. Our organization predominately serves students from Penn Hills and Woodland Hills School Districts. We were invited by Woodland Hills School District in 2018 as a community partner to support the district as it cannot address the problems facing their youth alone. The challenges facing students include poverty, single-parent homes, food insecurity, inadequate housing, gangs, trauma, and bullying. Our church has served the community for over 235 years and formed EEYM as a vehicle to continue addressing the needs of those around us.

EEYM began programming in 2018 with the main objective to building positive relationships with youth in Penn Hills and Woodland Hills School districts through an afterschool program that addresses academic deficiencies, builds vision and hope, and meets underlying social services needs as we are able. Programming consists of weekly art workshops, after school tutoring, a free nine-week junior high school leadership development summer camp, and regular service project. We hire teens to work in our summer programs and provide mentoring and on-the-job training. Programming was largely halted and reconfigured throughout the pandemic, and we are now working to rebuild programming and reengage teens and volunteers.

Most recently we have been in discussion with how to connect with our youth from Penn Hills in a conversation with community leaders and led by Dr. Nancy Hines and Jace Ransom. The purpose is to find and create safe spaces for our youth and their families.

2. Describe your organizational experience working in high-need communities.

3. Describe your organization's commitment to serving all individuals regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE), intellectual or physical ability, English language proficiency or life experiences. Provide specific approaches used and examples of how they are reflected in your work.

We are an open and affirming organization. We do not discriminate based upon race, creed, sexual orientation or religion. We want to confirm and welcome all.

Program Design (55 points possible)

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4. Provide an overall description of your proposed Programming and how it will provide teens with the opportunity to engage in enriching and interesting activities. If applicable, include how input from teens and/or best practice research was/will be taken into consideration in the design of the Programming.

Community Served & Programs Offered

EEYM serves nearly 125 students in grades 6-12. The demographics of our students are 55% white, 35% African American, 10% Latino as well as and 60% male, 40% female. Last year we worked with 40 youth and plan to reach 50 youth in the coming year. Students are predominately drawn from surrounding school districts of Penn Hills, Woodland Hills, as well as Gateway, Franklin Regional, and online schools. Our tutoring program operates during the critical 3-6pm timeframe two days and 5-7:30pm one day; a time when youth are most unsupervised. Staff and volunteers assist teens with tutoring, with a goal of building long-term mentoring relationships. The core activities are academic tutoring, arts workshops, family meals, and service projects. A weekly arts program is critical to engaging teens in creative and collaborative activities that create a safe space to express emotions and collaborate in order to help teens build self-esteem and confidence, learn teamwork, build community, and find positive and healthy tools for sharing and articulating thoughts and feelings.

Through holistic programming EEYM connects at-risk youth to volunteers from local churches who provide mentoring, tutoring, and as appropriate meet with families to address critical needs. Our initiative seeks to infuse social capital into at-risk youth in order to help them stay off the streets, connect to positive role models, and grow into their full potential. The bulk of mentoring and tutoring is done through a growing team of volunteers under the direction Beulah Church Pastor Alex Ruzanic. We had 10 volunteers last year, very much reduced as a result of COVID-19 and continue to recruit volunteers from local churches with a goal of returning to 20 regular volunteers through a new partnership with The Penn Hills Clergy Association. Additional EEYM partners include, Penn Hills School District, Woodland Hills School District, Monroeville Baptist Church, Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Waverly Presbyterian Church, The United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The past 18 months were challenging for youth, adjusting to remote learning, school closures, and uncertainty. Our students suffered from remote learning, and many dropped out of school or are now even further behind academically. During the pandemic, the church opened up during the day to help students with online learning and we are now pivoting back to after school and regular in-person activities. We are seeking funding to expand our after-school programming to serve additional Penn Hills teens, continuing the successful art workshops, as well as hiring additional teens to serve in our summer camps. We also desire to see more at-risk kids hired to help us with our programming. We hope to continue serving under-resourced youth in our community and reach additional youth through your support.

Programming Activities & Need

The core of EEYM is relationally connecting to at-risk students by linking them to local volunteers who serve as tutors, mentors, and advocates to keep student on-task academically as well as holistically engage. Using a nationally recognized model from Circles USA our volunteers are trained to work with teens and families as they address barriers to personal and

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professional success. We work with teens to address academic achievement gaps through tutoring help with homework as well improving academic remediation and literacy when necessary. Staff connect with students to meet individual academic needs. An example of our individualized care includes 5 new participants in our art program we learned do not have diplomas and would like to complete their GEDs. Our staff and volunteers now tutor them to prepare for their GED exam. Tutoring is augmented through educational software we plan to install in our computer lab. Financial support will help EEYM to expand the computer lab which provides individualized tutoring and academic support.

We plan to continue our successful arts program that creatively engages teens in a safe space where they can build vision through healing activities that address trauma and disengagement. Our weekly curriculum is led by visiting local arts and empowers youth to push back against negative stereotypes through artistic expression and positive community bonding. Activities include painting, visual arts, hip-hop, spoken word, poetry, live music, and yoga. Like other programs our art program suffered as a result of the pandemic and we plan to continue working with 40 students, with a goal to reach 25 new students in 2022 with the goal of reaching 100 students by 2024.

5. Describe how your Programming will provide a physically and emotionally safe space for teens.

We believe that safe spaces both emotionally and physically are key into helping our teens grow into healthy, wise and caring adults. Our arts program utilizes a trauma-informed care approach to helping youth deal with emotions in a healthy and productive way by providing a safe space and structured activities for healing and expression. Creative workshops foster a space where students have a place to feel accepted and freely to discuss their feelings and struggles. Other teens discovered new artistic skills and build new relationships. One-on-one time with tutors also reveals recent problems that we work to address, uncovering students with dyslexia, illiteracy, and homelessness. Our staff, we hold monthly “family meals” where families of youth in our program are welcome to join volunteers for dinner to further build community.

A unique and growing aspect of our program involves service projects with teens in our art classes and tutoring program. Throughout the year staff and volunteers take teens to local nonprofits or community projects on Beulah’s campus. These projects teach the value of community volunteerism, and expose teens to new environments, organizations, and new people and ideas. Recent activities include Woodland Hills and Penn Hills teens working in our community gardens with a group of senior citizens and during another weekend, teens were planting trees with our garden committee. This allowed over 15 teens and 6 of our older members to work and share sometime together!

6. Describe how your Programming will provide teens with opportunities to make positive connections to peers, adults and their community.

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7. Why do you think teens will want to participate in your Programming?

There isn’t much in our area and we provide a different space for education, art, and sports. The arts is a key place I know that we differ than most.

8. Describe how you will market your Programming and open referral pathways.

We will work with Woodland Hills School District and Penn Hills School District to help bus youth to our programming. We are open to anyone and everyone.

9. Describe how you will staff your Programming and the strategies you will use to recruit, hire and retain racially diverse staff, staff with relevant lived experience and staff that reflect the population served.

We are small right now but looking to get started to hire staffing that will reflect our community at large. We also believe strongly in taking chances on the folks we hire to work with our teens and use volunteers as well. This will enable us to have a diversity and compliment what our teens needs are.

10. Describe how your Programing set teens on a positive trajectory toward adulthood and any skills you expect teens to gain (e.g., socioemotional, leadership, workforce-related, conflict resolution skills).

We believe in a philosophy of building adults. That means we view our teens are emerging adults not just teens. We want to help the teens become more whole socially, emotionally, spiritually and well-balanced. There is nothing worse than seeing our teens struggle as adults. We want to be the bridge on the gap of this issue of struggle. We know for a fact that if we can help these teens succeed will help them as adults. We also believe that relational work is hard, slow and vital. We desire all our teens to have adults’ relationships that are healthy and aimed to help our teens with leadership, finding their voice and vocation, and learning how to behave as a mature adult in terms of conflict and resolution skills.

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Implementation Challenges (15 points possible)

11. If your Program experiences low attendance, how will you engage more teens?

We will collaborate with our local schools Woodland Hills and Penn Hills and find the teens. We want to make it easy to come can be a part of our program. I also want to be able to hire a person that can be present where the teens currently are and build relationship so a bridge is formed, and the teens will want to be engaged in our programs.

12. If one of the teens in your Program experiences behavioral or mental health issues, what will you do?

We would someday like to be able to have inhouse social worker to deal with great needs. We really just getting started so we don't have those in place yet. We know what we can do and what we can't and don't want to make anything worse by having good intentions but be undertrained. Also, we desire to get all of our staff and volunteers trained as much as possible in these areas.

13. If a parent of a teen in your Program expressed the family's need for support outside of what your Program can provide, what will you do? We will refer to these services we have worked with and will work with.

Supportive Services In the Pittsburgh and South Hills Area

Counseling Services

Samaritan Counseling Center
www.samaritancounseling.net
412-741-7430

Crisis Support

re:solve Crisis Network
1-888-796-8226

Grief Support

The Caring Place
www.highmarkcaringplace.com
888-224-4673

Suicide Prevention

National Suicide Prevent Lifeline
1-800-273-8255

Drug and Alcohol Support

Gateway
www.gatewayrehab.org

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724-941-4126 (McMurray Location)

Domestic Abuse Support

Crisis Center North

www.crisiscenternorth.org

412-364-5556

Rape and Sexual Assault Support

PAAR

www.paar.net

412-431-5665

Child Abuse Reporting

Pennsylvania ChildLine

1-800-932-0313

Family Assistance and Direct Support

SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Ministries)

www.shim-center.org

412-854-9120

Family Homelessness

Family Promise, Interfaith Hospitality Network

www.familypromise.org

412-921-2916

Hunger Services

Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank

www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

412-460-3663

Pregnancy and Parenthood Services

The Pregnancy Resource Center of South Hills

www.prcsh.org

412-833-7445

Disaster Relief

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Southwestern PA Red Cross

Budget (10 points possible)

14. In the space below, provide a detailed one-year, line-item budget that reflects a realistic estimate of the costs associated with implementing and sustaining the Programming.
East End Youth Ministry (EEYM)

Arts, Sports, & Mentoring Program	2022-2023 Budget (school year budget)
Executive Director	\$40,000.00
After school Program Asst.	\$35,000.00
After school Programmer	\$32,000.00
Staff that connects with youth	\$30,000.00
Administrative Support	\$12,000.00
Scholar Stipends	\$8,000.00
Summer Intern	\$8,000.00
Visiting Artist Fees	\$6,800.00
Art Equipment	\$8,000.00
Sports Equipment	\$3,705.00
Technology	\$16,000.00
Tutoring Supplies	\$2,000.00
Transportation	\$5,000.00
Food	\$12,000.00
Service Events	\$4,620.00
Misc. Administrative	\$6,500.00
Rental Space	\$24,000.00
TOTAL	\$253,625.00

15. In the space below, provide a budget narrative that clearly explains and justifies all line items in your proposed line-item budget.

Executive Director sets the vision, budget, raises funds, gets the word out and builds networks with others to make the programming a reality.

After School Programming Assistant runs and directs the programs with all the youth, volunteers, and works directly with the ED.

After School Programmer-Works under the After School Programming Assistant to run and facilitate programs.

Staff that Connects with Youth-this person is a feet on the ground, going to where the youth and teens are and discovering how to connect them back to the program and are present for certain programs to build relationships.

Administrative support-this is for a part-time administrative assistant to help in all areas.

Scholarship Stipends-are funds to help cover costs of outside programming opportunities such as camps or specific vocation training opportunities for our teens.

Summer Intern-a college age youth to serve in the summer with us.

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Visiting Artist Fees-fees associated with hiring and allowing local artists to come along side what we are doing and teach and work with the teens.

Art Equipment-the various art resources needed for programming arts.

Sports-Equipment-cost of maintaining and purchases new equipment for programming.

Tutoring Supplies-Supplies needed for education support for our teens in the programming.

Transportation-cost associated with any outside transportation needs for our youth and families.

Food-Cost of snacks and meals for our teens.

Service Events-Cost of allowing opportunities for our teens to serve back in the community and provide e all supplies for this.

Misc. Administrative-the cost of printing, paper, computer support and all administrative needs.



Our city has been rocked with grief and outrage at the horrific shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue on October 27, 2018. In a time in our society when our ability to have civil discourse with one another has all but disappeared, the emotional aftermath of this terrible tragedy has led to further expressions of hatred and threat.

The Beulah Presbyterian Church congregation grieves with our community and we want our position to be clear:

Statement Opposing Racism and Bigotry
Adopted by Session on September 19, 2017

“Beulah Church condemns white supremacy, racism, antisemitism, bigotry and hatred, and names them as sin. Beulah is committed to opposing this sin and seeks Christlike ways to work for justice and equality. Beulah gives thanks for the presence and faithful witness of church members and our partners locally, nationally and internationally in standing against sin.

“We acknowledge that Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy, racism, antisemitism, bigotry and hatred; however, this sin stands in stark, irreconcilable contradiction to God’s intention for humanity. We proclaim that the Bible’s message presents a far more consistent and insistent witness to God’s love for diversity and justice.

“Beulah stands beside such organizations as the Presbyterian Church (USA), Pittsburgh Presbytery, Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministry (PRISM), Coalition for Christian Outreach, Open Hand Ministries, Garfield Community Farm, Circles Pittsburgh and others in their efforts to fight against the evils of sin manifested in expressions of white supremacy, racism, antisemitism, bigotry and hatred.”