

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

544



**FROM:** Probation Department

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
April 8, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Desert Strength Academy Grant Application

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to submit the Desert Strength Academy Grant Application to the Anderson Children's Foundation;
- 2) Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to sign all grant application submission and grant award documents.

**BACKGROUND:** The Anderson Children's Foundation annually provides funding for projects within Riverside County that provide direct services to youth. The Riverside County Probation Department received a grant in Fiscal Year 09/10 that created the Desert Strength Academy to serve targeted at-risk youth across the Coachella Valley. The first year was successful. This grant application for \$20,966 is for second year funding and to expand the program to include two academies, thus serving more youth in the region.

(continued)

*for Thomas Gardner*  
for Alan M. Crogan, Chief Probation Officer

Thomas Gardner

PBR-22-09/10:SH

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	For Fiscal Year:	2009/10

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> Anderson Children's Foundation	<b>Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Requires 4/5 Vote</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE

BY: Elizabeth J. Olson  
Elizabeth J. Olson

**County Executive Office Signature**

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: NEAL R. KIPNIS  
DATE: 4/7/10

Dept Recomm.:  Consent  Policy   
Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  Policy

**Prev. Agn. Ref.:** | **District:** All | **Agenda Number:**

3.53

Attendees for the first two-week Desert Strength Academy summer camp and one week spring camp (4 hours per day) were recommended by the Probation Departments' Youth Accountability Teams. The FY 09/10 project provided positive, strength-based programming for at-risk middle school youth. Additionally, parents of at-risk middle school youth are often at a loss when it comes to effective parenting strategies. The Desert Strength Academy served both in a meaningful setting.

During the first year, the Desert Strength Academy served the cities of Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs and Cathedral City. Due to the program's success, the current grant application expands the program to include an additional two camps serving the city of Indio, and for these, Indio Police Department has pledged direct support.

Again, the goal of the Desert Strength Academy as outlined in this second year application is to foster personal growth through daily structured activities and routine, as well as exposure to new ideas and challenges for 138 at-risk middle school youth. In a day-camp setting, each camp includes breakfast, physical fitness and agility exercises, educational classes and lectures, teambuilding activities and reflection. Each day-camp is built around the framework of the 40 Developmental Assets and the notion of presenting these concepts in a structured, positive and uplifting way. Every camp culminates in a physical challenge for the youth, and a bilingual Parenting Academy for their parents. A catered graduation ceremony celebrates the successes of youth and their parents.

Candidates for the Desert Strength Academy are youth in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. "Cadets" are found through collaboration with local School Districts, as well as the Riverside County Probation Department Youth Accountability Teams. All minors attending the Academy are given a risk-assessment to determine that they are, in fact, at risk. All are on some type of informal supervision with the Youth Accountability Teams in order to attend.

The Parenting Academy component of the grant is the "*The Parent Project*" which was developed over a ten year period while working with thousands of high-risk families. It is designed to revive parent's desire, teach the skills and provide the practical and emotional support they need to change destructive adolescent behavior. Parenting Academy curriculum includes a variety of educational topics parents need to know. A scholarship to a ten-week Parent Project course in their community, in their native language, is also part of the grant.

Additionally, the following volunteer partners were instrumental in the success of the first year, and have committed to ongoing support of the second year of the grant and Academy: Betty Ford Center Children's Center; Palm Springs Unified School District; Mark Seay, retired NFL player; Cathedral City Police Department; Tim Bradley, the WBO Light-Welterweight boxing champion; Sam Jackson, Boxing trainer; FitByNic personal training; Jewish Family Services, Sylvan Learning Center; Palm Springs Police Department; Riverside County District Attorney's Office; Riverside County Gang Task Force; The Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (CRUD); ALANON; Agua Caliente Band of Mission Indians; and the Behavioral Center at Loma Linda University.

Grant funds and volunteers support the Academy. There is no County match requirement.

County Counsel has approved this document as to form.