

City of Rapid City
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
Application for Funding
2004

A. General Information

Agency Name: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills
Address: 2525 West Main Street, #205
Rapid City, SD 57702
Agency Director: Kerri Severson Stover *Phone:* 343-1488
Email: exccdir@bigmentors.com *Website:* www.bigmentors.com

Board President: Michelle Chikos, President
(Board Member list attached)

B. Purpose of the organization:

The purpose of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills is to match quality volunteer mentors with children, youth, and teen/new mothers.

C. History of the organization:

Since 1959, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills has been providing quality services to the Rapid City and surrounding area. Committed to the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of children from single parent families, Big Brothers Big Sisters continues to be recognized as a leader in the non-profit community.

The focus of the Big Brothers Big Sisters agency is to provide one-to-one® relationships between trained adult volunteers and children (as well as teen/new mothers) whose families do not provide them with sufficient parental support and guidance. Big Brothers Big Sisters is devoted to giving these children and new mothers opportunities to recognize the resources and options which are available to them. Children and teen/new mothers are referred to the program by parents, teachers, counselors, the court system or health care providers.

D. Agency/Organization Goals:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills adheres to the following programmatic goals:

1. To promote the positive development of each client's self esteem through the improvement of the client's emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.
2. To provide a positive adult role model for each client, assuring, to the best of our ability, that each volunteer mentor shares common interests with the child or new mother and is willing to spend at least two to four hours per week or every other week (depending on the program) in an exclusive and constructive relationship with that client.
3. To provide professional support and assistance to the volunteer and client when special situations arise which are beyond their capability and knowledge.
4. To identify the special needs of the clients we serve and, through volunteer training programs and carefully designed activities, address those needs to the best of our ability.
5. To assure the best care possible by making appropriate referrals to other agencies as necessary.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills is comprised of six programs. These include:

➤ Big Brothers/Big Sisters/Big Couples (Community-Based)

This component is the core program of the overall Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. Volunteers are matched with children ages 5-15 from single parent families in order to provide friendship and support. The volunteer spends a minimum of 2-4 hours each week or every other week with the child. A commitment of one year is required of the volunteer and child.

➤ Mother Mentor Program (Community-Based)

This agency component matches teen and new mothers one-on-one with experienced mothers for support and education concerning parenting. The goal of the program is to enhance the self-esteem and knowledge of the teen/new mother in order to encourage her role as a parent.

➤ Student Volunteer Program (Community-Based)

This agency component matches high school and college students with children ages 5-11. Both the child and the volunteer benefit from the lasting friendships that result from these matches. Students gain valuable experience and understanding of community service while each child is provided a friend and positive role model.

➤ School Mentoring Program (School Based)

This program matches children in designated elementary and middle schools with a mentor for one hour each week during the school year. The goals of this program are to improve the academics, attendance and self-esteem of children who are matched with a mentor.

➤ Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

This Council, made up of middle school, high school, and college students, was created to help keep our agency informed about the needs and concerns of today's youth. Besides acting as advisors to our agency, the members of this group also assist with volunteer recruitment within their schools, plan and implement service projects, encourage community service among their peers, and help staff with various activities.

☞ Senior Freshman Mentoring Program (New this year)

This program was created and piloted by a Central High School senior in the 2001-2002 school year. Freshmen were matched, one on one, with seniors who encouraged and supported a positive school experience, both academically and socially. In the 2002-2003 school year, two seniors fully implemented the program and case managed between 38 and 50 matches throughout the year. The two seniors felt overwhelmed and asked Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills to assist with case management of the program.

E. Program/Project Benefit:

1. Number of clients served during the last twelve (12) months:

(October 2002 - September 2003)

- * 263 children/teen/new mothers matched with a volunteer
- * 263 volunteers matched with a child or teen/new mother
- * 250 additional children through outreach activities (approximate)

(The above numbers do not include parents of enrolled children.)

513 total clients - children/teen new mothers served (does not include volunteers)

2. *Number of clients in Rapid City:* 320 children and teen/new moms(approx.)

Outside of Rapid City: 24 (approx.)

3. *Maximum number of clients your agency can serve at any one point in time:* 250-275

4. *Does the agency have income eligibility requirements which limit services or activities exclusively to low/moderate income persons:* No, services are open to all income levels.

5. *Does your agency serve any of the following specific groups of clientele?*

Yes Abused and/or neglected children

Yes Homeless persons

Yes Elderly persons (*As volunteers*)

Yes Disabled persons

Yes Battered spouse

Yes Illiterate persons

(Some teen/new mothers and children have reading difficulties.)

6. *Does your agency require information on the following?*

Yes Family size and income

(*Information requested includes: TANF enrollment, Food Stamp enrollment and/or child support. This is for demographic purposes only. Clients are not precluded from obtaining services if this information is not provided.*)

____ Very low income (income below 30% of area median income)

____ Low income (income between 31%-50% of area median income)

____ Above 80% of median income

7. *If the benefits that your agency provides are open to all persons in the area regardless of income, list the boundaries of the entire area served. This can be census tracts, block groups, street boundaries, or other officially recognized boundaries:*

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills provides services to volunteers, children, teen/new mothers and their families in Rapid City and the surrounding 20 mile area. This area includes the communities of: Rapid City, Black Hawk, Box Elder, Piedmont, and Ellsworth Air Force Base. Right now 88% of the children and teen/new mothers served live in Rapid City.

8. *Not applicable*

F. Fee schedule for services, if applicable:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills does not charge a fee for the services it provides.

G. Purpose and description of program/project for which funds are requested:

The purpose of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills is to match quality volunteer mentors with children and youth. This purpose is furthered by the delivery of mentoring services to teen and new mothers through the Mother Mentor Program.

Since 1988, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills' Mother Mentor Program has matched teen/new mothers one-to-one® with experienced adult mothers. These volunteers provide relevant educational and parenting support. The goal of the Mother Mentor Program is to enhance the self-esteem and knowledge of the teen/new mother in order to encourage her role as a parent.

A profile of teen, new mothers enrolled in the Mother Mentor Program this past year shows that:

- 95% live in low income homes,
- 77% have been physically, sexually, or mentally abused,
- 46% are impacted by family substance abuse,
- 100% have low self esteem,

- 26% are of a minority race, and
- 47% live on their own and do not have a family support system.

Our agency recognizes that teenage mothers need services that focus on outreach, support and encouragement in a variety of areas. The Mother Mentor Program targets these areas by offering one-to-one® support and guidance from an experienced mother.

The program objectives are to encourage the teen/new mother to:

1. develop a personal action plan to guide her in setting and working towards life goals.
2. increase her knowledge of living and parenting skills as they relate to the informational topics presenting during training sessions.
3. receive informal support and guidance from an adult volunteer mother mentor.
4. strive to improve her sense of self-worth.
5. work towards financial independence.
6. actively participate in an educational continuance program.
7. participate in an evaluation process to assess needs in various life areas.

Eligibility requirements *for teen/new mothers* include:

1. a willingness to commit to the program for one year.
2. an identified need for support.
3. have made a decision to carry the child to full term and/or have a child under the age of 2.
4. a willingness to participate in scheduled education sessions.

Eligibility requirements *for mother mentor volunteers* include:

1. a commitment to be matched with a teen/new mother for one year.
2. agree to spending two to four hours a week or every other week with the teen/new mother.
3. attend educational sessions as required.
4. have access to reliable transportation and liability insurance.

H. Describe how funds will be used:

Community Development Block Grant funds will allow Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills to enhance services provided by its Mother Mentor program. If approved, these funds will be used to enroll additional teen/new mothers and mentors into the program, and to support and encourage quality in the relationships that already exist. Specifically, funds will be used for staff salaries, recruitment of additional teen/new mothers and mentors, and special activities or presentations to support current matches.

The Mother Mentor Program is staffed by a half time case manager who is responsible for enrolling teen/new mothers, screening, training and matching appropriate volunteers with a teen/new mother, developing individual match case plans, monitoring match progress through twice monthly telephone contacts, and providing monthly educational sessions for mentors and teen/new mothers. In addition, a small portion of funds will be used to develop public awareness materials designed to enroll additional teen and new mothers in need of assistance.

I. Please state program/project start and completion dates:

The Mother Mentor Program of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills has been in operation since 1988 and continues to match additional teen/new mothers each year. Community Development Block Grant funding will allow Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills to leverage additional short term and long term financial support from various public and private sources. At the present time, however, Big Brothers Big Sisters is requesting funding for a twelve month period (April 2004 - March 2005).

J. If funds are for building expansion, renovation or a new facility, please complete the following information: Not applicable.

K. Funding sources for the program/project:

<i>Community Development Block Grant Funds Requested:</i>	\$ 5,000
<u><i>Other Funding Sources:</i></u>	
Zonta Club of the Black Hills (pending)	\$ 3,230
SD Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse (committed)	\$ 4,410
Public/Private Support (gov't./foundations)(pending)	\$ 8,000
United Way/Other Fundraising (committed)	\$13,000

L. Financial Information:

(An October 2003 Financial Statement is attached.)