

## **Youth Empowerment Services, Inc. (Y.E.S.)**

### **Summary of Intended Use of the Funds:**

**The activity, function, or project for which the earmark is intended:** Youth Empowerment Services, Inc. (Y.E.S.) is seeking funding to continue and expand our gender-specific, culturally relevant, strength-based programming designed to empower, elevate, and educate middle and high school girls of color to be emotionally strong and resilient and to provide them with a sense of ethnic pride and connectedness. In 2022-2023, we increased our program to include additional youth and to expand our services such as college tours. We also will expand our summer camp to include extra weeks to implement an Entrepreneurship program. By building on their strengths, gifts, and talents, services will promote self-awareness, cultural expression, school community engagement, and advocacy resulting in real-life internal and external gains. It is important that the girls in the program develop a sense of confidence in their capabilities and come to accept and love themselves, it is equally as important that girls of color come to see and like themselves as who they are and that they are bearers of a rich, historical heritage that they can be proud of and can contribute to their communities.

### **Y.E.S. Programs Include:**

**(Middle and High School Girls and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Rising Middle School Girls)**

#### *Worth Beyond Measure Mentoring Program and Summer Camp*

- Year-Round Mentoring Program designed to provide educational and cultural exposure for girls that include college tours and scholarship fairs
- Seven Weeks Summer entrepreneurship, leadership, educational and cultural awareness program
- Mentors teach girls how to create a business plan and develop entrepreneurship skills
- Motivational speakers and presenters

#### *New Revolutionaries Peer Leadership Program*

- Selected girls ages 15 - College from the targeted schools who display strong leadership skills
- Girls will be trained to serve as peer leaders for the girls in the mentoring program and those in the Worth Beyond Measure Summer Camp.

#### *Annual Dream Girls Conference*

- Annual full day conference held in North Charleston that is packed with inspiration, motivation, workshops, food, and fun that is specifically designed to empower middle and high school girls of color to reach their dreams. This conference will impact over 1,500 youth across the Tri-County of Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties.
- Has served over 5000 girls from around the state and beyond over the past 10 years

## **Youth Empowerment Services, Inc. (Y.E.S.)**

### **Public Purpose Served by the Project: Benefit of the Program to the State of South Carolina:**

Research proves youth who drop out of school are at risk of experiencing economic inequality and even an early death. Over a lifetime, an 18-year-old who does not complete high school earns about \$260,000 less than someone with a high school diploma and contributes \$60,000 less to the tax base, (*Cecilia Elena Rouse, Economist, Princeton University*). Youth Empowerment Services mentoring program benefits the state budget. Approximately 85% of the girls who complete our monthly mentoring programs complete high school. Y.E.S. saves dollars for the state by ensuring diplomas and career futures for girls so that they are contributing to the economic base of their community and not being supported by it. Also, the Annual Dream Girls Conference is the only one of its kind that provides a state-wide event that is specifically designed to empower and to provide educational resources for minority and under-served middle and high school girls. This conference attracts an average of 1,500 annually from over 20 counties and cities across South Carolina reaching many rural and underserved communities.

### **Demonstrated Community Support and Need**

Youth Empowerment Services (Y.E.S.), has been an integral part of Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties since 1999. Y.E.S. was birthed in the heart of Roslin J. Fields, M.Ed., a former middle school teacher and foster parent.

Ms. Fields is also a certified *Stewards of Children* trainer for *Darkness to Light* which is an organization that teaches the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Since its inception, Y.E.S. has recruited and trained over 500 adult and peer mentors and volunteers who have faithfully served over 6,000 middle and high school youths through various programs, activities, conferences, workshops, and community events. Y.E.S. programs and activities are specifically designed for at risk middle and high school girls to empower them with strategies and resources to help them make healthy decisions that will enhance their mental, social, spiritual, and emotional health and well-being.

Y.E.S. programs are successful due to the consistency in our approach and message as well as the collaboration, respect, and confidence we have received from the local community. Y.E.S. continually receives requests and invitations for training and support for programs for at-risk youth. Y.E.S. has served girls in over 15 middle and high schools in the Tri-county since its inception. We offer mentoring programs in schools and communities throughout the tri-county. Our trained mentors meet with girls to offer empowerment programs and mentoring. We also offer an annual Dream Girls Conference which attracts thousands of girls and parents from across South Carolina and beyond. Due to the COVID Pandemic, in 2021, Y.E.S. sponsored its first Virtual Dream Girls Conference with over 3,000 tuning in, and our second Virtual Dream Girls Conference in 2022 with over 3,500 tuning in. 2023 will be our tenth year presenting this event. It is being planned as an in-person event the same as the first 7 years were.

Youth Empowerment Services, Inc.  
 Budget for Earmark Requested Funds  
 2023  
 Website: www.yescouncil.org

EXPENSES	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Executive Director/Program Development	\$ 25,000.00	Develops master programs, oversees all programs, organization development and sustainability, community relations and capacity building
Program Director/Program Facilitator	\$ 30,000.00	Assists the ED in overseeing all programs, recruits, trains, monitors, manages peer and adult mentors, oversees and monitors all program participants
Director of Operations	\$ 30,000.00	Admin support, budget & financial reporting, payments, document creation, graphic arts, email marketing, program registrations & tracking, etc.
Fringe & Taxes for Full Time Employees	\$ 5,000.00	
<b>Consultants:</b>		
Social Media, PR, Marketing Specialist, Program Evaluations	\$ 12,000.00	Marketing/capacity building, communications, social media management/fulfillment, press releases, TV & radio interviews coordination & advertising, community engagement, live event social media interactions
IT Specialist/Technology Support	\$ 5,000.00	Includes professional video & photography, streaming for live sessions
Program Audit/Accounting/Bookkeeping	\$ 10,000.00	CPA firm specializing in non-profit organizations. Bookkeeper for banking & general financials
Communications	\$ 5,000.00	Phone, internet, website, social media, website updates
<b>Other Expenses:</b>		
Insurance	\$ 3,000.00	
Office Space	\$ 4,000.00	Office/training space
Program Field Trips/College Tours	\$ 10,000.00	Includes professional transportation, entrance/program fees, meals, supplies
Curriculum/Program Supplies/Printing/Incentives	\$ 8,000.00	
Mentoring Program/Summer Camp	\$ 41,500.00	This will be a year-round mentoring program that includes a six-week summer camp/mentoring program - entrepreneurship, leadership, educational and cultural awareness program. Includes facility, supplies, speakers, entrepreneurship trainer, curriculum, meals. Serving approximately 35 girls.
Annual Dream Girls Conference	\$ 71,500.00	Annual one-day conference held in North Charleston that is specifically designed for middle and high school girls of color. Serves approximately 2,000 in-person attendees and 3,500 virtual viewers. March 2023 will be our tenth year and March 2024 will be our eleventh year presenting this all-day program. This conference serves at-risk girls and their parents from over 20 cities and counties across the state of South Carolina targeting those communities that are rural and under-served .
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 260,000.00</b>	