

CATEGORY I

INVESTMENT ISSUES

VENTURE & SPECIAL ASSISTANCE (VSA) GRANT PROGRAM

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention & Adolescent Pregnancy Services

DEFINITION Adolescent Pregnancy refers to unmarried women under 21 years of age that become pregnant and adolescent parents. Pregnancy Prevention programs meeting this need focus predominately on information and activities that relate directly to adolescent pregnancy and sexuality for male and female teens. Pregnancy Services have an eligibility requirement that participants be unmarried pregnant women under age 21, or teen parents.

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

DEFINITION Child Abuse and Neglect refers to actions taken against a child such as inflicting, or allowing the infliction of serious injury, or the failure to exercise a minimum degree of care.

Helping Young People Succeed

DEFINITION Services addressing this category are often referred to as youth development programs. These services develop the capacities and abilities of participating youth. The focus is not to address acute problems. Therefore, the services will not have the eligibility requirement that participants be experiencing particular acute problem(s). The programs will also not directly provide significant services that address acute problems.

Youth Development programs should be available to all youth in the community and United Way funds should be used to ensure access for all youth interested in participating. Therefore, programs receiving the highest level of consideration will document that participants have limited means for accessing services, or may document other behavioral risk factors, which indicate a high level of need for the service.

Indicators for targeting limited-means families, include:

- Living in low to moderate-income census tracts.
- Living in an area with a high participation in free or reduced school lunch program.
- Receiving public assistance, food stamps or Medicaid.
- Family income of less than 200% of poverty line.

Guidelines for defining "high risk" include the following.

- Involvement with child welfare services or the juvenile justice system.
- Documentation of school problems or truancy.
- Documentation of specific inappropriate risk taking behavior.
- Involvement in gang activity.

Maintaining Independence of Older Adults

DEFINITION This category targets United Way funds for services to older adults who are most needy, and upon which the United Way can have the greatest positive effect in our community. Please note that age, by itself, does not define this category, but is one consideration coupled with others, such as socio-economic status, etc. The services include:

- Educational and Supportive Services for Caregivers
- Personal Care Services For Elderly People with Physical Limitations Lacking Insurance or the Financial Means to Pay
- Housekeeping/Chore Services
- Transportation
- Education on Financial Issues for Low Income and High Risk Elderly
- Health Education
- Opportunities for Socialization for Low Income and High Risk Elderly, including volunteer placement.
- Education, screening and outreach for elder-specific mental health services.
- Primary prevention and education services, which prevent older adults from being victimized or exploited.

Guidelines for defining low income include the following.

- Living in low to moderate-income census tracts.
- Living in an area with high participation in free or reduced school lunch program.
- Receiving public assistance, food stamps, Medicaid or SSI.
- Income of less than 200% of poverty line.

Guidelines for defining "high risk" include the following.

- Living Alone
- Advanced age
- One or more limitations in Activities of Daily Living (ADL's)
- Two or more limitations in Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's)

Parent/Caregiver Education & Support

DEFINITION Parent/Caregiver Education and Support enhances family strengths by increasing child rearing knowledge, competence, and self-confidence of parents/primary caregivers of children. This helps to create and maintain home environments where self-esteem and learning are nurtured, valued, and encouraged.

Quality Child Care

DEFINITION Child Care programs provide non-residential care to children. These programs are regulated by the Office of Children and Family Services and provide care to infants, toddlers, and school age children. The programs should be of high quality. Indicators of quality include healthy and well-developed children, stable and educated staff that receive appropriate compensation, regular staff development, strong parent involvement, accreditation by professional organizations such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and research-based programming.

CATEGORY II

INVESTMENT ISSUES

VENTURE & SPECIAL ASSISTANCE (VSA) GRANT PROGRAM

Basic Material Needs

DEFINITION Basic Material Needs include food, clothing, shelter, and necessities of daily living generally provided on an emergency basis. It also covers supportive case management services that help people obtain services and skills that will enable them to meet their ongoing basic material needs.

Health

DEFINITION This category covers public education on health-related issues. Some examples include:

- Access to Primary & Preventive Health Care in Rural Areas
- Family Planning
- Infant Mortality
- HIV/AIDS
- Family Violence Primary Prevention & Education
- Chemical Abuse Primary Prevention and Education

It also addresses supportive or ancillary, non-clinical services suggested by a doctor to augment a medical treatment plan such as:

- Arthritic Swim and Exercise

Agencies may request Category II Investment funds for programs addressing health issues not listed above. However, the Panel will determine if the community need for the program is sufficient to merit inclusion in this category. The Panel may also assign a lower Investment Category to such programs.

Literacy

DEFINITION Literacy programs are those that teach adults and youth not enrolled in school basic reading/communication skills. Programs meeting this need have as an eligibility requirement that participants have no, or only minimum reading/communication skills.

Non-Crisis Mental Health

DEFINITION Non-Crisis Mental Health Services refers to all mental health services targeted to people not experiencing an acute mental health episode such as a suicide attempt or acute psychosis. Such services may seek to help people with a wide variety of difficulties. They can use a range of interventions, such as counseling and psychotherapy as well as public education and screening.

Programs in this category:

- Must be open to populations with a wide range of non-crisis mental health needs.
- Must not have eligibility requirements that limit services to people with a specific problem or specific set of problems.
- May focus either on the general population or a specific age range.

Refugee and Immigration Services

DEFINITION Refugee and Immigration Assistance programs help people who are not citizens of the United States become self-reliant members of our community.

These programs have as an eligibility requirement that participants are refugees or citizens from another country living in Broome County.