

**54 MacDonough Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216**

December 8, 2015

Office of Justice Programs

810 Seventh Street NW

Washington, DC 20531

Dear Mr. Listenbee,

The Children of Promise NYC (CPNYC) is requesting $100,000 from the OJJP to initiate a new program. With your help CPNYC is looking to jump start a brand new program that will help previously incarcerated fathers reenter their communities. In addition to a new reentry program, this program will strengthen parent-child relationships and promote an engaging, supportive, and educational environment for the families.

The CPNYC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works with the greater New York area, but is stationed in Brooklyn. This organization provides children of incarcerated parents the chance to express, educate, socialize, and involve themselves in a variety of opportunities. CPNYC was established in 2006 and has won numerous awards and national recognition since.

In this proposal you will find a more informative background on the history of CPNYC along with a description of a problem that significantly impacts communities that not only in the greater NY area but globally. Following that there is the a work plan that gives a more in-depth overview of the program, the goals the CPNYC has laid forth for the program, and how the organization plans to achieve these goals. There is also a timeline and budget breakdown to show the program will flow and show what the money is going toward.

Your support with this program would significantly improve the quality of life for numerous families and help break a negative cycle often seen in families involved in the judicial system. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brittany Predmore

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Children of Promise NYC

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Table of Contents

[Executive Summary ii](#_Toc437372436)

[Organization Information 1](#_Toc437372437)

[Problem Description 2](#_Toc437372438)

[Work Plan/Specific Activities 3](#_Toc437372439)

[Timeline 6](#_Toc437372440)

[Budget 6](#_Toc437372441)

[Evaluation 7](#_Toc437372442)

[Reference List: 8](#_Toc437372443)

# Executive Summary

 This grant proposal is for the Children of Promise NYC for the Second Chance Act Strengthening Relationships between Young Fathers and Their Children: A Reentry Mentoring Project grant. The CPNYC is a highly respected and recognized organization that has been awarded numerous awards over its short period of existence.

 Typically the CPNYC caters specifically to children but lately there has been an increase in the behavioral misconduct of children who grow up in a fatherless or one parent homes. There are also various issues that children of fatherless homes face during their development. These fathers who are absent miss out on their child(ren) growing up and continue a negative cycle, that can continue into each generation after.

 The CPNYC would like to initiate a specific program that will greatly impact the relationship between father and child, ultimately uniting the family as a whole. As well as improving the quality of the relationship, the program offers an opportunity for self-development for all individuals involved.

 To get this plan started the CPNYC is requesting $100,000 over a one year period. Evaluations will be done before, during, and after the program to measure its success.

# Organization Information

Children of Promise NYC (CPNYC), provides children of incarcerated parents the chance to express, educate, socialize, and involve themselves in a variety of opportunities. By understanding the cycle in which families can have members from each generation that are involved in the criminal justice system we address the social, economic, and educational divide that our clients face. We offer an environment specifically tailored to fit the needs of the children and families. We offer educational programs that include: academic support, arts and recreation, and summer day camps. Our therapeutic services for the children and support services for caregivers provide our clients the opportunity to convey themselves freely, both creatively and emotionally. In addition to those services, CPNYC has a mentor project: D.R.E.A.M that allows children to develop worthwhile relationships with our staff and their communities.

 CPNYC was established in 2006 by the recent winner of Brooklyn Women’s of Distinction Award, Sharon Content. Even though the CPNYC did not open its programs until the spring of 2009, the goal was to make it an outstanding organization with advancing its clients as its main priority. Within a year of launch, CPNYC obtained 501(c)(3) status. CPNYC worked diligently with the community and four years later received the Brooklyn Foundation’s Do Gooder Award in 2010. It was also recognized as Agency of the Year by the New Jersey Nets. After this recognition the program quickly became publically recognized by major news affiliates. In 2013 the CPNYC was recognized by the Andrew Goodman Foundation and given the Hidden Hero Award. Local politicians have made personal visits to the CPNYC and approve of the programs and its policies and infrastructure, which allow the organization to continue to expand annually. Since the programs commencement the CPNYC has been able to develop partnerships within the community and have raised $1.7 million dollars in government and philanthropic funding.

# Problem Description

The lack of a father figure in the home can cause detrimental effects to children as they go through life. In New York 58% of incarcerated males are parents to at least one child under the age of 18. Parental incarceration is “the greatest threat to a child’s well-being,” according to International Human Rights Advocates. According to the Casey A. Foundation some of the obstacles these children face include: poor academic and behavioral performance, instability with family relationships and finances, and institutional stigma.

Figure 1: Statistics taken from Children of Incarcerated Parents Fact Sheet

The children are not the only ones who face issues after incarceration. The incarcerated fathers looking to the reentry process lack work experience, education, and financial stability that would give them the means to support their children and family. These fathers also struggle finding employment with their prior criminal records. Additionally, some communities lack the resources available to help these fathers transition back into family, work, and daily life.

The CPNYC has been successful at providing opportunities of growth to children of incarcerated parents. It would like to take these opportunities further and help the children build fulfilling relationships with their parent, and the parent to develop meaningful relationships with their children, families, and community. In its program the CPNYC would like to make the mentoring program a requirement or option as part of the parent’s parole or probation period. The program would have weekly events that would promote numerous activities from family game night, to planning and buying nutritious family meals. By collaborating with nutritionists at the local grocery store and with other members in the community this program would help these fathers and their children and families get on the path toward a rewarding and sustaining life. With the help of the Second Chance Act Strengthening Relationships between Young Fathers and Their Children: A Reentry Mentoring Project, and the CPNYC reputation, we can make this ideal life tangible for our clients.

# Work Plan/Specific Activities

The goal of the “Family First” program is to increase the quality of father and child’s relationship and promoting a supportive educational environment, while decreasing the negative effects children face in one-parent homes. This program will offer a meeting once a week, at the Children of Promise building, where parents enrolled in the program and their child/children will participate in activities that build and strengthen the family unit. The activities will vary and differ each week.

 After receiving the $100,000 requested from the Second Chance Act Strengthening Relationships between Young Fathers and Their Children: A Reentry Mentoring Project, the CPNYC will open in its registration process. During this process a former incarcerated father or their spouse can enroll the family in the “Family First” program. This program can be enforced by making it mandated by family court, part of parole sentencing, or by personal interest. The charitable donation from the Second Chance Act would allow CPNYC to hire staff qualified and capable of dealing with the families’ situations, materials that are new or at least of good condition to assist with the activities, and to help with the utilities to keep the center running after usual operations for this program.

 After registering in the program, a CPNYC staff member will meet with the family, either in their home or at the Children of Promise center, and conduct a consultation. During the consultation, the staff member will give the parent(s) a pre-program survey. This survey will ask the parent(s) their interest level in certain areas that concern the child. Survey questions can include examples like, *how important is your child’s education to you?* The scale will range from 0- being not important to 5- very important. The child(ren) will be given a behavioral analysis that will include behavior reports from teachers or day care services, staff observations, and a few questions.

Each week families will have the chance to participate in relationship enhancing activities that can offer a positive learning environment and engaging atmosphere for children and their fathers, or ideally both parents. These activities will be planned months in advance to ensure enough time for materials to be ordered and delivered, so that each family has the materials needed to be successful in the program. Some of these programs include collaborations with businesses in the community. For example, one of the activities includes planning, budgeting, and learning how to prepare a healthy, substantial, and affordable meal for a family with the nutritionists at the local grocery store. The local grocery store has already sent us a formal letter expressing their interest in collaborating with CPNYC to make this event a reality. Other collaborations include working with the library to promote reading and learning skills children need to be successful in school but with the support and encouragement from parents, without costing the families money.

With the endless possibilities to the activities that this program can provide fathers and their children, we believe that the amount requested will allow us to provide the resources necessary and essential to making this program a success.

# Timeline

***January***

Open registration.

Plan first four months of activities.

Rough estimate of materials needed.

***January-February***

Pre-program behavioral analysis for children.

Pre-program child interest survey for parents.

***March***

Final headcount of participants.

Have a welcome meeting.

Start activities after welcome week.

Finish planning activities up until December.

***April-June***

Hold events once a week.

***July***

Mid-program evaluation.

***August- November***

(August) Make a plan for the upcoming school year.

Continue to hold events.

***December***

Post-program behavior analysis for children.

Post-program child interest survey for parents.

***January***

Evaluation of program.

# Budget

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| --- | --- |
| *Utilities Expenses* | $30,000 |
| *Staff Salaries* | $40,000 |
| *Transportation Services* | $20,000 |
| *Materials and Supplies* | $10,000 |
| Total Expenses | $100,000 |

# Evaluation

 The program will conduct a pre-program behavioral analysis of the child or children of the parent in the program by looking at staff observation reports and reviewing incidents reported in the school, home, and in the community. Additionally, the parents enrolled in “Family First” will be given a pre-program survey that will ask questions regarding the parent’s interest in certain topics regarding the child. There will be a mid-program evaluation conducted around July, which will be the midpoint of the program. These evaluations will be conducted with each family individually to ensure privacy and honesty in responses. In December, before a big holiday and the start of a new year, the parent(s) will be given the post-program survey and the child(ren) will be observed and given a post-program behavioral analysis. The program will compare the pre-, mid-, and post- program surveys and behavioral analyses to see if the program has increased the strength of the family relationship and parental involvement level, while also decreasing the behavioral incidents of the children. The program can also follow up with families that participated in “Family First,” years after the have completed the program. With parental consent, the program can check the student’s grades and behavioral reports with their schools. In viewing these reports the program would hope to see this program has improved the child’s behavior and broken the cycle of generational involvement in the judicial system. The program can also check on the father’s judicial status years after completing the program to see where they are at after the transition phase and if this program has prevented them from being incarcerated again.

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