

Salt Lake Urban County

43+ years of experience administering HUD dollars

Mission Statement

We aim to strengthen families and neighborhoods by helping fund organizations that provide essential programs and services to individuals and areas of the county that need them most.

CDBG Public Service Project: **Big Brothers Big Sisters – Mentoring Program**

Brief Description of the Project

Family stability relies on income support, housing support, and social supports. When families seeking stability receive insufficient social supports for their children, we see increases in youth delinquency and failure to thrive among children, thus further reducing family stability. Research demonstrates that one of the key protective factors combating risks faced by children in their families and communities is a bond to a responsible adult outside the family. A professionally-supported, long-term relationship with an adult mentor leads to an increase in academic functioning and a decrease in aggression and drug use, thus decreasing the likelihood of delinquency for youth.

Program Beneficiaries

Our focus for CDBG funds is to benefit low-to-moderate income youth and their families. In the 2016-17 funding year Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah (BBBSU) is on track to serve 265 kids from LMI households who reside in eligible service areas for Salt Lake County funding. The need for the mentoring services that BBBSU provides to youth is tremendous. In many of the communities in Salt Lake County, 7 out of 10 children live at or near the poverty line, 51% of elementary students don't read on grade level, 70% of elementary students don't have grade level math skills, 30% of adults lack a high school diploma, 48% of adults earn less than \$25,000 per year, and 1 in 3 residents has poor health. Our goal is to address these needs to help youth avoid risky behaviors, prevent the need for substance abuse treatment or juvenile justice intervention, and reduce the rate of intergenerational poverty.

Leveraged Funds

Funding from the federal government, including CDBG, helps us diversify revenue sources across corporate, foundation, individual, and other sources to stabilize our organization and build sustainable programs to serve these youth. Federal funds make up about 19% of our annual revenue, with CDBG funding in particular at just over 2%.

Justification of program and measurable outcomes “Stable & Safe”

As an agency, we are committed to changing community-level outcomes for children and their families. To that end, we are active partners in several United Way collective impact Promise Partnerships. We also actively collaborate with organizations focused on family stability and safety. The work we do with children relies a great deal on the ability of parents/guardians to closely ally with us. Mentors repeatedly tell us that families they work with need additional resources beyond mentoring. In addition to these community-wide collaborations, we also have important cooperative partnerships with our state's educators and other nonprofits. These partners refer children to our mentoring program and some provide site-based program locations and support.

If CDBG funds were not available, our ability to serve any additional youth in Salt Lake County, and across the state of Utah, would be hindered. Over 60% of the kids we serve statewide reside in Salt Lake County. At any given time we have upwards of 250 youth waiting to be enrolled in BBBSU mentoring programs across Utah, and CDBG funds allow us to match many of these kids with volunteer mentors who will have a positive impact on their lives.

Please feel free to contact: Karen Wiley, Community Development Manager, PO Box 144575, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4575, 385-468-4870

CDBG Personal Success Story

In 2011, BBBSU enrolled a six-year old girl named Sabina. Sabina and her parents wanted her to become a “Little Sister” in our mentoring program. Sabina’s family came to Utah in 2008 as refugees from Nepal, via a camp in Bhutan. She is the youngest of four daughters, and the family speaks mostly Nepali to each other in their home. Sabina was in her first year of school and was still learning to speak English when she met her Big Sister Annie. Sabina’s father had some health problems and was not able to work for some time. Her mother works full-time to support the family, but they live in a very small apartment at an extremely low income level. At first, Sabina was shy and quiet and did not always feel comfortable in US culture; however, over time, with sensitive coaching, listening, and guidance, Annie and Sabina have grown very close. Big Sister Annie has guided her Little Sister Sabina throughout many milestones – finishing elementary school, siblings graduating from high school, friendship struggles, and maturing and developing. Sabina and Annie have now been in their mentoring match for over five years. Sabina’s family values the contributions that Big Sister Annie has made to her adjustment to living in the US and in her personal growth and development. With Annie’s one-to-one mentoring, Sabina has grown into a very confident adolescent who is socially and emotionally well-adjusted and is currently a straight-A student. Sabina is a perfect example of the difference mentoring can make for a child and their family in avoiding risky behavior, developing emotional health, and excelling academically. Sabina's future, and that of her family, will be more positive as a result of her involvement in this CDBG funded program.



L - Annie & Sabina at their first match meeting

R – Annie & Sabina at a recent event

Contact: Nancy Basinger, President & CEO
801-313-0303

Please feel free to contact: Karen Wiley, Community Development Manager, PO Box 144575, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4575, 385-468-4870