

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION FISCAL YEAR 2010

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2009

PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.

- 1. Project Title:**
Youth Development Initiative

- 2. Organization Name and address:**
Self Enhancement, Inc.
3920 North Kerby Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97227-1255

- 3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number and email:**
Tony Hopson, Sr.
President & CEO
503-249-1721 x222
thopson@selfenhancement.org

- 4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization):**
Same as organization address.

- 5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:**
Self Enhancement is a non-profit 501c(3)

Mission Statement: Self Enhancement, Inc. is dedicated to guiding underserved youth to realize their full potential. Working with schools, families, and community organizations, Self Enhancement provides opportunities for personal and academic success, bringing hope to individual young people and enhancing the quality of community life.

Description: Founded in 1981 as a one week basketball camp for boys, Self Enhancement, Inc. has grown to serve over 2300 inner-city Portland youth (ages 8-25) and their families annually in comprehensive year-round academic, enrichment, and family involvement programs. Self Enhancement works with kids in school, after school, on weekends, and in the summer, and Self Enhancement Coordinators are available to students 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Self Enhancement proves to inner-city young people that life has options and that their hard work can produce meaningful success for themselves and their community. We help our kids overcome the obstacles of growing up in environments of poverty, violence, substance abuse, and lack of educational attainment and role models. We provide

the safety, consistency, discipline, inspiration, and adult relationships they need every day.

Because of this comprehensive approach, Self Enhancement's success is unparalleled. Historically, 98% of Self Enhancement high school freshmen graduate four years later. 100 percent of youth have graduated for the last two years. On average, 85% of Self Enhancement high school graduates progress into post-secondary education, often the first in their families to do so. Self Enhancement students achieve this success while attending Portland's Public School District, the state's largest school district, where just 54 percent of all students and 49 percent of African Americans graduate, according to an independent report by America's Promise Alliance. Self Enhancement students at all levels exceed goals for school attendance, behavior, and academic achievement and are known for their community involvement. Furthermore, Self Enhancement alumni are now in leadership careers as social and business entrepreneurs, educators, health care workers, and professional athletes.

Self Enhancement has been honored with over 20 local, state, and national awards. For more information, visit our website at www.selfenhancement.org.

6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)

Self Enhancement was recognized as one of the highest performing youth organizations in the nation by the highly selective Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, which has supported Self Enhancement to develop a business plan for local growth and national replication. Funds requested will go to support the stabilization, growth and eventual replication of Self Enhancement's core program.

Self Enhancement's highly successful core program serves over 1,000 inner-city students ages 8-25 in year-round goal-oriented academic, enrichment, family involvement, and post high programs. Students enter the program in second grade with barriers to success, continue with the program throughout their education, and are expected to become "Positive, Contributing Citizens" who have completed at least 2 years of post-secondary education or 2 years of successful workforce experience by age 25. This year, 100 percent of eligible post-high school students achieved Positive, Contributing Citizen status.

7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

No, but we are hopeful that funds provided by the House and Senate in their versions of the FY'09 LHHS appropriations bill will be approved during final deliberations on those bills.

7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding. N/A

8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific – e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account): US Dept. of Education - Fund for Improvement of Education (FIE)

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

The purpose of the project is to cultivate positive, contributing citizens who have completed at least 2 years of post-secondary education or 2 years of successful workforce experience by age 25. Self Enhancement serves some of the most underprivileged youth in the state. The youth and families we serve live in North and Northeast Portland, which has historically had the highest rates of poverty, crime, gangs and single-parent homes while being home to public schools that are among the lowest performing in Oregon. Of the students served by Self Enhancement:

- Over 83 percent are eligible for free or reduced lunch.
- 90 percent begin the program with multiple barriers to success, including: homelessness, foster care placement, family substance abuse or gang involvement, family members in the justice system, poverty, and poor academic performance.
- 97 percent are African-American.

The program and plan addresses the following national concerns:

- Overrepresentation of African American boys in the criminal justice system.
- High drop out ratio amongst African American children.
- Overburden on public assistance to cover the costs associated with incarceration, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, low-income family support etc.

Self Enhancement's Youth Development Initiative track record of success is nationally recognized. The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (EMCF) in New York recently selected Self Enhancement as one of the nation's top youth development agencies and is supporting the development of Self Enhancement as a national model for agencies targeting underserved youth.

The disproportionate representation of African-American Oregonians in relation to rates of crime, substance abuse, incarceration, single-parent homes, low income homes, high school dropout and low education levels mirror high national rates. Consider the following:

Poverty:

- According to the Center for Community Research, North/Northeast Portland is home to 86% of the poor African Americans in Oregon. (The State of Our Children)
- In Multnomah County, 27.2% of African American families live in poverty, compared to 12% of white families.
- 57.3% of African American families in Multnomah County are female head of household with children, vs. 21.9% of all families. Of these African American families, 71.3 % live in poverty.
- The median household income for African Americans was \$28,233 compared to \$42,773 for all families in 2005.
- Home ownership among African Americans is 37.4%, compared to 66.4% for Whites.

Education:

- African-American students average 15% lower GPAs than other students, and as much as 38% lower in some schools.

- African Americans, with 15% of the student population, account for 27% of expulsions and 38% of repeat expulsions.
- Just 49% of African American students in Portland Public Schools graduate from high school compared to the state average of 69% for all students (note: 98% of Self Enhancement students graduate).

Barriers Facing African American Youth:

- African-American adolescents are 2.5 times more likely to be detained in the juvenile justice system than their Anglo counterparts (Multnomah Department of Community Justice).
- Nearly 7.5% of Oregon's foster care children were African American, although they are only 1.6% of Oregon's population (Oregon Department of Human Services).
- African-American teen pregnancy rates are four times those of whites.
- In a city with a 13% African-American population, African-Americans are killed at three times the citywide average. Twelve of Portland's 30 homicides in 2007 (40%) occurred in Self Enhancement's service area, which includes less than 10% of Portland's population. (*The Oregonian*, January 2, 2008).

This program would be a valuable use of tax-payer dollars as it is aligned with a federal government's responsibility to provide for the education of underprivileged youth in America. Myriad cost-benefit analyses have demonstrated the financial savings to state and federal government from successful prevention programs targeting at-risk youth, versus incarceration and public safety costs.

Self Enhancement employs 112 full-time staff and 148 part-time staff year-round. Part-time staff increases to approximately 200 positions during the summer. Self Enhancement will add 1 Student Coordinator this year to support program growth. Because of the current economic crisis, funding sources are decreasing and are projected to continue to decrease in the coming fiscal year. This allocation will ensure that Self Enhancement meets budget for planned growth and is not forced to eliminate positions.

As it applies to program participants it is difficult to address how many jobs are created, but the over 1,000 students we serve annually go on to graduate from high school and college, or to find careers in the working world. These successful young people may have dropped out or have been chronically unemployed if they did not have access to Self Enhancement programs, as evidenced by the 46% high school dropout rate of their peers in Portland Public Schools.

10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress? If so, who?

We will be submitting requests to Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Jeff Merkley.

11. Funding Details:

a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years):

FY2010: \$1,761,333

b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010:

\$1,000,000

c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)

Any required nonfederal match will be provided.

d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project?

Yes

e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010. (e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

Salaries & Wages	\$ 1,118,940
Benefits & Taxes	259,444
Professional Fees	212,500
New Performance Management Data System	30,000
Technology and Data Maintenance	70,000
Additional Direct Program Costs (activities, transportation, etc.)	70,449
TOTAL	\$1,761,333

f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:

Multnomah County, Portland Public Schools, the City of Portland, and numerous private companies and non-profit service providers support this project. In addition private, secured funders include: The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (EMCF) in New York, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Meyer Memorial Trust. The Oregon Community Foundation has invited us to apply for funding at the amount of \$100,000.

g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?):

Yes