RFP #4-2020 ESR Priority Area: Childhood & Youth Development - Clarification

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass
Program Information: Community and School Plus Mentoring Program

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Dated: July 10, 2020

1. **Is your proposal still viable for implementation as originally submitted?**

   Our request for funding for our Community and School Plus Mentoring is still viable for implementation with some modifications that allow for virtual mentoring as opposed to in-person meetings if/when restrictions are made by our government and/or by schools.

2. **Please detail any modifications you will be making to the original submission in order to comply with the new service delivery requirements in the COVID-19 environment? *(i.e. social distancing, capacity requirements, group event restrictions, etc.)***

   Modifications to our mentoring program for all matches (Community and School Plus) include:
   - Encouraging the continuation of virtual meetings (through Zoom, FaceTime, and other means) to allow for Bigs and Littles to interact with one another in place of in-person meetings. Currently, our Bigs and Littles are only seeing each other if all parties agree and are not in high-risk categories. There are restrictions in place to encourage social distancing (for example, Bigs and Littles are meeting outdoors when possible) if Bigs and Littles see each other in-person.
   - Expansion of our virtual meeting platforms to allow staff to host regular virtual meetings and activities (i.e. trivia nights that are organized and monitored by staff and allow for staff to help Bigs and Littles develop their relationship).
   - Expansion and additional training for our staff and volunteers that will enable them to help students returning to school with NTI or other educational challenges that will exist because of the crisis.
   - Providing deeper support to families and volunteers to assist them in crisis. We have secured funds to help families pay for rent, utilities, and other needs, as well as provided masks and cleaning supplies to volunteers and families to encourage safety in all that they are doing. Additionally, we partnered with Taziki's to deliver over 2,000 meals this Spring. This deeper support requires a greater deal of time and resources from our staff, but is critically important for our community. While we hope that the economy will rebound and provide relief, our families are amongst the most financially vulnerable and we anticipate that they will continue to have greater needs throughout the Fall and Winter.

3. **Will these new modifications increase or decrease your proposed budget? Please detail any increases or decreases to your proposed budget including additional costs and/or other secured funding.**

   These modifications will increase our proposed budget. We estimate an additional cost of $3,500 for improved technology to assist in hosting virtual meetings and events. We also anticipate ordering a second round of masks for our Bigs and Littles in the Winter, which is an additional cost of about $1,000. In order to allow for our staff the adequate time to receive additional training, provide additional support, and plan additional virtual activities, we anticipate that we will either need funds for an additional staff person (an increase of about $40,000) OR that we would serve about 75 children and families with these funds, as opposed to the 100 that we proposed in our original application.

   We have secured funding to assist families with rent, utilities, and other financial needs, as well as cleaning supplies and materials. Earlier this summer, we received $21,000 from United Way and Blue Grass Community Foundation from the Coronavirus Relief Funds and we intend to apply for a second round when that

application becomes available. This financial support does not impact our program budget for this grant, but does allow for us to better assist families during crisis.