AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The London Family Center (LFC) mission is to provide individual and family support to the London community.

The London Family Center was founded in March, 2003. Highlights over the agency's first five years include:

- 2003: Established case management, family advocacy, counseling services, parenting classes, GED classes, women support groups and summer camp program.
- 2004: Added after-school tutoring program.
- 2005: Developed partnership with the Community College of London to operate GED classes. Created girls support group.
- 2006: Created job training/post employment program for families transitioning off of public assistance. Created Building Blocks Mentoring. Established a grandparents/ kinship program, helping family members adapt to the needs of raising new children.
- 2008: Successfully graduated more than 100 parents from the multi-ethnic parenting class, with parents who were court-ordered to attend the classes. Of the parents referred from the child abuse and neglect system, only two were referred back into the system.

POPULATION SERVED

The project will serve families who live in the northwest section of London. The program was founded to address a number of challenges in the target community:

- **Focus area 1 - Families Support:** The child abuse/neglect rate for the target area is 20% higher than the statewide average (London Department of Human Services). Of those served by the London Family Center last year, 95% had household incomes under $20,000. In addition, more than 40% of target area families are led by single parents (2000 U.S. Census).
- **Focus area 2 - School Success:** Close to 40% of students who attend London Central High School drop out of school. In addition, Central students' scores on statewide literacy, math and science assessments lag behind the state average by 30% or higher (State Department of Education, 2008). Last year, 22% of London Central were disciplined or suspended for unexcused absences, fighting, and/or use of alcohol or drugs on campus (London Central High, 2008-09 Disciplinary Report). Research on mentoring has found that students with mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school, 46% less likely to start using illegal drugs, and 67% better able to make positive decisions (Public Private Ventures, 2004)
- **Focus area 3 - Self-sufficiency:** More than 80% of children from London-area families are eligible for free school lunch programs. More than 40% of adults in the community do not have a high school diploma or GED (2000 U.S. Census).

The London Family Center created its family support and school success programs after conducting a 2003 survey of more than 300 parents. The survey found that 1) parents wanted help connecting to community resources such as food, housing and healthcare, and 2) parents wanted youth to connect with more adult role models and positive influences.

PURPOSE OF REQUEST
We are requesting grant funds to cover the portion of salaries for our case management, family support, school success, and self-sufficiency initiatives, as outlined on the following two pages.

Family Support (Goal 1)

Goal 1 (Family Support). London Family Center will support the social, emotional, mental health and physical well-being of families by providing parenting resources and family support programs.

Objective 1A (Family Support): Nine hundred (900) families will receive case management services that helps them access resources such as food, transportation, health care, and housing.

Objective 1B (Family Support): Sixty (60) high risk parents will attend a parenting class.

Activities:

- LFC's Case Management program will connect families to community resources, using existing relationships case managers have with community programs. Case managers will help parents achieve specific goals to overcome barriers. Case managers will contact parents once a week to personally help them connect with community resources.
- LFC case management staff also help kinship parents (grandparents or relatives of the natural parents) address the needs of children in their care. They help these parents understand school and court requirements, and connect to community resources such as parenting classes, health insurance and housing.
- A six week parenting class will cover topics such as managing stress and conflict, child development, anger management, and interpersonal relationships. Most parents will be referred to the program because they had a prior incident of child abuse or neglect, or are determined to be at-risk for abuse/neglect.

School Success (Goal 2)

Goal 2 (School Success): LFC will support youth success in academics, peer and family relationships, and avoiding drugs, alcohol, and contacts with law enforcement.

Objective 2A (School Success): LFC will provide the Building Blocks mentoring program, matching 20 high risk London children and youth with adult mentors.

Objective 2B (School Success): An afterschool tutoring program will serve 75 youth each week.

Objective 2C (School Success): A full-day summer enrichment camp will serve 150 children and youth over a 45 day period.

Activities:

- Building Blocks to Success is a year-round mentoring program that matches 25 adults and high risk youth. Participating youth will come from teen parent programs, probation officers, youth diversion, teachers, and social workers. Mentors will be recruited from Community College of London students and faculty, businesses, and neighborhood organizations.
- Mentors and program participants will meet for four to six hours per month to provide homework help, career guidance, and support.

- Structured meetings led by mentors and supported by GCC staff will cover topics such as family relationships, school conflicts, problem solving, and dating relationships and peer pressure. Mentors also will provide job shadowing opportunities and help helping their mentees identify careers of interest. High school-age participants also will be employed during the summer by the London Family Center's Summer Enrichment Program or other appropriate job sites.
- A Tutoring Program will provide after school tutors staffed by teachers from a local middle school. Tutors will be available to help students in all subject areas between 3pm and 5pm, Monday – Thursday. An estimated 75 students a week will receive tutoring assistance.
- The London Family Center Summer Enrichment program, now in its fifth year, will provide a nine week program for children between the ages of 5 through 14. Program modules will include dance, cooking, science exploration, Spanish, introduction to computers, baseball and basketball. London Parks and Recreation will provide team leaders for baseball, basketball, arts and crafts, and other related activities. A weekly pro-social program will focus on topics such as resisting drugs, alcohol and gangs, improving self-esteem, and solving conflict peacefully and positively. Guest presenters will include DARE, Street Scene, and London Horse Rescue.

Family Self-Sufficiency (Goal 3)

Goal 3 (Self-Sufficiency): LFC will provide programs and resources to support family self-sufficiency.

Objective 3 (Self-Sufficiency): A projected 50 adults will be provided with access to Adult Basic Education, GED or ESL classes, 50 adults will enroll and complete a job readiness/career search program, and 50 families will enroll in a fast track career program.

Activities: Family advocates will help adults obtain training, career development, and life skills resources. Key self-sufficiency programs available at the London Family Center include:

- Three nine week GED classes and three nine week ESL classes.
- A fast track career program through the Community College of London.
- Life skills class, covering balancing work and personal time, stress management, conflict resolution, anger management, workplace expectations, and parenting.
- Job coaching. After placement in a job, coaches meet at least monthly with the employee and immediate supervisors.
- Case management to help families address issues such as transportation, housing, child care, substance abuse treatment, family relationships, and cultural barriers.

Two LFC family advocates were former TANF recipients in the past, and can relate to the personal experiences of participants, and the barriers that they face.

COLLABORATION

LFC has active partnerships with the London Teen Pregnancy Prevention and London Mental Health, which co-locate staff at LFC's center. The University of London and Whynot State College place interns at LFC. The Unity Fellowship Church contributes one full-time adult team leader and provides technical assistance and training for a computer class. As a member of the Community College of London, LFC uses many resources and programs available through the college.

EVALUATION

Over the past three years, LFC has successfully met requirements for evaluations established by its municipal and state grants through the Strong Cities Initiative and Adolescent Crime Prevention Initiative. LFC seeks professional evaluators to guide its assessment process. For example, James Thurber and Associates and the University of London Public Policy Institute have carried out previous program evaluations for LFC.

Measurement tools used for the evaluation include family surveys, pre-and post tests for each program, an observational tool, and school and police records. LFC compiles several evaluation-related reports during the year to assess program progress. Projected outcomes for the three initiatives are as follows:

Family Support (Goal area 1): 80% of parents participating in case management, parenting classes or kinship support programs will report increasing family stability as measured by maintaining their housing, reducing family conflict, and improved parent-child relationships. 90% of families receiving case management will express satisfaction with the services. *Previous year's results:* 81% of parents reported increased family stability, and 90% expressed satisfaction with services.

School Success(Goal area 2): For the time they are enrolled in the program and 12 months afterwards, 95% of mentoring and summer camp participants will not have any contact with the juvenile justice system. During the same time period, 70% will improve their grades or school attendance. All mentoring relationships will continue intact for a full year. *Previous year's results:* 94% of participating youth did not have contact with the juvenile justice system; 71% improved grades. 95% of mentoring relationships continued for a full year.

Self-Sufficiency (Goal area 3): An estimated 80% of participants in post-employment services will retain their jobs. At least 40 adults will demonstrate progress toward obtaining a job, either by securing new employment or completing career training programs. *Previous year's results:* 75% of post-employment participants retained their jobs, and 36 adults made progress toward employment.

SUSTAINABILITY

LFC is currently expanding its fund-raising base in other areas, including individual giving, sponsorships and special event income. The organization seeks modest contributions from participants in some of its programs. For parenting programs, a suggested donation is requested. Nominal summer camp tuition of $30 a week, with full scholarships available in case of financial need, provides additional income. In addition, some community organizations support pieces of programming. For example, the Resurrection Fellowship Church has provided funding for staffing, and has established a strong partnership that will continue.

OTHER

During the current economic downturn, LFC has seen a 37% increase in demand for case management services and a 25% increase for self-sufficiency services. Donations are down by 15%. While LFC has postponed purchasing materials and equipment and left an administrative staff position unfilled to reduce costs, it may have to cut case management capacity and eliminate one parenting class. For that reason, LFC is stepping up efforts to seek new sources of funding.

LONDON FAMILY CENTER

Fiscal Year 2008, 2009 and 2010 Budgets

INCOME

	2008 Actual	2009 Budgeted	2010 Projected
Public Fund-Raising		$ 5,000	$ 5,000
City of London	$ 25,000	$ 35,000	$ 35,000
State (County Dept. Of Human Services)	$135,000	$117,138	$100,082
Strong Cities Initiative	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ 20,000
Program Service Fees		$ 12,000	$ 15,500
Foundations/Corporations	$ 6,000	$ 12,500	$ 50,000
TOTAL REVENUE	$186,000	$201,628	$225,582

EXPENDITURES

	2008 Actual	2009 Budgeted	2010 Projected
Personnel	$ 140,876	$156,514	$164,358
Direct Services Fund	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 11,100
Summer Enrichment Program	$ 16,000	$ 16,000	$ 26,000
Equipment	$ 1,000	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
Child Care	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	$ 2,000
Food for Parent Education	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	$ 2,000
Rent	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Telephone	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	$ 1,500
Travel	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	$ 2,000
Materials	$ 500	$ 500	$ 500
Printing/Copying	$ 300	$ 300	$ 300
Client Transportation	$ 2,400	$ 2,400	$ 2,400
Staff Transportation	$ 1,000	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
Postage	$ 320	$ 320	$ 320
Accounting Services	$ 5,604	$ 5,604	$ 5,604
Liability Insurance	$ 500	$ 500	$ 500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$ 186,000	$ 201,638	$ 225,582