

Dear Drown Foundation,

The recent events in Gilroy, El Paso, Dayton, and Santa Clarita, California are reminders of why we need to continue to cultivate a safe and caring environment for all of our children.

Organizational history: The P.A.R.T.I. Program (Positive Alternative Recreation Teambuilding Impact) believes that our children are our community’s greatest assets. Every day we work to change the lives of youth who suffer from bullying, depression, violent lifestyles, unhealthy relationships, and unstable families. Founded in 2000, we began providing services in partnership with high schools like Chatworths High School and colleges like Cal State University Northridge in 2006. This all began when two sisters from the Van Nuys community in Los Angeles, Tysha and Tyshel Lockamy, reached out to our Executive Director, Winston Ashby, to explore the possibility of creating a program based on the similar needs of providing activities and leadership opportunities for their children and other low income youth to help end the cycle of violence, school dropout and little to no connection in their community. We connect youth with leadership classes, financial literacy and volunteer opportunities that focus on addressing core youth issues that affect them being successful in school, while supporting them to increase self-esteem, confidence, and increased connections to caring adults. We have a team of 3 staff who leads our operation at 4000 W. Burbank and program activities are held primarily at school sites, Our program manager, and two directors are supported by An Executive Director associate Director in Santa Clara County Ca, and countless of volunteers in the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles County. Our mission is to promote youth education around healthy lifestyles and healthy decision-making. Organization capacity Alicia Ross Manages and oversees all organization activities. We have 2 key Directors, Latanza Price and Christian Hampton supports her. Additionally, 5 support staff and college interns yearly. Our 4 core programs are: High Impact, Fusion, Health, and Leadership/Mentorship. In each program, youth reported that they are positively impacted in our program based on their need to:

- Feel like they have caring adults working with them
- Feel like their voice is being heard
- Feel like they are prepared to deal with conflict and challenging situations in their life
- Feel like they are connected to opportunities to help them thrive after high school

What makes us unique is that we provide services on weekends, after 5pm on weekdays, and during the summer.

Organizational goal: Our program model creates a seamless network of program activities for low-income, high-risk youth, which address the academic needs, social connection of youth to caring adults, removal of barriers to employment, character development, service to community, and preparation for higher education. We align with your Education and Community funding initiative.

Needs statement: According to an article published by *Larry Sand, a retired teacher, who is president of the California Teachers Empowerment Network* on January 20, 2018, “Too many kids are failing in California” 1.5 million nationally — enter a corrective or supplemental

program to help them overcome challenges that cannot be met in a regular classroom setting. Of that 1.5 million, about 300,000 are in California. Many Los Angeles County youth are at risk of not graduating because they lack sufficient course credits. The article argues that schools need to partner with programs that “increase the probability of students buying into the educational process and working to gain the knowledge required to graduate. The PARTI Program addresses this need by Providing: *Role Model Development*Peer mentorship and youth engagement in 21st Century Learning *Life/Career Skills Learning and Innovation Skills.*Development of Information Media/ Technology Skills.*Advanced Academic Learning Methods*College Readiness.

Target population: We, humbly request \$15,000, in matching funds to support our youth led advisory team operations, so that we can provide activities at Northridge Academy, Canoga, Taft High, Kennedy, Reseda, Chatsworth, Arleta, Monroe, Bishop Alemany, Sylmar and San Fernando High Schools. Funds will be used to provide staff, administrative support, and contracted services, in addition to program costs to establish sustainability. We target Latinos, African Americans, and Pacific Islanders, ages 12-18, who qualify for free/reduced lunch. However, PARTI does not discriminate and open to all youth.

Project description:

- 1: Focuses on youth character (social-emotional) development
 - Phase 1: Focuses on life-skills, college/career readiness and employability preparation
 - Phase 2: Focuses on community asset connections and Service Learning

Activities:

1. Academic coaching: Between the hours 8 am - 5 pm (Monday - Saturday) (modeled after the Community in Schools, Inc. approach) transform youth into positive decision-makers. 100 youth receives a minimum of 2 academic management hours monthly for 8 months.
2. College and Career Exploration – participants develop opportunities to discover career opportunities and learn what education qualifications will allow them access to these various fields. Participants also engage in resume writing, mock job interviews, and work together on teams to produce and achieve tasks – evidence based model: Career Academies.
3. Service and Self-Care - Create a self-action plan to help them be a more successful student; youth led activities and self-care activities (meditation, breathing, drawing, listening to music, trust circle, writing, and walks). Timeline (May 2020 through July 15, 2020)
4. Additional leadership activities and services offered by PARTI and community partners. We Follow the Effective Learning Program (ELP) Evidence Based strategy and array of evidence informed strategies. We engage youth and builds assets, with innovative social emotional learning (SEL) personal development strategies.