

Application for Funding – Cover Page

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|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| Business Name | WERC Center Application | Street Address Including City, State, and ZIP Code | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Contact Person | Benjamin L. Schafer | Title | Executive Director |
| Phone | 7017413678 | Email | ben.schafer@werccenter.com |
| Authorized Representative | Benjamin L. Schafer | Title | Executive Director |
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| Federal Employer Tax Id # | 45-0323682 | Unique Entity Identifier # | ZXAMFWWYP463 |
| Dates of Active Registration in System for Award Management | | | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Application for Funding – Cover Page

Targeted Intervention(s) to be Implemented

Outlined in the Narrative - PD Workshops, Classroom Management plans, Restorative Justice, Targeted Interventions

Total Amount of Funding Request

200,000

Willing to Accept Less Funding (Y/N)

Y

Evidenced-Based Program/Services (Y/N)

Y

Name and Source of Evidenced-Based Program/Services

Raising Lions Classroom Management, Check & Connect, Trauma Sensitive Practices, Aha! Process Poverty Reduction Framework.

School(s) or School District to be Served

34 School Districts in the Western Education Regional Cooperative on an as-needed or as-requested basis.

Estimated Number of Youth to be Served

500

Estimated Number of Minority Youth to be Served

300

Signature



Signature of the Person Submitting this Form

Name

Benjamin L. Schafer

Name of the Person Submitting this Form (print)

Juvenile Justice Grant - Program Narrative 2025



Grant Proposal for Targeted Behavioral Interventions to Encourage Positive Student Behavior

Submitted by: Western Education Regional Cooperative (WERC)

Grant Amount Requested: \$200,000

I. Description of Project

The Western Education Regional Cooperative (WERC) proposes a \$200,000 initiative to implement evidence-based targeted behavioral interventions designed to improve student behavior in our 34 participating schools. The initiative will leverage proven strategies and promising practices that address both positive behavior reinforcement and the reduction of negative behaviors, while maintaining accountability in a non-punitive manner. Targeted interventions will focus on providing specialized assistance, tailored support, and addressing specific behaviors, all rooted in the philosophy that behavior change is most effective when students are supported, not punished.

This proposal will integrate a combination of successful classroom management strategies, trauma-sensitive approaches, and mentorship programs to ensure students receive the necessary resources for long-term success. We will work with experts and organizations such as Raising Lions, B-HERO, and Check & Connect to provide professional development and implement evidence-based models that have demonstrated measurable success in other school districts.

II. Project Planning, Design, and Implementation

WERC serves a diverse group of K-12 schools within our region, which include BIPOC students from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds to include the diversity of the oil field and all of the schools that serve the MHA Nation, which educates nearly 2,000 Indigenous students. Many of our students face challenges related to disengagement, trauma, impulsivity, and other behavioral concerns that often result in missed learning opportunities, disciplinary actions, and ultimately, a decrease in academic achievement.

Behavioral issues such as impulsive behavior, chronic absenteeism, disengagement, and emotional distress are barriers to student success, making it difficult for teachers to maintain control of classrooms and for students to thrive academically. Traditional punitive measures have shown limited success, and alternative methods such as trauma-sensitive practices and mentorship-driven interventions are increasingly seen as the solution to supporting student behavior improvement while holding them accountable.

By implementing evidence-based programs that focus on intervention and accountability, WERC will directly address these issues while fostering a positive, supportive environment for students, ensuring they remain engaged in learning and improve their overall well-being. Our intention is to work with the Special Education Units in Crosby, Minot, Williston, and Dickinson, as well as our Tribal Education partners to aid in the overall success of this program.

III. Goals and Objectives (School-Based Interventions)

Goal 1: Reduce negative student behaviors (e.g., impulsivity, chronic absenteeism, disengagement) by implementing targeted behavioral interventions.

- **Objective 1.1:** Develop and implement professional development workshops for educators on trauma-sensitive classroom management and behavior modification strategies, including tools from Raising Lions and B-HERO.
- **Objective 1.2:** Provide 50% of targeted K-12 students with regular Check & Connect mentorship to strengthen relationships and provide tailored academic and behavioral support.

Goal 2: Improve student engagement and academic performance by encouraging positive behaviors.

- **Objective 2.1:** Implement classroom management plans and strategies from Raising Lions, specifically designed to reduce impulsive behaviors and increase classroom engagement.
- **Objective 2.2:** Reduce truancy rates by 25% within the first year through targeted Check & Connect mentorship and support systems.

Goal 3: Increase accountability for inappropriate behavior while maintaining a non-punitive approach to discipline.

- **Objective 3.1:** Incorporate restorative justice and conflict resolution strategies, in collaboration with Aha! Process, to ensure students understand the impact of their actions while being guided to make positive changes.

Goal 4: Foster sustainable, long-term improvements in student behavior through continuous professional development.

- **Objective 4.1:** Offer ongoing training and technical assistance for school staff on implementing and adapting targeted interventions over time.

IV. Project Design and Implementation

A. Intervention Strategies

1. **Raising Lions Classroom Management (Research-based)**

The Raising Lions approach is designed to support teachers in regaining control of impulsive behaviors in the classroom and ensuring all students are given the tools to succeed. Workshops will be conducted for educators to learn these strategies, focusing on positive reinforcement, behavior tracking, and de-escalation techniques. Additionally, providing book study opportunities to train parents and staff on the approach.

Key Action: Host Raising Lions workshops for 100+ educators and provide book study.

2. **Check & Connect Program (Mentorship)**

A highly effective intervention for disengaged students, Check & Connect will provide students at risk of dropping out or disengaging with a trained mentor who will check in regularly, monitor progress, and provide individualized support.

Key Action: At-Risk students will be paired with a local mentor, with weekly check-ins, support services, and behavior tracking. We are planning for a Check and Connect Coordinator who trains and then oversees the Check and Connect Mentors. This Coordinator does monthly fidelity checks with the mentors to ensure they are carrying out the program as intended. With this program, the mentor spends about 30 min. each week with each student individually for accountability and then communicates with parents, teachers, and administration on the student's progress.

3. **Trauma-Sensitive Practices (B-HERO)**

This initiative will help school staff identify trauma-related behavior and respond with a supportive, non-punitive approach. B-HERO's professional development resources will be incorporated into our school training initiatives.

Key Action: Training for teachers and staff on trauma-sensitive approaches.

4. **Aha! Process Poverty Reduction Framework**

Recognizing that many behavioral issues stem from challenges related to poverty, Aha! Process provides frameworks to help educators understand the cultural and behavioral

patterns of students living in poverty. Workshops will help staff develop the skills needed to respond to the unique needs of these students.

Key Action: Provide Aha! Process workshops for educators.

B. Timeline of Activities

| Activity | Timeline | Responsible Party |
|--|-----------|--|
| Professional Development on Raising Lions Classroom Management | Month 1-3 | Program Coordinator, Raising Lions Facilitator |
| Training on Check & Connect Mentorship Program | Month 1-6 | Check & Connect Facilitator, School Mentors |
| Trauma-Sensitive Schools Training | Month 2-4 | B-HERO Facilitator |
| Poverty Reduction and Aha! Process Workshops | Month 3-5 | Aha! Process Consultant |
| Mentorship and Intervention Support | Ongoing | Program Coordinators, School Mentors |
| Evaluation and Reporting | Ongoing | Program Evaluation Team |

V. Evaluation and Outcomes

The success of this project will be evaluated through both qualitative and quantitative methods. Data will be collected on:

1. **Student Behavior:** Rates of disciplinary actions, truancy, and in-class disruptions will be tracked before, during, and after the implementation of interventions.
2. **Student Engagement:** Academic performance, classroom participation, and completion of assignments will be monitored.
3. **Program Fidelity:** Feedback from teachers, mentors, and students will be gathered to assess the quality of interventions and professional development.
4. **Long-Term Impact:** Longitudinal tracking will assess the sustainability of behavior changes and academic improvements after program completion.

Expected outcomes include:

- A 25% reduction in school truancy rates.
- A 30% reduction in disciplinary referrals.
- A 15% increase in academic engagement and performance among targeted students.

VI. Budget Overview

| Budget Category | Amount |
|---|------------------|
| Personnel | \$100,000 |
| - Program Coordinator (Full-time) | \$75,000 |
| - Mentors (Part-time) | \$25,000 |
| Fringe Benefits | \$30,000 |
| Travel | \$12,000 |
| - Travel for professional development, mentoring, and training events | \$12,000 |
| Supplies | \$5,000 |
| - Classroom supplies, mentor materials, educational tools | \$5,000 |
| Subaward/Contractual | \$45,000 |
| - Raising Lions Workshop Fees | \$15,000 |
| - Check & Connect Implementation Fees | \$20,000 |
| - B-HERO Trauma-Sensitive Training | \$10,000 |
| Other Direct Costs | \$15,000 |
| - Program evaluation and reporting | \$15,000 |
| Indirect Costs | \$13,000 |
| Total Budget | \$200,000 |

VII. Conclusion

The proposed behavioral intervention program is designed to make a significant impact on student behavior by fostering positive changes through a combination of proven, non-punitive strategies. By equipping educators with the necessary tools and providing targeted interventions, we will improve student engagement, reduce negative behaviors, and set students up for long-term success.

We respectfully request your support for this transformative initiative that will improve the educational experiences and futures of students across the WERC region.

Contact Information:

Benjamin L. Schafer, WERC Executive Director



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Budget Narrative

The total budget for the program is \$200,000, which will be allocated across six primary categories: Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Supplies, Subaward/Contractual, Other Direct Costs, and Indirect Costs. Each category supports the successful implementation and sustainability of the program, with a focus on providing high-quality services to participants, developing staff competencies, and ensuring effective program evaluation.

Personnel: \$100,000

Personnel costs comprise 50% of the total budget, reflecting the importance of staffing in delivering the program's core services. The Personnel budget includes:

Program Coordinator (Full-time): \$80,000

The Program Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day management of the program, ensuring smooth operations, and maintaining communication with all stakeholders. This full-time position is essential to the success of the program, requiring significant time for program implementation, monitoring, and coordination.

Mentors (Part-time): \$30,000

Part-time mentors will provide direct support to program participants, offering guidance, tutoring, and mentorship. This funding supports a select group of mentors, who will work closely with participants, providing the individualized attention necessary for positive outcomes.

Fringe Benefits: \$30,000

Fringe benefits account for 15% of the total budget and are critical for maintaining staff well-being and job satisfaction. This category covers benefits such as health insurance, retirement contributions, and other employee benefits for the full-time Program Coordinator and part-time mentors.

Travel: \$12,000

The travel budget is set at \$12,000 to support professional development, mentoring, and training events for program staff. Travel expenses will cover transportation, lodging, and related costs for staff members attending conferences, workshops, and other events to stay updated on best practices and emerging trends in program delivery. Program delivery will consist of the Coordinator and/or mentors going to schools to visit directly with students and staff.

Supplies: \$5,000

A \$5,000 allocation for supplies will ensure that the program has the necessary educational tools and materials to operate effectively. This includes classroom supplies for participants, as well as materials needed for mentors, such as guides and reference resources. These supplies will enhance the quality of instruction and mentorship provided.

Subaward/Contractual: \$45,000

A substantial portion of the budget—\$45,000—has been earmarked for subawards and contractual services to support specialized program components:

Raising Lions Workshop Fees (\$15,000): This funding will cover costs associated with hosting Raising Lions workshops, which focus on building leadership and resilience in participants.

Check & Connect Implementation Fees (\$20,000): These fees will cover the cost of implementing the Check & Connect program, an evidence-based intervention designed to improve student engagement and retention through mentorship and support.

B-HERO Trauma-Sensitive Training (\$10,000): The B-HERO program provides trauma-sensitive training to ensure that staff can effectively support participants who may have experienced adverse childhood experiences. This training is essential for creating a safe and supportive environment for all program participants.

Other Direct Costs: \$15,000

This category allocates \$15,000 for program evaluation and reporting, which is crucial for assessing program effectiveness and ensuring accountability. These funds will be used for the collection and analysis of data to measure program outcomes and for preparing reports that communicate results to stakeholders.

Indirect Costs: \$13,000

Indirect costs are necessary for the general operation and management of the program. These include expenses such as utilities, administrative support, and office space. The indirect cost rate is based on the organization's approved rate and amounts to \$13,000, or 6.5% of the total budget.

Total Budget: \$200,000

The total program budget of \$200,000 will ensure the successful implementation, operation, and evaluation of the program. This comprehensive budget reflects a strategic allocation of resources to meet program objectives, deliver high-quality services, and maintain financial transparency. The program will provide valuable support to its participants while also fostering professional growth for staff and mentors.

Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative

** Refer to E

Applicant:

Project Period:

| Personnel | | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|--------------------------|------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|----------|
| Position | Name | Annual Salary | Grant Allocation % | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| Intervention Coordinator | TBD | 75,000 | 37.5% | \$75,000 | | \$75,000 |
| Mentors | TBD | 5,000 | 2.5% | \$5,000 | | \$5,000 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total Personnel Costs | | | 40% | \$80,000 | \$0 | \$80,000 |

Personnel Narrative:
 Personnel costs comprise 50% of the total budget, reflecting the importance of staffing in delivering the program's core services. The Personnel budget in Program Coordinator (Full-time): \$80,000
 The Program Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day management of the program, ensuring smooth operations, and maintaining co
 Mentors (Part-time): \$30,000
 Part-time mentors will provide direct support to program participants, offering guidance, tutoring, and mentorship. This funding supports a select group o

| Fringe Benefits | | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|--------------------------|------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|----------|
| Position | Name | Annual Benefits | Grant Allocation % | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| Intervention Coordinator | TBD | \$28,000 | 14% | \$28,000 | | \$28,000 |
| Mentors | TBD | \$2,000 | 1% | \$2,000 | | \$2,000 |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|-----|----------|-----|----------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total Fringe Benefits | | | 15% | \$30,000 | \$0 | \$30,000 |

Fringe Benefits Narrative:
 Fringe benefits account for 15% of the total budget and are critical for maintaining staff well-being and job satisfaction. This category covers benefits such as health insurance, retirement contributions, and other employee benefits for the full-time Program Coordinator and part-time mentors.

| Travel | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|----------------------|------------|--|--------------------|-------|----------|
| Purpose | Location | Expense Type (Hotel/Mileage/Per Diem) | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| Travel to schools | Western ND | Hotel/Mileage/Perdiem | \$10,000 | | \$10,000 |
| Training Faciliation | Western ND | Hotel/Mileage/Perdiem | \$2,000 | | \$2,000 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Total Travel Costs | | | \$12,000 | \$0 | \$12,000 |

Travel Costs Narrative:

The travel budget is set at \$12,000 (6% of total Budget) to support professional development, mentoring, and training events for program staff. Travel expenses will cover transportation, lodging, and related costs for staff members attending conferences, workshops, and other events to stay updated on best practices and emerging trends in program delivery. Program delivery will consist of the Coordinator and/or mentors going to schools to visit directly with students and staff.

| Supplies | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| Item | Quantity | Per Unit Cost | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| COMPUTER | \$1.00 | \$2,500 | \$2,500 | | \$2,500 |
| NOTEPADS/PENS | 1 BULK UNIT | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | | \$1,500 |
| PRESENTATION MATERIALS | TBD | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | | \$1,000 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Total Supply Costs | | | \$5,000 | \$0 | \$5,000 |

Supply Costs Narrative:
 A \$5,000 (2.5%) allocation for supplies will ensure that the program has the necessary educational tools and materials to operate effectively. This includes classroom supplies for participants, as well as materials needed for mentors, such as guides and reference resources. These supplies will enhance the quality of instruction and mentorship provided.

Subawards/Contracts

| Description/Purpose | Computation | Total Grant Period | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| Raising Lions Workshop Fees | | \$15,000 | | \$15,000 |
| Check & Connect | | \$20,000 | | \$20,000 |
| B-HERO | | \$10,000 | | \$10,000 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total Subaward/Contractual Costs | | \$45,000 | \$0 | \$45,000 |

Subaward/Contractual Costs Narrative:

A substantial portion of the budget—\$45,000 (22.5%)—has been earmarked for subawards and contractual services to support specialized program components:

Raising Lions Workshop Fees (\$15,000): This funding will cover costs associated with hosting Raising Lions workshops, which focus on building leadership and resilience in participants.

Check & Connect Implementation Fees (\$20,000): These fees will cover the cost of implementing the Check & Connect program, an evidence-based intervention designed to improve student engagement and retention through mentorship and support.

B-HERO Trauma-Sensitive Training (\$10,000): The B-HERO program provides trauma-sensitive training to ensure that staff can effectively support participants who may have experienced adverse childhood experiences. This training is essential for creating a safe and supportive environment for all program participants.

| Other Direct Costs | | Total Grant Period | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Type | Computation | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| Data Collection | | \$5,000 | | \$5,000 |
| Accountability Assurance | | \$5,000 | | \$5,000 |
| Reporting | | \$5,000 | | \$5,000 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total Other Direct Costs | | \$15,000 | \$0 | \$15,000 |

Other Direct Costs Narrative:

This category allocates \$15,000 7.5% for program evaluation and reporting, which is crucial for assessing program effectiveness and ensuring accountability. These funds will be used for the collection and analysis of data to measure program outcomes and for preparing reports that communicate results to stakeholders.

| Indirect Costs | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|----------------------|------|------|--------------------|-------|----------|
| Description | Base | Rate | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| Administrative Costs | | | \$10,000 | | \$10,000 |
| Office Space | | | \$3,000 | | \$3,000 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Total Indirect Costs | | | \$13,000 | \$0 | \$13,000 |

Indirect Cost Narrative:

Indirect costs are necessary for the general operation and management of the program. These include expenses such as utilities, administrative support, and office space. The indirect cost rate is based on the organization's approved rate and amounts to \$13,000, or 6.5% of the total budget.