# FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

## GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE -- REP. Michael Burgess (TX-26)

Must be completed and submitted NO LATER than COB February 27, 2009

Please submit completed questionnaire to matt.johnson@mail.house.gov

***PLEASE NOTE: ALL REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD EXPLAINING THE PROJECT. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD ACCOMPANY, NOT REPLACE, A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST AND ANY OTHER QUESTIONNAIRE***

### I. PROJECT BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

1. Please provide a formal name for this project:

Stop Six Community Go Center

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

The primary goal of this initiative is to ensure that all students and their parents understand the benefits of higher education and are provided assistance with the necessary steps to prepare academically and financially for college. It is our goal to provide academic or career information to at least 500 students/families during the year. The Community Go Center at Stop Six (SSC GO Center) is a non-traditional GO Center which focuses on effectively reaching out to families from K thru 12 grade to ensure that students meet the college readiness standards adopted by the 79th Texas Legislature. It is our belief that the encouragement of the entire family leads to the successful pursuit of higher education, and be success beyond high school. We target those families who normally consider college to be out of reach, but will take advantage of opportunities if they can attend and obtain information from a community GO Center.

3. Please outline the project plan, including the finance plan:

The SSC GO Center currently operates Monday through Thursday, 3:30 to 6:30 pm, and opens on Saturday from 1 to 5:30 pm. We are open during spring break and summer months from 1 to 5:30 pm. Because of its operation during non-traditional hours the Community Go Center is able to accommodate working families and students when school is out. The center will be staffed with an academic advisor to assist students with academic planning. In collaboration with UNHSC, collegiate G-Force mentors work in the GO Center assisting students with college planning and preparation. We utilize the G-Force mentors to work with high school students during Saturday operations. Because of its strategic location within the neighborhood, the center has increased the number of students in attendance and expanded its student base to include K thru 12th grade. A need exists to prepare students for school work at their current grade level. The Center works with parents to provide skills necessary for them to become involved in their child's education. Each student is encouraged to visit the GO Center at least twice each week.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has awarded AB Christian Learning Center a grant in the amount of $38,000 (see attached) to further its initiative of working with high school student in preparation for college. Funds received by AB Christian Learning Center in support of this initiative are:

## II. BENEFIT TO THE 26th DISTRICT AND/OR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Please explain how this project will improve life, the economy or the general welfare of the 26th District and/or the country at-large. Please be specific (i.e. outline number of jobs created, savings to economy or taxpayers, improve national security):

The Department of Education studies consistently shows that when parents are involved in their children education, their students do better in school and have a tendency to continue in higher education. We would like to implement an aggressive parental involvement program, whereby we can assist parents in parental engagement. During the past year of operation of the Stop Six GO Center, we have gained the trust of parents within this community. We have conducted parents conferences and facilitated parent teacher engagement. These types of programs brings the community together, as well as improve the behavior and academic progress of our children.

2. Please explain why this project should be considered a priority:

This project should be considered a priority because of the high incidence of drop outs, crime rate, teen pregnancy rate, and infant mortality rate. The high schools in this community have the highest drop-out rates in the district, and three of the schools are academically unacceptable. We have implemented programs, and wish to expand these programs, which help students improve academically, and reduce high risk behaviors. We believe that through parental involvement and educational forums, we can reduce the dropout rate, and reduce the infant mortality rate through reduction of teen pregnancy.

## III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:

$175,000

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

Department of Education/Department of Labor

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

## IV. FUNDING HISTORY

1. What is the total project cost and can you provide a federal-state/local-other funding breakdown?

$261,500 (SEE BELOW)

2. Has the project ever received federal funds before? If so, please elaborate.

No

3. Has the project received state, local or private funds before? If so, please elaborate.

Yes

| | |
|---|---|
| Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board | $35,500 |
| United Way Grant | 6,000 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Bank of America Community Hero Award | 5,000 |
| Susan G. Komen Grant | 1,000 |
| Metropolitan Board of Mission Grant | 1,000 |
| Private Donations | 5,000 |
| UNTHSC G-Force Mentors | 18,000 |
| In-Kind Contribution | 15,000 |
| | $86,500 |

4. Can you demonstrate a commitment for future funds from state, local, or private sectors? If so, please elaborate to the extent possible.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board grant has an option for a second year of funding. (see attached grant award.

5. How do you intend to spend federal funds for this project (operating, construction, studies, equipment purchase, salaries, other)?

Salaries, Equipment, Facilities, Security, Forums (See attached budget).

6. Does the project request stem from a currently-funded federal program (i.e., an already existing congressional authorization)? If so, please explain and be as specific as possible.

NO

## V. PROJECT HISTORY

1. Please briefly explain the level of support for the project in the local and any other community (if letters of support exist, please attach to this form).

- The Stop Six Community Go Center has partnered with the University of North Texas Health Science, which provides mentors to work with our high school students.
- A partnership is established with the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce to engage other community faith based organization to establish Go Center within their respective community.
- The United Way has cited the Stop Six Community Go Center as one for best practices for Go Centers.
- Bank of America awarded the Stop Six Community Go Center's Executive Director its local Community Hero Award for the work being accomplished within the community by the Go Center.
- In a collaboration with the City of Fort Worth Public Health, Fort Worth Independent School District, and the University of North Texas Health Science Center, the Stop Six Community Go Center sponsored a teen forum for girls in the Stop Six community focusing on reducing the infant mortality rate and reducing at risk health behaviors.
- AB Christian Learning Center has established a Memorandum of Understanding with Arbor Education & Training, which allows the Stop Six Community GO Center and Arbor to link education, training and career opportunities to the Stop Six Community. Arbor has agreed to provide job readiness workshops, educational resources and other supportive services and assistance to the GO Center clients. (see MOU)

2. Has the project encountered any objections within the local or other interested communities? If so, please describe (if letters or official records exist noting objections to the project, please attach to this form).

No

3. Please briefly explain the current stage and expected timeline of the project in a great a detail as possible.

The Stop Six Community Go Center has implemented several programs that directly address high risk factors within this community. Some of the programs included are:

- Teen forums for girls to address the high infant mortality rate, and the high teen pregnancy rate in the community was held September 2008. (see attached flyer).
- Teen forum for males scheduled for May 2009 which will address the same high behaviors prevalent within this community. This forum will include discussions from a local prosecuting attorney about consequences of criminal behavior.
- A summer math workshop was conducted July 2008 (see attached flyer).
- Summer math and reading workshops are scheduled for each summer.
- Reading specialist will be utilized part-time to work Pre-K thru 6th grade to help them learn to read.
- In collaboration with UNTHSC, we hosted two focus groups for mothers of African American teen girls to provide information about the HPV vaccine.
- We will continue these types of health information forums for parents and the community

**VI. CONTACTS**

1. Who is the primary point of contact for the request?

Loretta Burns, Executive Director

2. Contact information (telephone and e-mail):

(817) 457-3911 - lburns@abchrist.org

3. Mailing address of entity that would receive the funding?

AB Christian Learning Center – P. O. Box 51078 – Fort Worth, Texas 76105

**VII. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

1. How much of this request can be spent in fiscal year 2009?

Not Applicable

2. If this is a highway, transit, rail, or aviation request, did you check eligibility with the state DOT, FTA, FRA, or FAA?

Not Applicable

2a. If yes, did the agency indicate the project is eligible under the account requested?

Not Applicable

3. If this is an FHWA request, is the project considered by the state and/or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs?

Not Applicable

4. If a highway request, is the project on the state's transportation improvement plan?

____Not Applicable _____

## PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION:

I, Loretta Burns_____, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF

_AB Christian Learning Center_____ MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. All appropriations requests must be a priority for the 26th District and/or the country-at large as defined as enhancing life, liberty, or the general welfare.

2. All requests must be a proper and wise use of federal taxpayer dollars and must be justified as such. Projects that include a commitment to match federal funds will receive priority consideration.

3. All requests will be immediately posted on the website and supporting documentation made available to press outlets and interested individuals.

4. None of the funding requested will be used for a building, program, or project that has been named for Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. No request will be made that Congressman Burgess or his spouse has any financial interest.

5. All requests shall be made in accordance with House of Representatives rules, and within Appropriations Committee deadlines. No funding request will be submitted after the deadline established by the Committee

Name of person certifying Loretta Burns

Title of person certifying Executive Director

Project name as it will appear in the bill Stop Six Community GO Center

Legal name of entity making request AB Christian Learning Center

Address 5009 Brentwood Stair Road #101 – Fort Worth, TX 76112

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 51078 – Fort Worth, TX 76112 .

Phone Number: (817) 457-3911 .

Loretta Burns

February 27, 2009

Signature Date