

Gang Reduction and Intervention Partnership GRIP

The Program/partnership of GRIP, the target community, the objectives, and the program strategy:

In recent years, the City of Anaheim has experienced an increase in gang activity. As a result, the APD and the Orange County Sheriff's Department have teamed up with the Orange County District Attorney's Office, two local school districts, Community Service Programs, Inc, a religious organization, and concerned parents to develop the Gang Reduction, Intervention Partnership (GRIP) Subcommittee. The Subcommittee operates under the Anaheim Police Chief's Advisory Board, and was created to address gang education and intervention at four targeted elementary schools. These schools were chosen because they are among the most economically depressed in their respective jurisdictions, have significant gang influence, and are in predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods:

Anaheim City School District (ACSD)

- Jefferson Elementary
- Olive Street Elementary

Magnolia School District (MSD) located in the City of Stanton

- Pyles Elementary
- Walter Elementary

Both law enforcement agencies work with the Deputy District Attorney to present educational seminars to the faculty and support staff, parents and students at participating schools. Each teacher will work with the GRIP Subcommittee to identify which students are most "at risk." The Subcommittee will review the cases and discuss the best approach with a case manager and social worker. The identified "at risk" students will be monitored for 120 days and placed in special programs to address their particular needs. The case manager will work with local law enforcement agencies, a deputy district attorney, the Police Activities League (PAL), teachers, and parents, and other resource providers to encourage the "at risk" students to lead a more confident, productive, and academic life.

This program is directed towards fourth through sixth graders who are currently lacking education on gang activity and violence. By blending and enhancing existing resources, the GRIP intends to:

- Implement research-based coordinated, targeted gang prevention, intervention, and suppression activities
- Create safe and drug-free schools

- Remove barriers to learning
- Promote pro-social leadership skills
- Provide parents with effective skills, tools, and support that will promote healthy childhood development practices and minimize gang influences on their children.
- Train teachers and school support staff to identify gang behavior and students at-risk of adopting the gang life style

Roles of the program partners, how their participation has been critical to the collaboration and the realization of the program goals:

The ACSD and MSD school districts, the Anaheim Police Department Gang Enforcement Detail, SROs, Police Officer/Sheriffs Deputy and the Gang Target Team (2 Deputy D.A.s, 2 D.A. Investigators, Community Service Programs, Inc and 1 Deputy Probation Officer), are members of the GRIP Subcommittee Advisory Council.

The combined forces of the SROs and the District Attorney's Office show the seriousness of gang involvement to both parents and students. In addition, a Case Manager, will work with the GRIP Subcommittee, school principal, teachers, SROs, and the Deputy District Attorney's Office, while tracking the progress of the student throughout their intervention phase. Each participant brings their level of expertise and their influence to the collaboration and the development of program goals.

Brick-and-mortar (tangible activities):

This program officially kicked-off in February 2008, and recently completed the educational process with school faculty and support staff members. Meeting dates have been scheduled for the parents and students. Teacher referral forms are completed and the GRIP Subcommittee is in the process of assigning case managers to the "at risk" students.

The GRIP Subcommittee also recognizes one common factor playing a key role towards gang activity, which is truancy. The Subcommittee has created a program that tackles this problem in which an "Intervention Team" has been formed, consisting of the SRO, Deputy District Attorneys, Community Service Programs, Inc and school principals. A truancy list is given to the team, which is continually updated, of regular offenders along with their case files (SARB). On a scheduled school day, after the first class has started, the Intervention Team is given a list of students who didn't make it to school; this list also consists of the "regular offenders." The Intervention Team visits each student at their home to

confirm a valid reason for not attending school and if not justified, the Intervention team will leave a note with/for the parent and the student is brought back to school, and has a meeting with the Intervention Team and the parent(s) is/are notified.

Plan and Implementation:

The GRIP Plan Advisory Board subcommittee reviewed the literature and research on risk and protective factors by such authorities as the US Surgeon General (*Report on Youth Violence*), the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), and the Search Institute (*Forty Development Assets*). Subsequently, the subcommittee and partner organization members attended Search Institute trainings to integrate this knowledge into their professional work skills-others will soon follow. Committee members have also shared professional experiences and agency data relating to youth group and came to the unanimous agreement that the target area for this application is rife with many of the risk factors researchers have proven predispose youth to delinquent behavior and gang affiliation. Notable among these factors are lack of school success, crowded and impoverished living conditions, problematic parent-child relationships, negative peer and adult role models, violence in the neighborhoods and at home, low educational aspirations and self-esteem, school bullying, exposure to alcohol and drug abuse, no hope for the future, lack of after-school supervision and poor coping strategies. It was decided to select the risk factors for which there are local resources available that could serve as protective factors and to identify existing gaps that could be addressed either by this funding source or by other sources.

Plan Support for Regional Approach:

To achieve program objectives and measurements, the proposed GRIP Plan is using a regional approach and blending resources of multiple jurisdictions and agencies within a specific, manageable target area. Key to the Plan is raising the skill level of all staff and collaborators providing regular service of any kind to students and/or their parents at the four target schools in the service area regardless of agency affiliation. This includes, but is not limited to: administrators, teachers, mental health workers, office workers, bus drivers, after school program instructors, etc. Because a major GRIP Plan objective is to create a school climate rich in as many protective factors as possible to counteract asset deficits, everyone involved with providing services to the target schools including law enforcement and collaborators and school staff have received various degrees of training in the *Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets*. Training in violence reduction, alcohol and drug use prevention and character development curriculum has reached across jurisdictions and is provided by appropriate staff from schools, law enforcement, and collaborators.