

Proud Parenting Grant Program

Local Evaluation Plan

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Project Background

The identified target population include youth between the ages of 18-24 who are or were involved in the justice system and/or crossover youth impacted by the child welfare system (foster youth) who are also parents.

According to the article Understanding Young-Parent Families (2018), there were approximately 3.6 million young parents between the ages of 18 to 24 in the United States, with nearly 80 percent living with at least one of their children (Sick, Spaulding, Park).

Many of these young parents have current or past experiences with the juvenile justice system and or the child welfare system, which provides implications for intervention requiring a thoughtful and diverse range of approaches to address their identified risk factors and increase protective factors. Such risk factors may include but are not limited to: Low educational attainment, barriers to employment, trauma and mental health stressors, and demographic inequalities (Sick, et al., 2018). Protective factors include but are not limited to: educational engagement, employment, mental health, referrals and linkages to community, and reliable childcare (Sick, et al., 2018). This has not changed, and neither has the unique challenges and needs of this population.

Additionally, a study by Children's Data Network of crossover youth released from detention facilities in 2015, found that "four out of five LA Probation youth had received at least one referral for suspected maltreatment" (McCroskey, Herz, Putnam-Hornstein, Overview of Findings section). This study combined with the understanding that those who have experienced violence or maltreatment are at "risk for behavioral and mental health difficulties, including future violence perpetration and victimization...." validates the need for the following Proud Parents services ("Preventing Youth Violence," What are the Consequences section).

The Proud Parents Program intends to address and mitigate risk factors while increasing protective factors; by offering a range of wraparound services that has at its foundation parenting classes. The 16 week parenting class has been proven to increase young parents' knowledge in support of stronger mother and father involvement and increased positive parent-child interaction. Due to the co-location and partnership between New Opportunities East Los Angeles and American Job Center of California all the participants who choose to participate in the parenting class through

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the Proud Parents Program, also have access to high school education, mental health, employment, mentorship and community linkage support as needed.

Each service area within LA County contains its own distinct set of needs and opportunities to support transitional aged youth in the areas of education, employment, parenting and interpersonal relationships etc. New Opportunities Organization (NOO) currently does this by supporting this population in 11 community-based high school sites throughout Los Angeles County, 3 of which are based in correctional facilities. Having the experience of serving over 3,000 students per year, NOO is uniquely positioned to implement the Proud Parents Program to address gaps in services specific to those named in the Proud Parenting Program. NOO's high school programs serve adult students (18 +) who were unable to complete their diploma. Our unique approach centers on the use of life skills classes as core electives enabling students to complete credit-earning courses in the areas of parenting, anger management, interpersonal relationships, substance abuse, and domestic violence in addition to traditional common core subjects. NOO has developed an expertise working with previously disengaged students and has found that most students drop out due to a multitude of needs not able to be met by typical high schools. In response to those needs, NOO created a student support team consisting of licensed clinicians, MFT/MSW, and case managers, who support students through counseling, case management, care coordination, and more. Additionally, the student support team has worked to cultivate relationships with community partners in areas ranging from employment and housing, to substance treatment; making NOO poised to integrate the intended services of the Proud Parenting Program into the overlapping areas of education, justice involvement and reentry services. Approximately 10% of our students would qualify for the Proud Parenting Program aligning with our commitment to support students and the communities we serve.

There are multiple nonprofits and government programs in and around La county focused on supporting those aged 18-24 years with foster or justice involvement who are also parents. For example Alliance For Children's Rights shares that their range of services include case management to help with resource coordination which is inclusive of advocacy for education, housing etc. Additionally, Children's Hospital Los Angeles runs a program called NATEEN which is designed to help expectant youth and parenting teens and young adults (up to age 21) with services such as case management and counseling health education, including birth control, housing and more. As stated previously there are many services within La County that address a range of needs for this specific population however there is a uniqueness to the Proud

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Parenting program that can only further support the specific community of East Los Angeles and this target population.

The Proud Parents program is unique in several ways. To start, NOO adopted the evidenced based curriculum Supporting Father Involvement (SFI); which is a 16 week curriculum shown to increase young parents' knowledge in support of stronger mother and father involvement and increased positive parent-child interaction. According to The California Evidence-Based ClearingHouse for Child Welfare, the curriculum is based on the empirically validated family risk model with a scientific rating of 2. NOO has chosen SFI as the curriculum to be used within the Proud Parenting Program because research has shown that since 2009 SFI has remained an effective evidenced-based curriculum for couples who are parents of young children (Cowan & Cowan, 2008). The results have shown over the course of four studies that parents who have the opportunity to meet weekly with trained leaders to work on challenging family issues have positive long-term effects on the quality of the parents' relationship/ co-parenting and positive parent-child interactions (Cowan & Cowan, 2008). Additionally, SFI is an evidenced-based program designed for families from various cultural backgrounds (Cowan & Cowan, 2008).

Secondly, NOO in partnership with AYE brings a co-location and wrap around service model to not only offer parenting groups but to have available, as needed, free services such as but not limited to: mental health, individualized case management, mentorship, co-case management, employment, high school education, paid work experience opportunities, soft skills training and more. All of the services thoughtfully included in the Proud Parents program are in support of increasing the protective factors of young parents.

The identified target population includes youth between the ages of 18-24 who are or were involved in the juvenile justice/justice system and/or crossover youth impacted by the child welfare system (foster youth) who are also parents.

The projected number of participants to be served in the first year of this grant is 50 individuals with room to over enroll. The curriculum is geared towards couples, co-parents and/or fathers and father figures and is designed in a cohort model for which no more than 12 people i.e. six couples/ or individuals are recommended per cohort. NOO's initial focus will be on fathers only with room to add additional cohorts for couples. That being said the fathers only groups still include the involvement of the identified mother figure in several of the curriculum sessions. Please see below for an outline of Goals and Objectives:

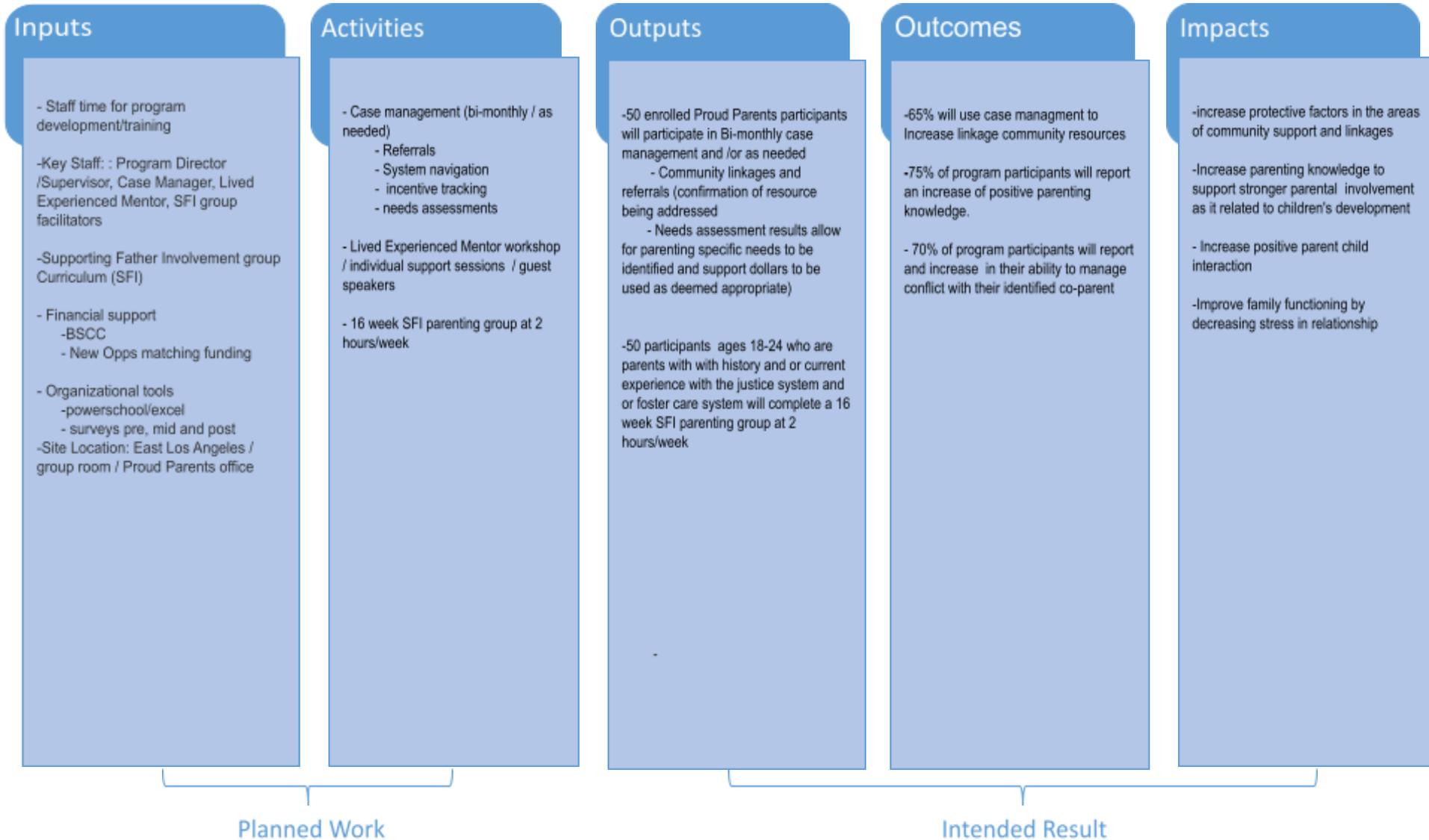
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- Goal: Increase Parenting Knowledge to support stronger (mother) and father's involvement as it relates to children's development.
 - Objective: 1) Increase knowledge of quality/healthy relationship styles between parents 2) Enhance knowledge of intrapersonal wellness and its impact on interpersonal relationships 3) Identify additional supports among family/ friends/community
- Goal: Increase positive parent- child interactions through practice, modeling, and guidance.
 - Objective: 1) Strengthen parent/co-parents Interaction skills with each other 2) Strengthen parent/co-parents Interaction skills with children 3) Strengthen intergenerational bonding and co-parenting skills 4) Practice coping strategies for life stress and enhance social supports.

Project Logic Model

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Proud Parents Logic Model:



Process Evaluation Method and Design

The Proud Parents program intends to enroll 50 participants per project year who are ages 18-24, are parents, and have history and or current experience with the justice system and or foster care system.

In order to best implement this program NOO has dedicated an office to the Proud Parents program on site at the ELA location where the groups take place. These offices are on the same floor and short distance from the highschool program and all other adjunct services attached to this program. The Proud Parents office is a family friendly office that allows parents to come in as needed and or per appointment with or without their children.

Those that enroll will at minimum participate in a 16 week Supporting Father Involvement parenting group that will run at 2 hours per week. Additionally, all those that participate in the parenting program will be asked to meet with their assigned case manager on a bi-monthly and as needed basis.

We anticipate some barriers that may impact our participants could include but are not limited to transportation, childcare and/or pre existing obligations that may run at the same time as the group sessions. The Proud Parents program in an attempt to mitigate stated barriers intends to use support dollars to address and support potential participants. Additionally, the hours for which the group will take place are later in the afternoon in hopes that a later time slot would make participants more available.

Those that choose to participate in the Proud Parents program will also have adjunct services available to them as they should need or want. For example, at the East La site for which the Proud Parenting program will take place NOO offers a high school diploma program as well as mental health counseling. Additionally, and due to our partnership with the AJCC/ AYE, employment services such as paid work experience, soft skills training and resume building are also available on site. Participants will be alerted to those adjunct services at the beginning of their enrollment by way of their case manager and will be directly referred and connected to resources as needed. The Proud Parent case manager will work with partners to collect pertinent data and maintain ongoing communication for co-case management. Please note all aforementioned services and support are offered free of charge.

New Opportunities organization has an internal data system called PowerSchool that will also be used to maintain proper documentation and data points for the Proud

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Parents program. NOO will be tracking enrollment , attendance and participation, evaluation and survey results,needs assessments, and case management sessions. All data will be input into Powerschool upon completion of the activity by the staff member who did that activity. All staff that work on the Program will have access to powerschool as well so they can stay current as to the needs of each participant.

Staff will meet weekly for Integrated Resource Team (IRT) meetings. These meetings are intended to support staff and to provide space to review the previous week's activities and participants. This will allow the opportunity for ongoing and consistent co-case management and collaboration. All data will be reviewed monthly during the IRT and as needed. Present for meetings will be as follows: clinical supervisor, group facilitators, case manager(s), partners (AYE etc.)

Powerschool allows for data to be pulled into excel and sorted. Additionally, it is a system that can and will track both quantitative and qualitative descriptions of activities occurring throughout the program.

As mentioned all Quantitative Data is able to be extracted from powerschool, which will allow us to track specific data points such as demographics, attendance and completion of surveys etc. Qualitative data is also able to be tracked within Powerschool by means of log entries. Qualitative data will be based on a structured set of questions and answers given to and received from the participants themselves as to the progress they are making in specific areas for which this program is aiming to make improvements. These questions will be provided to the clients pre, mid and post and will be reviewed by the team as a whole to assess and determine outcome measure.

The decision making process for this program is a collaborative one initially. That being said, all major decisions that are related to fidelity or funding are made based on the obligations set forth in the contract, the program supervisor and programs fiscal department. Additionally we have set aside funds to enlist those that trained staff on SFI to support NOO as needed with implementation, and the maintenance of fidelity. As needed additionally organizational leaders will be enlisted to support the Proud Parents Program. Budgets will be maintained and reviewed monthly by the Grant accountant and adjustments will be made as they are needed in collaboration with the program supervisor and the funder BSCC.

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Proud Parents: Resource and Evaluation Method and Design Table

Input/Resource/Activity/Output	Data Element(s)		Data Source(s)	Frequency of Data Collection
50 participants ages 18-24 who are parents with history and or current experience with the justice system and or foster care system will enroll in the Proud Parenting Program	# 50 participants served		Enrollment/ intake (initial intake will help determine eligibility i.e self-report of past/ current justice involvement and/or foster care involvement)	Eligibility determination and Upon completion of intake/enrollment (by the end of 2 nd session), input in to PowerSchool and hard copy participants file in Proud Parents office
50 participants ages 18-24 who are parents with history and or current experience with the justice system and or foster care system will participate/complete 16 weeks SFI parenting group at 2 hours/week	# 50 participants served		Attendance/rosters	Each time group takes place attendance will be taken. This will take place at each of the 16 groups sessions. Attendance will be tracked in PowerSchool a Org wide data systems.

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Provide 50 participants with case management services	# 50 participants served		Case management system log tracking each meeting offered (PowerSchool)	Each time a one-on-one case management meeting/ or activity occurred will be tracked. Dates and narrative of interaction input into PowerSchool Data input as it occurred total data collected monthly
AYE partnership	#10 participants co-enrolled		PowerSchool / excel / Cal Jobs (AJCC internal tracking system)	1 x per month AYE reports co-enrollments, activities and status
BSCC Grant	100k		Invoicing/ Budget tools and forms whatever those might be	Budget to be done monthly and budget modification or incentive requests done as needed
Staff	2 facilitators and 1 Case manager		Surveys, case conferences/ supervision	Weekly supervision, case conference, pre and post surveys, facilitator session surveys

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design

Research design for the Proud Parenting program will implement a means to collect data both qualitative and quantitative, accounting for initial data to be collected to determine a baseline along with 2 other points throughout the 16 weeks to assess for growth towards the following positive outcomes. Outcomes for the Proud Parents program are as follows: 1) Increase community linkages and supports to increase protective factors. This will be defined as the participants linkages and utilization rate reported before case management services are delivered compared to after case management services are provided. 2) Increase parenting knowledge to support stronger parental involvement as it relates to children's development. This will be defined as an increase of parenting knowledge to support stronger parental involvement as it relates to children's development pre to post curriculum. 3) Increase positive parent child interaction. This definition will be dependent on the parents accessibility to the child/children. An increase in interaction/involvement could range from phone calls to, visitations, to an increase of activities per week and or per day. It will be defined based on the specificity of the individual participant. 4) Improve family functioning by decreasing stress in the relationship. This will be defined as the improvement of family functioning by decreasing stress in the relationship pre to post curriculum.

Quantitative data will be collected through 8 short questionnaires that have been provided through the SFI curriculum. Questionnaires will be administered using paper and pencil and use likert scaling to assess and track improvements in the following areas: How the participant has been feeling and behaving, the degree of satisfaction the participant feels in the co-parenting relationship, co-parenting across family structures, couple communication, "who does what-childcare", "Alabama Parenting-SFI version", Child Adaptive behavior Inventory (brief). These surveys will be provided at 3 different points throughout the 16 weeks of the program, Beginning (baseline), 8 week mark and 16 week mark via. All surveys will be collected and uploaded into powerschool and placed in hard copy participant files that will remain on site.

Initial enrollment and needs assessment will help to extract information with regards to needs for resources and referrals and is administered by the assigned case manager. Needs assessment will also be administered at the end of the 16 weeks, in addition to all case management information being tracked throughout the program period.

Here are 5 out of 30 total likert scale evaluation questions from the Alabama Parenting - SFI version. These set of questions speak to the proposed goal: to increase parenting knowledge to support stronger father involvement as it relates to child development.

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This particular evaluation asks parents to answer the following questions based on experiences and interactions for the past month.

Alabama Parenting - SFI Version

	Never	Almost Never	Sometimes	Often	Always
1. Talk to you child					
2. Threaten to punish your child and then do NOT actually punish him/her					
3. Volunteer to help with activities that your child is involved in					
4. Help your child when he/she is having difficulty making something work					
5. Play games or do other fun things with your child					

Criteria for determining success of a participant will be as follows: Questionnaires from the beginning of a participants time in the group will be compared to following administered questionnaires. any change in answers towards that of improvement to the child parent relationship as reflected by the surveys will be considered a success. In addition success will be measured by 70% attendance for SFI parenting groups; at least two successful referrals; participation in at least two family-friendly pro-social activities; and progress made or achievement in meeting at least one of their ISP goals/milestones.

Proud Parents Outcome Method and Evaluation

Outcome	Definition	Data Source(s)	Frequency of Data Collection
<p>Increase community linkages and supports to increase protective factors</p>	<p>Participant linkages and utilization rate reported before case management services are delivered and compared to after case management services Protective Factors can be defined but are not limited to connectedness, self- esteem, social supports, success at school, employment, mental & physical health</p>	<p>Initial enrollment/ needs assessment Post program/needs assessment (all data will be input into PowerSchool)</p>	<p>Each time a one-on-one case management meeting/ or activity occurs will be tracked. Dates and narrative of interaction input into PowerSchool data collected monthly</p>
<p>Increase parenting knowledge to support stronger parental involvement as it related to children's development</p>	<p>Increase parenting knowledge to support stronger parental involvement as it related to children's development pre- to post curriculum with focus on the 5 domains of SFI- 1)Parent as individual, 2)co-parent relationship, 3)parent- child relationship, 4) family of origin, 5) external influences</p>	<p>Curriculum surveys' and Participant self-report on pre- and post-program sessions delivered;</p>	<p>Per cohort/per participant Pre and post 16 week parenting curriculum</p>

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<p>Increase positive parent child interaction</p>	<p>Depending on parent accessibility to child/children. Increase in interaction/involvement: via phone, in person, or increase in activities per week or day</p>	<p>Curriculum surveys' and Participant self-report on pre- and post-program sessions delivered;</p>	<p>Per cohort/per participant Pre and post 16 week parenting curriculum</p>
<p>Improve family functioning by decreasing stress in relationship</p>	<p>Improve family functioning by decreasing stress in relationship pre- to post curriculum Further definition: effective problem-solving, reduced embarrassment, anger, depression, anxiety, normalizing stressors in parenting, blame reduction, confiding vs attacking & withdrawing</p>	<p>Curriculum surveys' and Participant self-report on pre- and post-program sessions delivered; PowerSchool</p>	<p>Per cohort/per participant Pre and post 16 week parenting curriculum</p>

Appendix A: Additional Logic Model Guidance

References

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