



**Commissioners**  
Marilyn Brown, President  
Paula Brooks  
John O'Grady

**Department of Job and Family Services**  
Anthony S. Trotman, Director

February 25, 2015

Dr. Richard A. Ross  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Ohio Department of Education  
25 South Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-4183

Re: Community Connectors grant application  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio

Dear Dr. Ross:

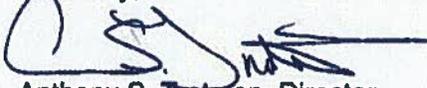
On behalf of the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services (FCDJFS), I write to express support for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio's application for a Community Connectors grant. Funding from this grant will support Project Mentor, the agency's School-based Mentoring initiative to provide thousands of at-risk students in Columbus City Schools with valuable one-to-one mentoring relationships.

National, independent research has documented that youth participants in Big Brothers Big Sisters programs report fewer depressive symptoms, greater acceptance by their peers, and better grades in school than their non-mentored peers. Since 1933, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio has helped more than 100,000 children facing adversity overcome personal barriers so they can reach their full potential. Support from the Ohio Department of Education will help Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio provide additional support to youth participants, enabling them to build hope and develop character traits that will help them succeed throughout their lives.

As an active mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, I have seen firsthand the importance of the mentoring programs in our community. With a proven track record of identifying, recruiting and enrolling both mentors and eligible children, Big Brothers Big Sisters has the infrastructure and experience to sustain long-lasting mentoring relationships which are proven to have a measurable, positive impact on mentored youth. It is for this reason, and the reasons listed above, that I strongly encourage you to support this grant application and help Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio continue their life-changing work.

Thank you for giving Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio's proposal your full consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information or to answer questions.

Sincerely,



Anthony S. Trotman, Director



John A. Schoedinger  
David S. Schoedinger  
Michael S. Schoedinger  
J. Randall Schoedinger  
Kevin D. Schoedinger

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Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Ohio Department of Education  
25 South Front Street  
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Re: Community Connectors grant application  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio

Dear Dr. Ross:

I am pleased to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio's application for a Community Connectors grant. This grant will support Project Mentor, the agency's School-based Mentoring initiative to provide thousands of at-risk students in Columbus City Schools with valuable one-to-one mentoring relationships.

It has been my privilege to serve on the Board of Trustees of Big Brothers Big Sisters for the past nine years, including two years as Board Chair. I have also been a Big Brother and School Based Mentor in the programs. Both in my capacity as a Board member, and through my own relationship with my Little Brother and Mentee, I have seen firsthand the incredible difference the Big Brothers Big Sisters program makes for at-risk children.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio has helped more than 100,000 children facing adversity overcome personal barriers so they can reach their full potential. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio has a proven track record of identifying, recruiting and enrolling both mentors and eligible children, and has the infrastructure and experience to sustain long-lasting mentoring relationships which are proven to have a measurable, positive impact on mentored youth. National, independent research has documented that youth participants in Big Brothers Big Sisters programs report fewer depressive symptoms, greater acceptance by their peers, and better grades in school than their non-mentored peers. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio is a leader in the national Big Brothers Big Sisters network and one of the most progressive mentoring agencies in the country – always innovating and improving child safety and impact.

Thank you for giving Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio's proposal your full consideration. I hope you will support this grant application and help Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio continue their life-changing work.

Sincerely,

Randy Schoedinger