

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Community Connectors program throughout the state, applicants are required to partner with education stakeholders from the faith, business, and nonprofit communities. Each applicant must identify its partners and include description of each respective partner's roles and responsibilities in question 12 of the grant application. A partner agrees to provide human and material assets or access to academic and administrative resources to the grant applicant to develop or execute a Community Connectors grant application. However, in partnership, only the grant applicant is responsible for ensuring the grant is developed and executed according to the terms of the grant agreement. Each member of the partnership is responsible for the following assurances: 1) Be knowledgeable about the applicant's Community Connectors grant proposal and application, including advocacy of the Community Connectors program. 2) Maintain a familiarity with the program services to enhance the proposal, including specific goals and practices. 3) Demonstrate a commitment to clear roles and responsibilities of each partner as it relates to the grant proposal and application. 4) Sustain consistent communication among partners and stakeholders with a shared vision of the goals of the grant proposal. This includes participating in regularly scheduled meetings for project management and identifying areas for improvement. 5) Ensure partners have appropriate access to data for purposes of grant program improvement and evaluation in accordance with state and federal law.

Partner Name:  MICHAEL A. EJAN

Title: SUP JACKSON OPERATIONS

Organization: BELLISIO FOSOS

Sign: _____



RSVP & Volunteer Network Center of the Ohio Valley

*Serving Jackson, Gallia, Pike, Ross,
Scioto, Pickaway, & Lawrence Counties*

*Administrative Office: 243 E. Main Street, Jackson, Ohio 45640 (740) 286-4918
A Member of the COAD Family of National Service Programs*

February 2015

Dear Community Leader,

RSVP of the Ohio Valley, in partnership with the Jackson City Schools, Wellston City Schools, Gallia-Jackson-Meigs ADAMH Board, Health Recovery Services, Area Agency on Aging District 7, OSU Extension, and other community non-profits and members of the faith-based community, is planning to submit a proposal for the Ohio Community Connectors grant, an initiative of the Office of Governor John Kasich, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Ohio Department of Aging.

In 2014, Governor Kasich and the Ohio Legislature designed the Community Connectors program to bring together students, their families, schools, communities, faith-based organizations, and businesses in mentoring programs. The Community Connectors program seeks to strengthen communities, encourage mentoring opportunities, and create new pathways for civic engagement that will result in higher educational achievement, higher levels of well-being and health, and workforce readiness for our state. Most specifically, this approach to social connectedness will impact school performance and economic productivity while also creating new ways for schools to promote a positive, goal-oriented, and hopeful atmosphere for success.

The project we have created for our region is called *HOPE: Healthy Outcomes through Positive Experiences*. We have conceptualized a model that will include two primary tracks, a virtues-based component that will work on the building of values, resiliency, perseverance, strength of character, and other life-skills, as well as a Career Pathways component that will engage business partners in key roles as both mentors and "educators" about opportunities in the southeastern Ohio workforce, as well as working with them on development of critical employment skills--both hard- and soft-skills--required to fill these positions.

This program will provide an integrated model of mentoring which will include team mentoring (two or more mentors working with groups of up to eight students); group mentoring (one mentor working with no more than four students); one-on-one mentoring (one mentor face to face with mentee) and e-mentoring which will utilize social media to connect mentors to mentees on a frequent basis in addition to face-to-face time. Team and group mentoring will include a variety of activities designed to build leadership, teamwork, service learning, civic engagement, and career exploration. One-on-one mentoring will focus more strategically on relationship building and the development of characteristics desirable in young people, including such values as self-belief, confidence, hope, faith, vision, integrity, commitment, and feelings of self-worth. One-on-one mentoring will also provide opportunities for mentees to reflect on the various activities conducted by group and team processes.

Activities will be conducted during after-school programs on the school campus, as well as at off-campus sites in the community throughout the calendar year. The project will also include a number of service-learning projects which will engage the students and their mentors in strategically designed community service, to help them learn the value of "giving back."

We believe that this program will provide opportunities for young people to develop both values based life skills AND realistic future work goals will strengthen the economic condition of our region, by providing a better prepared workforce which can fulfill the needs of employers. Ultimately, not only will we have stronger youth and stronger future families, but also our community leaders will be better able to attract new business growth, being able to market a region with skilled young folks who plan to stay and raise their own families in southeastern Ohio someday.

We propose that approximately 350 students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will be involved in the team/group mentoring, with approximately 80 of these students being targeted for one-on-one mentoring services, based on interest and need. If funded, we will be reaching out to the community to recruit, train, and support both mentors and mentees to develop these various types of activities.

We wondered if you would consider writing a letter of support for our proposal? We would greatly appreciate being able to include such a letter with our application and believe it would truly strengthen our proposal to show the depth of support we have from our community leadership.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at rsvpoftheohiovalley@gmail.com or at 740.286.4918. We need to have all support letters by close of business on Tuesday, March 2, at our office, 243 E. Main Street, Jackson, Ohio.

Thank you for your support and your commitment to empowering the youth and volunteers of our community.

*Susan M. Rogers, Director
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BE the change you want to see in the world!!
"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."
~ Winston Churchill*