

**COVER SHEET**

**Organization Information:**

Organization name: SafeFutures Youth Center

Organization address: 6337 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98126

Describe your legal status and, if applicable, state of incorporation (for example, Washington State non-profit corporation, Washington State partnership, sole proprietorship):

Washington State non-profit corporation (501 c 3)

**Application Components and Checklist (submit in this order)**

- Cover Sheet
- Key People
- Previous Experience
- Tracking to Success
- Women and Minority Inclusion; Non-discrimination

**Contact Information:**

Contact person: Sorya Svy  
(please print clearly)

Title: Executive Director

Mailing address: 6337 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98126

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: February 9, 2012

Additional information is provided in Attachment 3.

## Key People

SFYC employs a variety of staff members who are responsible for the coordination and implementation of our programs, each of whom bring a variety of talents and skills to our organization. **Doan Nguyen** is our Academic Services Coordinator for the Motivating Youth to Succeed in Academics (MYSA) program, and is fluent in Vietnamese. She has been with SFYC since June 2011 providing mentoring and academic enrichment support for our youth. She has also been an exemplary volunteer tutor for our MYSA Program since January 2011. Our AOD Coordinator, **Nigel-Andrew Paclibon**, is responsible for performing outreach and education focused on substance abuse prevention and education. He has also been an exemplary tutor for our MYSA program since January 2011 and is fluent in Tagalog.

SFYC also employs a well-qualified group of case managers who are educated in effective case management practices and whose cultural and linguistic backgrounds closely align with those of the youth they serve. Our Lao/Mien Case Manager is **Yaochien Sirisisangpha**, whose professional background includes working with at-risk Southeast Asian youth for more than 12 years. Yaochien's background includes serving as a long-standing, highly-esteemed community elder for decades in the Lu-Mien community in Seattle, and he is currently a board advisor to the *Lu-Mien Community Association of Washington State*. **Veasna Hoy** is our Khmer case manager and has been with SFYC since May 2011. She is fluent in Khmer and has experience working with Khmer youth, as she was an English teacher in Cambodia for two years prior to her employment with SFYC.

Finally, our Khmer Parent Support Coordinator, **Sokunthea Ok**, brings to SFYC an extensive educational and professional resume. Sokunthea has been with SFYC for 6 years, and came to us with 10 years of professional work experience in social services in Cambodia and the U.S., as well as 9 years of experience working for the immigrant/refugee communities in King County. She has a Masters in Social Work from the University of Washington, and her expertise is in child development and chemical dependency prevention and counseling. She is fluent in Khmer/Cambodian, Thai and French.

SFYC's Executive Director, **Sorya Svy**, is responsible for overseeing our programs as well as administration and fiscal management. Sorya has been with SFYC for 15 years, serving as the Executive director for 11 of them. Sorya has extensive experience providing mental health counseling and case management for high risk youth of color, up-to date and wide-ranging knowledge about program design and best practices in providing services to youth designed to increase their involvement with their education and decrease their risk of joining a gang or becoming involved with criminal activity, and well-developed connections and partnerships with other youth-focused social services coalitions in King County. In addition, Sorya is fluent in the Khmer language.

## Previous Experience

SFYC serves primarily at-risk, low income refugee and immigrant youth and families residing in Southwest and Southeast Seattle and White Center. These regions are home to the highest concentration of low-income families in

King County and are incredibly diverse, with Southeast Asians (Cambodian, Vietnamese, Thai, Lao and Mien), Pacific Islanders, African Americans and East Africans being the primary populations. The demographic features of our clients mirror the diversity of the regions we serve:

- 59% Asian (Cambodian, Vietnamese, Thai, Lao, Mien, Filipino, Pacific Islander)
- 27% African (Somali, Oromo, Eritrean, Ethiopian) or African American
- 2% Hispanic/Latino
- 12% Other (Mixed race, Caucasian, Native American)

The majority of our youth are between the ages of 12 and 19, are male (65%), and are at moderate to high-risk of academic failure or drop-out or involvement with gangs or other criminal activities.

In order to address these challenges, SFYC has been providing effective, culturally relevant case management services for at-risk youth from refugee and immigrant communities since its inception in 1997. Using a standardized, best practices model of comprehensive, culturally relevant case management service, we provide a continuum of services that involve SFYC programs (after-school programs, parent support programs, alcohol and drug education and prevention programs), the Seattle Public Schools, King County courts and other area youth service providers. Engagement in school or academic development is a priority of our case management services, and our case management model is inclusive of a youth's entire environment- their peers, families, schools, judicial courts, employers and other community service providers, allowing us to address any issues in the youth's life that prevent his or her academic success. When a youth enters our case management program, our case managers perform a "risk assessment" to evaluate a variety of key domains in the youth's life- gang or juvenile justice system involvement, truancy or dropout issues, peer relationships, and other issues such as drug and alcohol use. These assessments allow our case managers to develop a complete picture of the barriers in the youth's life and the areas in which they need special attention in order to develop an individual service plan for that youth. In addition to enrolling youth in SFYC programs that address his or her specific needs, our case managers also deliver intensive, individual attention to each youth in order to identify and address any problems he or she may be facing. Case Managers meet with each youth 2-3 times each week, either face-to-face or by phone, in order to offer mentoring, support and guidance, as well as work on emotional and behavioral skills to help the youth engage in constructive problem solving. Case Managers also meet with the youth's families in order to offer mediation, if needed, to address family issues. Youth involved in the Case Management program are also involved in other SFYC programs, through which they receive additional contact with supportive adults 3-5 times each week. All of these interactions help the youth develop positive relationships with adult role models, and the SFYC environment facilitates positive peer interactions as well.

The success of our case management program is enhanced by the involvement of our youth in SFYC's other programs, including our Motivating Youth to Succeed in Academics (MYSA) Program, which includes daily tutoring

services, access to SFYC computers in order to complete their homework, high school graduation support and individual academic advocacy, as well as intensive English language instruction, Parent Support Programs, which focus on educating the parents of our youth about the American school system and increasing their involvement in their child's education through facilitating their participation in parent-teacher conferences and other school events and Alcohol and Drug education and prevention workshops. Each of these programs are designed to address specific issues in a youth's life that may prevent him or her from reaching his or her full academic potential and further his or her personal development.

Because of their enrollment in these programs, the youth involved with SFYC have achieved many remarkable successes:

- \*During the 2010-2011 school year, 97% of the youth involved in our programs reengaged or reenrolled in school

- \*During the 2010-2011 school year, 100% of eligible seniors graduated from high school or received their GED

- \*Academic and award attainments by current and former SFYC youth have established higher standards for SFYC youth, such as ivy-league university admission

- \*SFYC successfully identified and overcame the barriers to school attachment for a group of chronically truant 7<sup>th</sup> graders, who thanks to intensive and consistent support and mentoring progressed into school attachment and have now successfully gone on to high school

Adding to our ability to achieve these successes and continue to deliver them are our partnerships with various organizations throughout the community. Since 1997, SFYC has been closely partnering with Southwest Youth & Family Services (SWYFS) in our service area, which was established in 1979 to provide counseling, education, and family support to communities in West Seattle and surrounding areas. We also partner with the City of Seattle Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, a coalition of 10 area groups dedicated to preventing youth crime and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Finally, SFYC has an ongoing partnership with United Way of King County, one which has been instrumental in the implementation and maintenance of our MYSA program.

Additionally, SFYC has partnered with the Seattle & Highline School Districts for over a decade to provide services to students who need additional help in achieving academic competence and success. SFYC bridges the gap between school administration, students and their families, working to break down the barriers preventing a student from achieving his or her academic potential. In order to do so SafeFutures has worked to establish stronger relationships by meeting face to face with school administrators and counselors from Chief Sealth, West Seattle, Southlake, Cleveland, Franklin and Rainier Beach High Schools and Aki Kurose, Denny and Madison Middle Schools. Examples of school personell with whom SFYC has close and ongoing relationships include Christine Mattfeld, ELL Health Education Specialist with the Seattle Public School District, Ginny Kalkoske, Intervention Specialist with the

Seattle Public School District, Carol Johnson, Head Counselor at Southlake High School, Lenora Glymph, Attendance Specialist at Cleveland High School and Ellen Recupido, Counselor at Franklin High School.

Our case managers work directly with these and other school staff as advocates for our youth, closely monitoring their school attendance, completion of graduation requirements and, if applicable, their disciplinary issues. Because of the close relationships our case managers have formed with these schools, they are able to directly access the school records of the youth they work with, allowing them to closely track their progress. In addition, because our case managers are bilingual and bicultural, they are able to serve as an important link between the school and our youth's parents, many of whom do not speak English, allowing them to facilitate parent-teacher conferences and keep parents informed about and involved in their child's education. Our Academic Services Coordinator also works with the schools, and through *The Source*, a Seattle Public Schools web-based data-base of student records including attendance, grades, credits earned and other relevant information critical to advancements and graduation is able to access student records, allowing attendance and grades to be monitored. In many cases our ASC is also able to obtain from the schools information about individual assignments and projects, allowing her to tailor her interactions with individual youth in our MYSA program to meet their specific academic needs. The relationships our organization has formed with the Seattle public schools that we serve have created avenues for improved communication, access and efficient methods for delivering necessary services to our youth and families.

The youth we serve have a variety of specific challenges to overcome in order to achieve academic success. For example, the majority of the youth involved in SFYC programs are foreign born, and evidence suggests that it is these youth who are particularly at risk for academic failure, as many of them face both economic and linguistic challenges. The Lao and Mien populations, which reside primarily in Southeast Seattle and are some of the primary populations served by SFYC, face these challenges at even higher levels than youth from other cultures. Likely as a result, only 5% and 6.6% of Washington State residents from these populations respectively hold a bachelor's degree or higher (2000, United States Census).

Another problem faced by the youth involved in SFYC programs is low attendance rates, which have decreased up to 10% in the past 5 years, a trend that begins in the middle schools and only worsens in the high schools. For example, only 47% of students at Aki Kurose middle school had less than 10 absences during the 2010-2011 school year, a number that dropped to 32% of students at Rainier Beach High School (2011, Seattle Public Schools School Report for 2010-2011). Improving the school attendance of the youth involved in SFYC programs is one of our primary goals, which we accomplish by progressing our youth into school attachment through maintaining an encouraging, positive environment, decreasing barriers to school attendance in the youth's life, and providing individually-tailored programs for each of our youth in order to address their personal academic challenges.

### **Tracking to Success**

Our Case Managers conduct thorough assessments of each youth upon their enrollment in our Case Management program, including demographic features, staff/client contacts and referrals, and an evaluation of each youth's strengths and weaknesses (both academic and otherwise), as well as the barriers to his or her success, such as family issues, behavioral issues, truancy issues, etc. Youth are also evaluated on a variety of domains, and their progress in each area is updated weekly in order to measure their improvement. These include: reduction in criminal involvement and behavior, increased school success, increased involvement in pro-social activities, increased employability skills, engagement in treatment, improved housing stability and improved family functioning.

In addition, direct services staff has access to *The Source*, a Seattle Public Schools web-based data-base of student records including attendance, grades, credits earned and other relevant information critical to advancements and graduation. This information is tracked by our Academic Services Coordinator (ASC) for the youth that are involved in our MYSA program in addition to our Case Management program, and files are updated weekly. Information recorded includes the student's class schedule, including his or her grades in each class for each semester as well as his or her overall GPA, and a record of absences, including the date, class period and whether it was excused or unexcused, and weekly attendance in our MYSA program. Other information in the file includes the student's progress towards meeting his or her graduation requirements, such as passing necessary classes and receiving the necessary amount of credits. We also keep track of his or her progress towards applying for college, including SAT/ACT scores, completion of FAFSA and scholarship applications, schools applied to, and career goals. All of this information allows us to create a complete profile of the youth, allowing us to tailor our services to each individual in order to meet his or her unique needs as successfully as possible. Included are examples of the Case Management tracking sheets as well as tracking sheets used for youth enrolled in our MYSA program.

### **Women and Minority Inclusion; Non-discrimination**

Since its inception 15 years ago SFYC has been dedicated to maintaining non-discriminatory hiring practices, and in fact we encourage women and minorities to apply. If we receive funding we would seek to hire another member of our staff in order to increase our capacity to deliver our services. Our hiring practices themselves demonstrate our commitment to maintaining a diverse group of staff. Besides posting job advertisements on *Craigslist*, we also publish them in a variety of newspapers which reach culturally diverse populations, such as *Asian Weekly* and the *International Examiner*. In addition, our board members and current staff also reach out to the leaders of a diverse range of cultural communities in the Seattle area to alert them about any available positions.



# SafeFutures Youth Center ISP Key

## **REDUCTION IN CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT AND BEHAVIOR**

- 1a Fulfilment of probation, diversion, or community service requirements
- 1b Reduction of discipline referrals, suspensions, and/or expulsions due to violence related incidents in 90 days
- 1c Reduction of criminal referrals, admissions, or detention days for 90 days
- 1d Reduction in gang-related behavior for 90 days or exit from gang
- 1e Transition out of severe behavior disorder classroom

## **INCREASED SCHOOL SUCCESS**

- 2a Re-enroll in school or enroll in a GED program
- 2b Complete General Educational Development (GED) certificate
- 2c Progress to the next grade level or graduate from high school
- 2d Increase quarterly attendance by 10%
- 2e Increase quarterly grade(s) in at least one required course (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science) or show academic improvement on Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- 2f Complete 60 hour service learning requirement
- 2g Pass one GED subject test
- 2h Enroll in post-secondary education/training
- 2i Attend post-secondary education/training for at least one quarter

## **INCREASED INVOLVEMENT IN PRO-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

- 3a Enrollment and regular participation (70% attendance rate) in a community service program in the areas of recreation, music, arts, dance, sports, life skills, etc. for 90 days or duration of program

## **INCREASED EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

- 4a Complete pre-employment/job readiness training (80% attendance rate for duration of the program)
- 4b Complete internship or group project (80% attendance rate for duration of the program and a positive evaluation)
- 4c Secure employment

## **ENGAGEMENT IN TREATMENT**

- 5a Enrollment and regular participation (70% attendance rate) in a treatment program such as substance abuse, mental health, family counseling, etc. for 90 days or duration of program

## **IMPROVED HOUSING STABILITY**

- 6a Secure safe and stable transitional or permanent housing
- 6b Retain safe and stable transitional or permanent housing for at least 90 days

## **IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING**

- 7a Increased positive family interactions and reduced family conflict for at least 90 days
- 7b Increased parent/guardian ability to support their child's goals and to navigate/access the school, court, and/or social service systems

