

**Application for 2010 Supplemental Funds
Community Resources Program**

*Submit signed original and digital copies of this application to the
Community Development Division,
Room 225, MMB, 215 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd.
Madison, WI 53701*

Deadline: Noon on March 2, 2010
(Late or incomplete applications will not be considered)

Program Title:	Children Program		Agency:	Vera Court Neighborhood Center	
Amount Requested:	\$3,539	<i>Amount Allowable:</i> \$2500-\$10,000	Current Community Resources Funding for this Program:	\$35,743	
Address:	614 Vera Court, Madison, WI 53704				
Contact Person:	Tom Solyst		Telephone:	608-246-8372	
E-Mail:	veracourt@yahoo.com				

- 1) **Program Description:** Summarize the programs major purpose and activities, demographics of intended population and geographic service area.

The Children Program's 40 week after school and 8 week summer camp emphasize needed child care services in combination with preparing students to succeed in school. The program consists of a homework segment followed by recreation time. Seven hours of homework and literacy support per week emphasize a commitment to learning and academic success. Staff and volunteers tutor, read and mentor participants. Eight hours a week of recreation activities follow homework and all participants have daily access to the center's computer lab. The Kids Café program serves all participants a hot meal 3 times per week. Summer camp provides over 40 children with 35 hours of programming a week for eight weeks. The camp emphasizes social skills development, self-esteem building and interpersonal relationships between children and staff. Over 95% of VCNC children are eligible for free/reduced lunch program. Currently 65% African American, 30% Latino, and 5% mutli-race children attend the program.

- 2) **Program Need:** Please describe the increase in requests for service or unanticipated economic hardship for your program that warrants application for this funding. For example: increased service participants, increased waiting list, specific increases to staffing hours or program hours, unanticipated program cost, or lost funding.

This request is to increase the size of the Vera Court elementary summer camp by eight students. The Lindbergh Elementary School summer camp (the GEMS program) has lost funding and will not be held in 2010. Many Latino children who reside in the Vera Court neighborhood attend Lindbergh Elementary school because Lindbergh offers an ESL program while Mendota Elementary School (the neighborhood elementary school) does not. In past summers these children have participated in the GEMS summer camp program. Currently the Vera Court elementary camp is one of the largest camps in the city, enrolling 50 students last summer, and would be unable to absorb the additional Lindbergh students without increased funding. Vera Court is committed to providing a summer camp experience to each Vera Court child who wants to attend summer camp. In the past we have encouraged our Latino families whose children attend Lindbergh to enroll in the GEMS program. The impact of this funding would be to provide a summer camp experience for an additional 8 Latino children who reside in the Vera Court neighborhood.

- 3) **Service Goals:** Please attach a copy of your Community Resources Program year end or December service report to this application. Please add a column to your service numbers section that identifies what your 2010 proposed new goal numbers would be if you were allocated the funds you are requesting.

- 4) **Fund Utilization:** Understanding that this is a one time allocation, how will these funds be used in 2010? Will the supplemental costs be allocated to staffing, program supplies or other expenses?

The funds will be used to fund a .50 Camp Counselor position (\$2,259) and minimal operation costs for eight students to cover supplies, activities, field trip admission fees, and meals at a rate of \$20/week/student for eight weeks (\$1,280). This is a modest request to provide eight children with an eight week summer camp. No administrative, transportation, or space costs are included in this request.

- 5) **Budget:** Please provide the following information. You will be contacted if additional information is necessary.

Program Budget	Current (as reported in your Budget appendixes in January 2010)	Proposed
Personnel	35,743	38,002
Operating	0	1,280
Space		
Special Costs		
Total	35,743	39,282

- 6) **Signature:** Name and signature of the principal individual responsible for this program proposal.

Name: Tom Solyst Title (if applicable): Executive Director
 Signature: _____ Date: 2/28/10

If you need assistance with this application or are unclear about how to answer the above questions please feel free to contact your current contract manager or staff at (608) 266-6520.

Vera Court
Neighborhood Center

Quarterly Service Report: City of Madison
Due Dates: 4/15, 7/15, 10/15, 1/15

Period Covered: October-December Date 1/15/09

Prepared by: Hope Saadaoui Telephone: 246-8372

Service B: Children's Program
(see back for definition of unduplicated)

	This Quarter	Year to Date	Annual Goal	New Goal
Number of Unduplicated in After School Program	67	118	110	
Average Attendance of After School Program	44	42	35	
Number of hours of After School Program	198	578	500	
Number of Unduplicated youth in Summer Camp	0	50	35	43
Average Daily Summer Camp Attendance	0	42	30	38

2. Narrative description of activities: for example-highlights, field trips, speakers, special events, or collaborative activities.

Academics

The after-school education program spent time working on homework, navigating the internet, using education tools such as flash cards, educational worksheets, listening to books on tape and reading individually or with adults. Given that the size of our after-school program has almost doubled in the last couple years the center has had to make several adjustments to accommodate the size and age group of the after-school program.

In past years the program has seen larger numbers in the 4th-5th grade group with the last two years the larger numbers falling in the 1st-3rd grade group. The center evaluated the program and found that our biggest concern was making sure that the older elementary participants were getting all the homework support they need and that the younger participants who have less homework were still given homework support with an increase in literacy support.

Last year the center approached the school to see if any additional classroom space would be available on a permanent basis. They were able to provide us with 2 classrooms Monday through Thursday for all of our 1st and 2nd grade participants. With this space we were able to create a new curriculum for the 1st and 2nd grade participants. These participants meet daily at Vera Court and have snack and use the computer lab. They then walk as a group with their staff to Mendota where they spend an hour working on homework, educational worksheets or literacy projects. Following the homework session the group is split into positive option groups where different activities such as science and arts & crafts are taught. This group comes back to Vera Court for meals following free choice time and spends all day at Vera Court on Fridays for a full day of open recreation, computer lab and free choice time.

Through out the school year the Elementary Coordinator makes weekly (if not daily) contact with the teachers at Mendota Elementary School to stay on top of any academic or behavioral problems that may arise with the children that attend our after school program. Along with the weekly contact the elementary coordinator conducts teacher surveys with school. The survey asks each teacher about individual homework completion and reading levels of children that are in there class as well as our after school program. The survey also asks if there are other academic or behavioral issues that the center should be aware of or any other ways that the center can help the teacher or the student out. Almost 100% of the teachers that we work with take these surveys very serious they fill out all the questions as well as writing several paragraphs about academic issues they have faced with individual youth and ways that we could help the child

succeed. These surveys are a great help to the educational portion of our after school program.

Recreation

During the open recreation portion of the elementary after-school program, time was spent playing with in-door games such as pool, foose-ball, board games and cards games. Children also took advantage of the hand manipulatives such as “Kinex,” puzzles and “Lego’s” as well as the dramatic play items and dress-up clothes. During longer open recreation periods staff has coordinated several arts and crafts projects, such as beading, painting, drawing, holiday crafts and fun movie days. Once winter was upon us the program spent time sledding and participating in other winter outdoor activities.

Field Trips

Numerous field trips took place during the fourth quarter; students used the gym at Warner Park, visited local bookstores and the public library, worked at the children garden, visited apple orchards, went to a pumpkin patch, attended Trick-or-Treat with the Greeks at UW, played at outdoor parks and did monthly field trips to GE Healthcare to participate in their volunteer activities. In December a long time volunteer Mike Monroe organized a private performance with a small portion of the UW Madison Marching Band. Mike was a former band member himself and asked 8 current members of the band to perform for the VCNC Elementary program. As our center is not large enough to host all of kids and a marching band we rented out the gym at Warner Park. For over an hour the band performed several songs and routines for the group. Several points during the performance the band members grabbed one or more of the kids to come join them in dancing on the gym floor. The kids loved the performance as well as the dancing, we hope to have a similar performance again next year.

All elementary program participants were able to participate in at least one large holiday party. Half of the group attended a holiday party hosted by GE where each child was given an individual present. They also participated in numerous holiday crafts and cookie decorating. The other half of the elementary program took part in the Holiday party hosted by the Madison Concourse Hotel. Children received NFL sweatshirts, backpacks

and hats. They took part in many holiday activities and had professional pictures taken with Santa or the Grinch that were delivered to each of their homes.

3. Narrative description of concerns, unmet needs or other issues needing attention.

As the size of the after-school and summer camp programs continue to grow one of the many concerns that Vera Court faces is the lack of space and transportation that we have available. In the past years the after-school program has had an average daily attendance of 27-30 children. In the fourth quarter of this year we have reached a daily average of 45 children with some days reaching as high as 50+ children

4. Final Report Only – Due 1/15

Outcome Objective #1	Children increase knowledge, skills and behavior competencies to succeed at each grade level through positive academic activities at Vera Court Neighborhood Center's after school program. (Regular participants = 8 sessions per month. Regular participants = 35)
Performance Standard	Targeted Percent 75% Targeted Number 27
	Actual Percent 90% Actual Number 34/38
Measurement Tool	Teacher surveys regarding the completion rate of children handing in homework assignments will be conducted for each school semester.
Outcome Objective #2	Elementary age participants in Vera Court Neighborhood Center's summer camp and after school participants will benefit from positive engagements with an adult role model in their lives for at least 6 months. (Number served = 35)
Performance Standard	Targeted Percent 75% Targeted Number 26
	Actual Percent 89% Actual Number 31/35
Measurement Tool	Reading Buddie Mentors attend summer camp twice per week at scheduled times and meet with campers. Vera Court Neighborhood Center actively promotes a continued relationship after camp ends. During the school year participants have contact with Computer Buddies through RSVP once per week. Special events are held to invite mentors back into the center, and special times during after-school programming are set aside to contact mentors through emails and letters

