



Combating Gang Violence through Prevention and Intervention Strategies within the County of Kern

The Joint City and County Standing Committee to Combat Gang Violence was created by the County of Kern and the City of Bakersfield in the Fall, 2006 in an effort to combat gang violence in the community by developing a plan of attack against the root causes of gang violence. As a result of this plan, funding opportunities were provided to vendors based on their proposals to establish gang prevention and intervention programs.

The agencies funded and their programs are as follows:

Clinica Sierra Vista - After-School, Community Service and Community Learning Programs.

- *Provide After-School Program curriculum focusing on gang prevention subject matter to specific elementary and middle schools in Bakersfield.*
- *Provide Community Service Learning Projects to those youth focusing on involvement of youth in positive activities and projects in the arts, school sports, club sports, sporting events and development and involvement in public forums.*

Community Action Partnership of Kern - Community Rallies and Youth Leadership Opportunities.

- *Provide Gang Alternatives Through Education and Service (GATES) program. GATES provides a balanced range of services and activities as alternatives to gang involvement and to strengthen families in the community.*

Garden Pathways, Inc. - Comprehensive Adult Mentoring Services.

- *Provide comprehensive group and individual adult mentoring services promoting healthy life skills. Additional services include Credentialed Safety Training program, crisis intervention, resource and referral, and long-term follow up to address individual needs.*

Kern County Superintendent of Schools - Youth and Family Services.

- *Coordinate the early identification and referral of at-risk students and their families to after-school mentoring, and parent education, tutoring, social skills, etc.*
- *Expand and recruit the Parent Project facilitators, including the outlying areas of Kern County.*

Stay Focused, Inc. - Mentoring, Crisis Intervention Programs and Community Based Outreach.

- *Provide individual or group mentoring services to youth between the ages of 6 and 18 identified as high risk, at risk, and gang involved.*
- *Provide a training session for youth released from incarceration to change future decision making. Provide home calls to the homes of youths in the training program to stay involved and connected to the community.*
- *Provide community based mentoring and partnership with organizations for attendance at athletic events and socialization.*
- *Conduct outreach events including School Assemblies, Neighborhood Rallies and Summits, and gang awareness training for parents, school staff, community members and workshops in neighborhoods as needed with the use of the Youth Intervention Specialists.*

Teen Challenge – Afterschool Program.

- *Provide an after-school program and activities as alternatives to gang involvement and to strengthen families in the community.*