

THE CLFC FAMILY REUNION NEWS

THE *CREATING LASTING FAMILY CONNECTIONS* ®
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Summer Edition

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“All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them.”

Walt Disney

COPEES Applies For New Federal Grants

COPEES recently submitted two proposals for new grant funding opportunities. One proposal was for funding from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the other from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). Please see below for information on both of these exciting proposals!

ACF recently released a new Responsible Fatherhood Funding Opportunity Announcement for up to five years of federal funding for Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage projects. COPEES submitted a grant proposal that we believe is strong and positions us for ongoing fatherhood programming service for the next five years. The following is a brief abstract of our proposal to demonstrate how COPEES is utilizing CLFC, along with strategic partnerships and innovative new technology, to expand service into job skills training, job development, job placement, job retention and social enterprise development:

The proposed *Father and Family Connection* (FFC) Project is a collaborative, community-based initiative in Louisville, Kentucky that will provide a comprehensive array of both integrated (closed-entry) and open-entry programs and services to strengthen responsible parenting, economic stability and healthy marriage. The project will serve low-income fathers (age 18+) who are reentering the community from jails and prisons, and who have completed substance abuse programming while incarcerated. The project includes COPEES (Council on Prevention & Education: Substances), Inc. as the lead applicant agency with twenty-two community partners. We intend to provide an individualized set of evidence-based programming and services for up to 600 participants across five years.

COPEES has been conducting an ongoing and comprehensive local needs assessment under separate federal funding for over 10 years. From this needs assessment, it is clear that the Louisville area has experienced recent upsurges in returning citizens. The challenges for reentry fathers include the need to develop relationship skills, parenting and co-parenting skills, as well as the skills and resources to achieve economic stability for themselves and their families. Prison reentry males have consistently been at the highest level of need, and low-income offenders who have completed substance abuse treatment programs are among those with the highest level of need within that population. Therefore, this project is intended to serve the highest need subpopulation within the highest need (reentry) population in our community. The overall goal of

the proposed project is increased adult and child wellbeing. Short and long-term outcomes for participants focus on increased responsible parenting (including co-parenting), economic stability (job search, job training, job placement, retention and income advancement) and healthy marriage (and relationship and financial literacy skills).

Our overarching approach is to provide integrated and evidence-based fatherhood, healthy marriage and economic stability programming and services that are tailored for each participant based on Individualized Service Plans (ISPs). A core service that promotes all three authorized activities is the evidence-based (NREPP-listed) *Creating Lasting Family Connections® (CLFC) Curriculum Series*. Further, project staff will support participants with ongoing, comprehensive and culturally sensitive case management. Project staff will also partner with other human service agencies and community organizations which will help provide comprehensive services to address the physical, mental, emotional, social and economic stability needs of fathers and their families. Finally, the project also incorporates new smartphone and computer technologies for assisting, supporting and tracking participants.

An independent evaluation team from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) will conduct an impact research design to evaluate targeted outcomes with participants who engage in multi-tiered levels of economic stability services in addition to participating in the CLFC Programs. Unprecedented community support positions this project for a rapid start up and to sustain key project services beyond the 5-year funding period.

COPES also applied for new funding from the Center of Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). The abstract for the proposed project, *Enhancing Community Connections*, is included below:

The proposed *Enhancing Community Connections* Project is a collaborative community-based effort, to reduce the risk of substance abuse and HIV among Black / African American youth and young adults ages 13-24 in Louisville, Kentucky. The project implements a combination of evidence-based community level (environmental) and individual level preventive interventions including the evidence-based (NREPP-listed) *Creating Lasting Family Connections® (CLFC) Curriculum*. We expect to provide individual level programming to up to 450 participants across five years.

The Louisville area has experienced recent upsurges in IV drug use involving both heroin and Opana and in both HIV and hepatitis infection rates, and African American minority youth and young adult populations experience extensive disparities that impact substance use and HIV. These disparities apply at the individual level and in predominantly Black/African American neighborhoods within the metro area. The proposed project is informed by an ongoing needs assessment that has previously identified this population as experiencing significant issues including substance use and HIV related health disparities.

Goal 1 is to increase local capacity to plan, coordinate and provide evidence-based substance abuse, HIV and viral hepatitis outreach and prevention services through interagency planning, coordination, and implementation of community-level evidence-based services and strategies for 13-24 year old Black/African American youth and young adults.

Goal 2 is to increase, at the individual level, the ability of 13-17 year old Black/African American youth specifically identified and referred by PAG member agencies to make healthy decisions regarding substance abuse and healthy sexual behavior by implementing the evidence-based (NREPP-listed) curriculum, *Creating Lasting Family Connections*® (CLFC).

The goals and objectives directly align with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy which includes: 1) reducing new HIV infections, 2) increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV, 3) reducing HIV-related disparities and health inequities, and 4) achieving a coordinated national response to the HIV epidemic.

COPEs, Inc., the lead agency, has a long history of successful program development in substance abuse HIV and Viral Hepatitis prevention and in conducting related CSAP Minority AIDS Initiative projects. The *Creating Lasting Family Connections*® (CLFC) program was developed by the applicant agency, COPEs, and is listed in SAMHSA's prestigious National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) and several other national and international best-practice repositories. Further, COPEs has received the NASADAD, NPN and CSAP Exemplary Program Award an unprecedented four times.

In addition to these two proposals COPEs is planning for the development of a World-Class Father and Family Center in West Louisville to provide the full *CLFC Curriculum Series*, along with specialized economic stability services and possible limited residential living, to individuals and families most in need in our community. COPEs is currently working with community partners to locate a site for this Center.

We encourage all of our CLFC Family to continue to innovate, create and collaborate to serve your local communities. Collectively, we can bring the culture of CLFC (respect, influence, connection, compassion, trust, cultural sensitivity, accountability, responsibility) to those in greatest need across the nation!

News Flash: Summer Sale!

We are excited to announce a Summer Sale for all CLFC materials to our Family Reunion News subscribers only. This special sale is not on the website, or anywhere else! For subscribers to our newsletter, all Original CLFC trainer manuals and participant notebooks are 50% off. All 2015 *CLFC Fatherhood Program* and *CLFC Marriage Enhancement Program* materials are 10% off the regular price. This sale ends Labor Day, so contact us now while supplies last!

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Trainer Positions Available at COPEs, Inc.

If you have always wanted to train alongside a nationally recognized trainer, leader and curriculum developer, COPEs, Inc. is excited to announce that we anticipate hiring between 2-4 *CLFC* trainers between October 2015 and January 2016 in preparation for a new project in Louisville, Kentucky. This opportunity offers candidates the ability to work first-hand with the *CLFC Curriculum Series* developer, Ted N. Strader, in direct services with local families in Louisville, Kentucky and also includes the possibility of training others across the nation.

Under Mr. Strader's direction, COPEs has grown from a tentative and pioneering prevention program in the 1970's into a nationally recognized and innovative prevention service agency. COPEs has been providing personal and family strengthening programs for both youth and adults for over 35 years. Ted is the developer of *The Creating Lasting Family Connections® (CLFC) Curriculum Series* which includes three separate programs (*The Original CLFC Program, The CLFC Fatherhood Program: Family Reintegration, and The CLFC Marriage Enhancement Program*). All three programs are each separately listed on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) and portions of our *CLFC Curriculum Series* are in use in all fifty states and several other countries. COPEs has won the prestigious SAMHSA and National Prevention Network's Exemplary Program Award four times. The *CLFC Curriculum Series* has repeatedly demonstrated powerful, positive results across a number of fields of service and among a wide and rich variety of populations. These results have been published in several peer-reviewed journals, including *Criminal Justice Policy Review* and *Family Process*. In 2013, the John C. Maxwell Leadership Team named Ted N. Strader among the top 100 leaders in the nation.

Staff at COPEs are often involved in social marketing, grant writing, environmental approaches to prevention and networking with other related organizations. Many applicants already have certification as prevention specialists (CPS), alcohol and drug counselors (CADC), or Masters in Social Work (MSW) – however, COPEs supports employees in acquiring these certifications as part of their own personal and professional growth. COPEs offers professionals the opportunity to improve presentation and facilitation skills, case management skills, and the opportunity to learn all facets of professional work experience in a nationally recognized prevention agency.

These positions will be located in Louisville, Kentucky. Louisville is the largest city in Kentucky, home of the Kentucky Derby, University of Louisville, Louisville Slugger and UPS' worldwide air hub. Louisville is located within easy driving distance of 3 states and metropolitan areas including St. Louis, Nashville, Cincinnati and Indianapolis.

While we plan to advertise for these positions locally, we like to get the word out among our national *CLFC* Family who are already certified in, and have experience with, our *Creating Lasting Family Connections (CLFC)* curricula. Anyone interested in pursuing a training position at COPEs is encouraged to send a resume along with a cover letter explaining your career goals, experience and interests.

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