



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF TRUCKEE MEADOWS
Reno-Sparks | Fernley | Ely | Winnemucca



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Reno, NV 89512
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September 27, 2021

Daphne Hooper
City Manager
595 Silverlace Blvd.
Fernley, NV 89408

Dear Ms. Hooper,

Thank you for allowing us to submit a proposal to the City of Fernley to expand the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows' impact in the area. We are pleased to offer the enclosed request for \$201,323 in support of an additional Boys & Girls Club site in Fernley.

Since March 2020, BGCTM has done "Whatever it Takes" to support the communities we serve. In Fernley, we provided quality childcare for essential workers, and distributed resources to families in the area. With the help of your office, we also established a distance learning center for kids and teens when schools were closed, which helped minimize the learning loss students experienced due to the limitations of online learning.

Now that the needs of our community are shifting, BGCTM continues to do "Whatever it Takes" to be a part of the recovery solution. Now that students returned to the classroom, we learned that the learning loss suffered by our youth & teens during pandemic closures is substantial. To recover, students need extra support, including additional learning hours. And as the northern Nevada population rises and citizens return to the workforce, the demand for childcare is increasing, yet the options for parents are diminishing and our current sites are quickly reaching capacity limits.

With funding from the City of Fernley, BGCTM will transform the distance learning center into an additional site where youth will receive academic and enrichment opportunities to support their academic and social-emotional recovery. Simultaneously, this site will give parents the flexibility and peace of mind they need to return to the workforce; thus, helping the economy build back stronger.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or should you require further information. Thank you again for inviting us to apply for these funds; we appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Wurm,
President/CEO



PROPOSAL TO THE CITY OF FERNLEY

Serving Those Who Need Us Most

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows (BGCTM) is to inspire and enable youth, especially those who need us most, to become responsible, productive, and caring citizens. We are committed to creating healthy children, in body and mind, with a sense of competence, usefulness, responsibility, belonging, and influence through diverse programs and community involvement.

While our Club has grown significantly over the past four decades—in numbers of youth served, site locations operated, and geography covered—we remain committed to our core mission of serving those who need us most. This means keeping program fees low, offering an aggressive scholarship program, and never turning away a child due to an inability to pay. In this way, we are a Club for all youth, providing the best possible programs and services that are fully accessible regardless of a child's circumstances.

At every Club site, youth will find quality programs and caring mentors to help them improve academically, build character and establish healthy habits. Club programs fall under five core areas: Education & Career Development; Character & Leadership Development; the Arts; Sports, Fitness & Recreation; and Health & Life Skills. Although we serve thousands of youth annually, our focus centers on impacting each child's individual lives who walks through our doors. These programs, combined with our caring staff, enable us to achieve our mission as we help today's young people grow into tomorrow's leaders.

BGCTM has been providing out-of-school services in Fernley for the past 12 years. Most recently, BGCTM partnered with Lyon County School District to provide enrichment activities through the Nevada Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. Altogether, the Club has a presence at 5 out of the 6 schools in the community; serving hundreds of 6 through 18-year-olds in the area.

Program Need

"This year, Nevada finishes 49th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, with an overall score of 68.6 out of 100 points and a grade of D-plus" (EducationWeek, 2020), "Nevada schools consistently rank among the worst in the nation, with only 28 percent of eighth-grade students ranked as proficient or better in both reading and math" (Fellner, 2019). Year after year, Nevadans see headlines such as these, showing the state ranking at the bottom of the list nationwide. The school closures due to the pandemic have only exacerbated these issues. Early projections warned a wider learning gap and lower levels of engagement during distance learning but now that students returned to the classrooms, local educational agencies (LEAs) are seeing just how behind students have fallen. National studies show that the best case scenarios have students half a grade-level behind, yet the learning gap widens if the student is BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), which defines 67% of the youth we serve at the Club. While all students are suffering, those who came into the pandemic with the fewest academic opportunities exited with the most significant learning loss.

Request to the City of Fernley

In the past 44 years, BGCTM has become a pillar in the community due to our reliability, efficiency, and affordability. Early in the pandemic, we realized that our members faced many challenges while navigating through virtual classes. Many of them did not have the required technology or an adult at home to assist with school work. Through CARES Act funding from the City of Fernley, BGCTM established a Distance Learning Center within walking distance from Fernley Intermediate School. At this center, members had access to computers and staff who substituted the in-person teacher role, thus minimizing these students' learning loss.

Despite our efforts, learning loss still occurred due to the natural limitations of remote learning. The learning loss suffered by our youth & teens, particularly those in less-educated homes and low-income neighborhoods is substantial. BGCTM is ready to expand on the lessons learned during the pandemic and help youth get back on track by providing additional learning hours to make up the loss. While time at the Club is clearly distinct from the school day in the minds of our members, this aggressive approach to academic support in literacy and STEM education aims to improve students' educational outcomes and help close achievement gaps. In addition to the educational programs, BGCTM continues offering programs in Health & Wellness, Sports & Recreation, The Arts, Workforce Readiness, and Character & Leadership that support our youth's social and emotional needs.

BGCTM's low program fees, financial aid opportunities, and extended hours make the Club an appealing choice for essential childcare allowing parents to return to work. However, as Fernley families return to the workforce, our school sites are quickly approaching capacity limits, yet the demand for childcare continues to grow. To increase the Club's impact in the community, BGCTM proposes converting the Distance Learning Center into a semi-permanent location until the Community Center building is completed. Since the building has already been furnished, the transition from Distance Learning Center to a Club site would be fairly simple. Minor improvements to the building would be made to create smaller rooms that will be utilized as classrooms and quiet rooms.

Since transportation is a barrier limiting participation in out-of-school programs, especially those in rural communities, BGCTM requests the purchase of a 15-passenger van to facilitate students' safe transportation between sites.

An allocation from the City of Fernley would support this location's staffing and operational expenses through December 31, 2022. This investment will allow us to continue to grow and serve more youth and simultaneously afford parents the opportunity to return to work and contribute to the recovery of our economy.

Category	Cost
Personnel: Salaries & Benefits	\$39,163
Operational Costs	\$112,160
15-Passenger Vehicle	\$50,000
Total per Year	\$201,323

While we know we are not past this pandemic, the needs of our community are shifting and a collaborative effort among local government, education agencies and nonprofit organizations is needed

for Nevada to recover and build back stronger. The expansion the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows proposes would support the *Every Nevadan Recovery Framework* by:

- Offering academic programs that address the learning loss due to the effects of COVID-19 and remote learning.
- Providing evidence-based programs addressing youth's social and emotional needs.
- Addressing food insecurity by offering free meals for youth.
- Expanding BGCTM's workforce development program that offers on-the-job learning for high school students.
- Supporting individuals returning to the workforce by providing a safe, flexible and affordable place for their children.