

Jefferson County  
2011 Letter of Interest  
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)  
SECTION 1 (Fillable Form/No Points)

The goal of the Community Services Block Grant is to provide financial support for programs that have a measurable and potentially significant impact on the causes and effects of poverty. CSBG funds are limited to assisting individuals/families whose incomes do not exceed 125% of poverty level. The deadline for submission is 3:00 pm Friday, July 9, 2010. PLEASE PROVIDE 1 HARD COPY AND 1 CD OF ENTIRE SUBMITTAL.

1. **Organization Name:** Colorado Steppin' Out for Kids, Inc. (CSOK)

**Address:** P.O. Box 13216 Denver, CO 80201

**Contact Person for this Letter of Interest:** Janet Hopkins

**Phone:** 303 903-9173      **E-Mail:** [jhopkins@jeffco.us](mailto:jhopkins@jeffco.us)

2. **Mission Statement:** The mission of Colorado Steppin' Out for Kids is to provide children in need with a basic wardrobe prior to the start of the academic year. This removes one of many tangible roadblocks these children face in getting an education, by providing them with increased dignity and confidence in themselves.

3. **The applicant is a:** 501(c)(3)

4. **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$20,000.00

5. **Which Jefferson County Goal does this project address?** b. Quality Customer Service

6. **The focus of 2011 CSBG funds is in meeting National Goal #6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments, specifically within National Indicator 6.2, Emergency Assistance (see National Indicators Summary, attached, for further detail). Please briefly describe how your program will provide emergency services and ultimately help move people toward self-sufficiency.**

CSOK provides quality, new school clothes to needy K-8<sup>th</sup> grade children. Qualifications for CSOK parallels requirements for the subsidized school lunch program. The wardrobe includes: winter coat, brand name athletic shoes, 2 pair jeans, shirt/top, sweater/fleece/hoody, 6 pair socks & 6 pair underwear. All clothing is packed into a ten-gallon plastic container with lid (tote). Clothing is distributed to children approximately two weeks before the first day of school.

The service is designed to support school children's social and emotional development; thus increasing academic and social performance. Research supports this goal, stating that children judge themselves in relation to their peers in both appearance and achievement. \* CSOK maintains that each student's self-esteem, dignity and confidence will increase as a result of receiving the wardrobe.

Teachers have told us that children often miss school because of inadequate clothing. Attendance is tantamount to gaining skills for self-sufficiency as curricula includes life skills and general knowledge required for a lifetime of employment. Parents are given an opportunity to make small steps toward self-sufficiency if they choose to redirect funds and/or time typically used for acquiring school clothes to other basic family needs.

*\*Learning Disabilities and Challenging Behaviors: A guide to Intervention & Classroom Management*  
Nancy Mather, Ph.D. & Sam Goldstein, Ph.D.  
*The Emergent Academic Self-Image of First Graders: Its Response to Social Structure*  
Doris Entwisle, Karl Alexander, Aaron Pallas & Doris Cadigan

1. CSOK is a 10 year old charitable non-profit with a simple goal and design. Each year the Board of Directors (BOD) determines how many children to serve by evaluating: existing inventory, existing funds and anticipated funds resulting from upcoming fundraising activities.

The BOD researches schools and/or other educationally based programs in order to choose community partners. Funding sources frequently dictate location for partners with respect to city or county requirements. As with the CSBG, the children’s residential location is specifically identified.

Shopping occurs year round, allowing items to be purchased inexpensively. The inventory is systematically stored in a private storage unit.

Community partners identify the recipients and give parents an application that includes school, gender, age, grade, ethnic background (optional) and sizes for the various items of clothing. The existing inventory is compared to the list of items actually needed. Additional shopping occurs to fill the ‘gap’. Volunteers pack each child’s wardrobe into a tote, which is then delivered to the community partner who distributes the clothes just before the first day of school.

2. The problem is directly related to poverty and parents’ inability to provide adequate school clothes for children. Community partners have described sibling groups sharing a single pair of shoes, requiring children to attend school on alternating days. They have also told us about children coming to school in inclement weather without a coat, or others who do not attend school because they lack adequate coats or clothing. Other children wear adult sized, torn clothing or the same items of clothing day after day.

Needy families use their few financial resources for basic needs. When parents do purchase clothing, it is generally inexpensive and quickly falls apart, requiring them to replace the item. This is an example of how being poor can be expensive. As previously mentioned, children’s self esteem and educational achievement is impacted by appearance.

Review of Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), K-8<sup>th</sup> grade located in Arvada, Jefferson and Alameda H. S. articulation areas easily identifies clusters of poverty (as reported by the 2008 free &/or reduced lunch rates). These are examples of pockets of poverty.

School	% Free Lunch	% Free & Reduced Lunch
Martensen Elementary	46.2	63.8
Stein Elementary	78.2	88.6
Stevens Elementary	62.3	74
Molholm Elementary	84.4	92.3
Edgewater Elementary	80.4	88.4
Foster Elementary	58.1	68.4
Lawrence Elementary	50.4	65.2
Lumberg Elementary	77.7	84.1
Wheat Ridge Middle	73.5	86.1

3. CSOK provides a basic wardrobe for approximately \$100/child. The actual cost is calculated on an ongoing basis, based on the average cost of each item plus storage and the tote. With \$20,000, CSOK will provide clothing for about 200 JCPS children. The BOD attempts to select community partners where all qualifying students can be served. Funds from the CSBG would enable CSOK to clothe all qualifying children within one location.
4. Two hundred or more impoverished Jefferson County students (K-8) will have adequate clothing on the first day of school (for school year 2011/2012). Parents and school staff will complete a Satisfaction Questionnaire providing additional information related to outcomes.

5. CSOK targets needy children in the greater Denver area because the organization and BOD is located in the same area. Need is significant so the BOD has not expanded the boundaries. Demographics vary from year to year, however between 90% and 95% of recipients fall into minority ethnic groups (in 2008/2009 & 2009/2010 the majority of minorities were African- American, while Hispanic/Latino represented the majority of minorities in 2008/2007). Gender tends to be fairly balanced.
6. As previously reported CSOK is able to dress children for less than \$100. A \$20,00 grant will fund clothing for at least 200 children. The exact number will depend on the cost of a basic wardrobe as of June 2011. The inventory and cost per item is updated throughout the year and depends on the actual cost of items as they are placed into storage and added to the automated inventory.
7. CSOK will continue to calculate the actual cost of items and wardrobes. This will be done monthly for the board meeting. The final cost will be calculated in June 2011. The number of children served in Jefferson County will be proportionate to the \$20,000 grant.

Satisfaction questionnaires will be provided to parents and community partner staff. The parents' questionnaires will be collected on distribution day. The staffs' questionnaires will be collected by November 1, 2011. Outcomes will be provided in the final grant report. The questionnaire will reflect parents' overall satisfaction with regard to: sizes consistent w/ those requested, estimate of family's savings, where the family generally acquires school clothes (new, used, handed down from friends or family). Did the family save money as a result of the CSOK service, and if so where/how would those dollars be spent.

Teachers will be asked to rate children's apparent changes from previous classes in the following areas: self-esteem or pride related to appearance, social behaviors, attendance (based on their perceptions because actual data is not made available in a time frame that coincides with CSBG reporting requirements).

Signature: CSOK does not have a Chief Executive Officer

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Directors