

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Fred Gaskins | fgaskins@hampton.gov | 757-727-6191
22 Lincoln Street | Hampton, VA 23669

9 programs receive violence prevention grants

June 15, 2016 - Mentoring for at-risk girls and a seminar that helps students understand how money affects every aspect of their lives are among the projects that have been awarded mini-grants from the city as part of the Youth Violence Prevention Program.

The city set aside a total of \$60,000 for the grants. Recipients could apply for up to \$10,000 that must be used to provide positive activities and services for young people. Eligible applicants include community-based or neighborhood groups with income under \$50,000. Each project selected for a grant has to begin July 1, 2016 and end by June 30, 2017.

“Our best effort at extending our outreach to young people in Hampton is through partnership with community-based organizations,” said Synethia White, manager of the Youth Violence program. “These organizations have all demonstrated a plan to engage youth all over the City of Hampton with innovative programs that support the prevention of youth violence.”

Grant recipients:

- **The G.I.R.L.S. (Girls Influence by Righteous Living in All Situations) Club:** a program that develops partnerships with local schools, colleges, universities, businesses and others to influence, train and connect girls with mentors who provide them with academic, behavior and other support. The club works with girls 11-18.
- **Brothers on the Block Inc.:** The “I am the Difference” summer program is designed to bridge the gap between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next year. Participants will attend group sessions, one-on-one mentoring, field trips and other activities during the 12-week, community-based program. The targeted audience is males 14-25.
- **Kevin Swann Enterprises:** The Money Matters Teen Seminar is designed to equip youth with a clear understanding of how money can affect their way of life, including educational opportunities, debt, health, and personal relationships. Young people will also learn how to apply for college and financial aid, and how to prepare for a career post-college. Rising 9th graders through rising 12th graders are targeted.
- **The MAN (Men Alleviating Negativity) Foundation:** The BOSS (Breaking Obstacles to Seek Success) project is dedicated to improving the emotional health, educational attainment and economy opportunity for 15-18-year-olds still in school who have an incarcerated

parent. It gives them the opportunity to learn how to become productive citizens without relying on violence or other criminal activity.

- **Be-Boys and Be-Girls, Va.:** A mentoring program for up to 20 middle and high-school students advocating them to “be” different, “be” themselves, and to “be” a leader. Young people will be taught together how to interact respectfully with their peers of the same or opposite sex, how to respond to drug-related peer pressure, and other skills.
- **Community Builders Network:** The Summer Leadership Institute for Youth is designed to have middle and high school students serve as interns in community organizations, giving them hands-on skills in a work environment, helping at community centers, schools and other organizations.
- **Game Changers:** An interactive program for young people ages 12-18 in the Shell Road, West Hampton and Phoebus neighborhoods, using a bus to provide an educational curriculum and video gaming activity. The goal is to provide education and activities that reconnect young people with the community.
- **Parents Against Bullying:** Project is designed to help elementary, middle and high school students, their families and community members with the tools to build self-esteem and resolve conflicts without violence. The program has worked with the attorney general’s office, commonwealth attorney’s office and other local agencies.
- **My Life My Legacy:** Program addresses the concerns about youth violence by developing an education plan for students that will prepare them for education after high school. It will recruit high school students within the Old North Hampton area.

Go to www.hampton.gov/youthviolence for more information about the [Youth Violence Prevention Program](#).

###