

# IMPACT AMERICA 2020

*“Vision For The Future”*

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Making the Difference



...at a time



One Life...



*A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.*

*-Peggy Anderson*

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**Program Overview**

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# Project IMPACT USA

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## *Executive Summary*

Project Impact began in 1986 in South Central Los Angeles, involving communities, churches, government and other civic agencies in comprehensive, relevant programs for at-risk teens and their families. More than a decade of urban ministry has identified five key areas of need among today's youth:

- Job Training and Placement
- School Drop-Out Prevention
- Juvenile Diversion Counseling
- Parent Education
- Follow Up and Mentoring

The dramatic success of a model outreach center in south central Los Angeles has demonstrated the efficacy of these interventions, and Project Impact is currently in a rapid-growth mode to reach out to thousands more at-risk American youth. . FBI arrest reports reveal that over 640,000 youth are arrested each year. Of this amount 25% (160,000) of the minors with a "first time" offense account for 75% of the repeat offenders for the subsequent three years. These indicators point to a "cycle of crime and violence" among our high risk youth. It is clear that the youth who commits an offense is most likely to repeat the offense. This group (first time offenders – 160,000 youth) makes up our primary target population.

Project Impact USA (PIUSA) was founded in 1993 to help interested organizations reproduce this successful model in their own community. Our goal is to identify 532 organizations willing to start an IMPACT Center. Each Center would be responsible for serving a population of 300 youth and their families.

## *Statement of Need*

Today's youth live amidst a sea of violence. They see it on television, encounter it on the street corner, confront it in the classroom, and often even suffer from it at home. Despite an overall decline in crime statistics, children today are increasingly more likely than adults to participate in – or be a victim of – violent crime. Too often violence is perceived as the ultimate solution to any problem, great or small. Tragically, problem solving skills, negotiation, and compromise are signs of weakness, not wisdom.

The effect on our young people is painfully clear. In 1950, only four out of 1,000 American teenagers were arrested for any crime. By 1970, our national juvenile arrest rate had increased more than 10 fold. By 1990, the arrest rate had tripled again. At present rates of increase, within 15 years we will warehouse more than four million American children in desperately overcrowded colleges of crime.

Hopelessness pervades today's teen culture more deeply than ever before. Broken homes, drug abuse, unresolved conflicts, and sudden outbreaks of mortal violence are daily experiences for a rising percentage of American youth. Family roots, life-long friends, and neighborhood involvement – once the very backbone of how young people coped with stress and change – are quickly becoming replaced by a world of frequent job transfers, single parents, and isolationism.

Isolated from parents, neighbors, and authority figures, today's young people turn to the only people they know and trust for help – other teens. It's no wonder today's kids are in trouble ... their most trusted counselors and mentors are 16 years old.

## *Organizational Background*

Originally a community-based organization with a local focus, Project Impact's successes in dealing with troubled kids suggested the need for replicating the program in other similarly challenged neighborhoods. Seven years of experience in South Central Los Angeles helped confirm the soundness of the original model plus provide ongoing program refinement. In 1993, Project Impact USA was incorporated to help local communities across America develop their own IMPACT centers. Ten affiliated Project Impact centers currently operate with 14 more sites selected for development.

Key to Project Impact's success is serving children's needs within the framework of family/home, church, neighborhood, and community. Consistent interaction, follow up, relevant services, case management, and personal attention are all critical to providing the structure within which a troubled young person can re-direct their life in new and more positive directions.

To date, some 25,000 young people plus their families have been served, with success rates<sup>1</sup> exceeding national averages by more than 30%. Site selection is based on a due diligence feasibility study that evaluates the following:

- Strong community leadership (church, schools, and civic)
- Area need for the program (juvenile Custody Arrest Rate above national average of 221/100,000)
- Funding, facility, and staff availability

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<sup>1</sup> Defined in Juvenile Diversion Program as the percentage of participants with no further criminal activity. National Average = 63%. Project Impact = 86%. Defined in School Dropout Prevention Program as percentage of participants who have successfully completed High School or obtained GED. National Average = 57%. Project Impact = 74%.

An approved center and its community will demonstrate capacity for partnership between church, community, business, government, law enforcement, and citizens. Programs empower individuals who then create communities empowered for change.

## ***Our Mission***

Project IMPACT USA exist to develop and support Project IMPACT Centers in some of our Nations toughest neighborhoods. Each center would be responsible for providing 300 “at-risk” youth per-year “positive alternatives” to drugs, gangs and violence through programs of: Juvenile Diversion Counseling, School Drop-out Prevention, Job Training and Placement, Parent Education and, a Mentor Follow-up Program.

## ***Our Program***

### **OVERVIEW**

In order to meet the ever increasing needs of the community, Project IMPACT offers a comprehensive Juvenile Diversion program providing "at-risk" youth positive alternatives to drugs, gangs and other elements that destroy young lives in the following ways:

#### **Juvenile Diversion Counseling**

Youth are diverted from juvenile court and/or incarceration through guidance counseling, personal development workshops and referral assistance. Youth referred into the program are assigned a counselor who develop personalized case plans with specific treatment goals and strategies to be achieved while a part of the program. The assigned counselor meets with the client to evaluate treatment needs, set goals and provide additional support to see that each person in the program is able to achieve their stated goals. A wide range of treatment services are available to each program participant to further assure their success and development.

Each youth will receive eight 1-hour weekly individual counseling sessions and eight 2-hour weekly group counseling sessions run by a licensed counselor dealing with self-esteem enhancement, career development, goal setting, drug and alcohol abuse counseling and civic responsibility. Each youth involved in counseling will receive an additional 6 hours of follow-up counseling to monitor program effectiveness and to provide resource assistance to help each participant achieve their "Contract Goals". All counseling activities work hand in hand with our School Drop-out Prevention Program as referrals are received from area schools. We also provide tutoring support to any participant in need.

#### **School Drop-out Prevention**

Programs and support services are designed to encourage delinquent youth to remain in school. This program interfaces with the schools' "At-Risk" program, school counselors and the Child Welfare Attendance Office. Program and support services include: Drop-out prevention workshops, guidance counseling, family forum, career workshops, networking with other support agencies, relocation assistance, advocacy and tutoring.

## **Job Training and Placement**

This program is designed to assist pre-juveniles and juvenile delinquent youth in areas of career planning, job preparation, pre-employment testing, on-the-job training, job placement and follow-up.

Youth enrolling in our Job Training Program will receive 9 hours of assessment counseling and pre-employment training, 70 hours of On-the-Job Training and 11 hours of follow-up and evaluation. The significance of our Job Training and Placement Program is that the employers receiving youth normally would not be interested in hiring "Juvenile offenders" or "at-risk" youth unless they were connected to a program such as ours that offers comprehensive support.

## **Parent Education**

This program is designed to assess high risk parenting and child rearing attitudes among adults and adolescence with the hopes of assisting parents to better coped with their changing responsibilities. The program focuses on 4 basic types of dysfunctional parent/child interactions:

- Inappropriate developmental expectations of children
- Lack of empathic awareness of children's needs
- Attitudes concerning the use of corporal punishment
- Reversing parent/child family roles

Each parent receives ten 1.5 hours of group sessions run by a licensed counselor and/or a certified P.E.T. instructor dealing.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Each program area develops measurable goals and objectives. Monthly staff reports are submitted to the executive Director that monitor the months activities as they relate to each program areas ability to meet its stated goals and objectives. Each counselor and their clients will develop contract goals as to what is to be accomplished. Evaluation will be based on the successful achievement of those goals. The Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory will be used to measure the effectiveness of our Parent Education Program. Evaluation will be conducted by a licensed counselor and/or a certified staff.

## **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Project IMPACT is supported through a variety of public and private funding sources to make up its operating budget. With regard to future fundraising, the Executive Director spearheads that effort with the assistance of the Board of Directors. It is our intent to solicit funds from business and industry to establish an endowment which will contribute to the ongoing operation of the program. The center will seek individual contributions and hold a major fundraising event each year. Resources will also be developed in the following ways:

## **Utilization of local Churches**

The church remains to be one of the most under-utilized facilities in our community. Many churches are eager and willing to help solve the tremendous problems facing our youth by offering use of their facility at a reduced rental fee. In addition, highly skilled and motivated individuals who are members of these churches are willing to offer their services free or at a lower rate as they see their participation as an extension of the churches outreach in the community. All participants will also have immediate access to other programs provided by the church as a means by which long term support can be sustained.

## **Colleges and Universities**

Graphic depictions on television and in the print media concerning the plight of our youth have helped to underscore Project IMPACT's success at attracting volunteer L.C.S.W.s', M.F.C.C.s' along with attracting interns completing their Masters and Doctoral practicums. This innovative approach has not only brought substantial savings to the program, it has allowed us to upgrade our service through the use of highly motivated and caring volunteers who are both professional and qualified.

## **Media Support**

In order to sustain the "long term" success of the program, media support is critical for the following reasons:

- To seek regular media exposure to the problems and solutions to gangs and drugs.
- Staff recruiting
- Long term financial support.

## **AFFILIATE SUPPORT SERVICES**

Each IMPACT Center functions as a "Affiliate" of Project IMPACT USA. To assure quality delivery of service, Project IMPACT USA provides each of its Affiliates the following support services:

### **Legal**

Each Affiliate is established as a "separate" 501(c)(3) Public Benefit Corporation.

### **Standard Account Practices and Principles**

All Affiliates are trained to set up their financial policies according to generally accepted Accounting Practices and Principles to assure compliance with most government grants.

## **Staff Training**

All staff are required to complete our 40 hour Affiliate training program. This program trains staff on all aspects of program and organizational management. Quality assurance of program and organizational management are maintained and updated by our ongoing "in-service" training.

## **Grant Writing Assistance**

Affiliate centers are provided technical assistance in all areas of grant writing;

## **Grant Management Assistance**

Each affiliate is offered grant management assistance to further assure grant compliance;

## **Technical Assistance**

All Affiliate Centers are offered technical assistance in areas of board training and staff policies and procedures;

## **Management of Information Systems (MIS)**

All centers are provided with MIS training to maintain quality control, outcome reporting and evaluation;

## **Evaluation**

Evaluation is broken down into two areas:

**Process Evaluation** - (how things get done) provides feedback that identifies supports and barriers to new center development and facilitates the design for improvement.

**Outcome Evaluation** - determines if the center has accomplished its goals regarding number of persons served, program outcomes and financial development goals.

Project Impact provides the practical tools, management systems, and proven programs to create life-changing experiences among our communities' most vulnerable population. No one has more to lose than do our children, drowning in a tide of violence and crime. Project Impact meets them at their point of need by providing youth and families with tools to survive and thrive in hostile environments (see attached Program Flow Chart showing how youth and families are taken through the program).

Project Impact provides the practical tools, management systems, and proven programs to create life-changing experiences among our communities' most vulnerable population. No one has more to lose than do our children, drowning in a tide of violence and crime. Project Impact meets them at their point of need, providing step-by-step assistance to help concerned

organizations reach out with life-changing power to rescue children and young people whom, without intervention, race daily down a path of self-destruction and despair.

We can rescue our neighborhoods from gangs and crime by reaching out to our community's children one life at a time. By setting "practical" and "measurable" goals, we can help save promising young people from lives of imprisonment both physically and spiritually by shining our own personal light of love and hope into their darkness. We can rescue one mother's son or daughter from abject hopelessness and suicide with hands and hearts filled with love expressed both practically and personally.

## ***Opportunity for Partnership***

***We share*** a joint responsibility for the future of our nation, our community, and our youth- whether we birthed them or not, whether we share their heritage or skin color, whether we speak the same language they are *our youth*.

The following pages outline how our program works, our vision for the future, our current opportunities and how you can help. I hope you will join us in this historic occasion as we provide hope to communities threatened by gangs, drugs and violence.

***Attachments:***

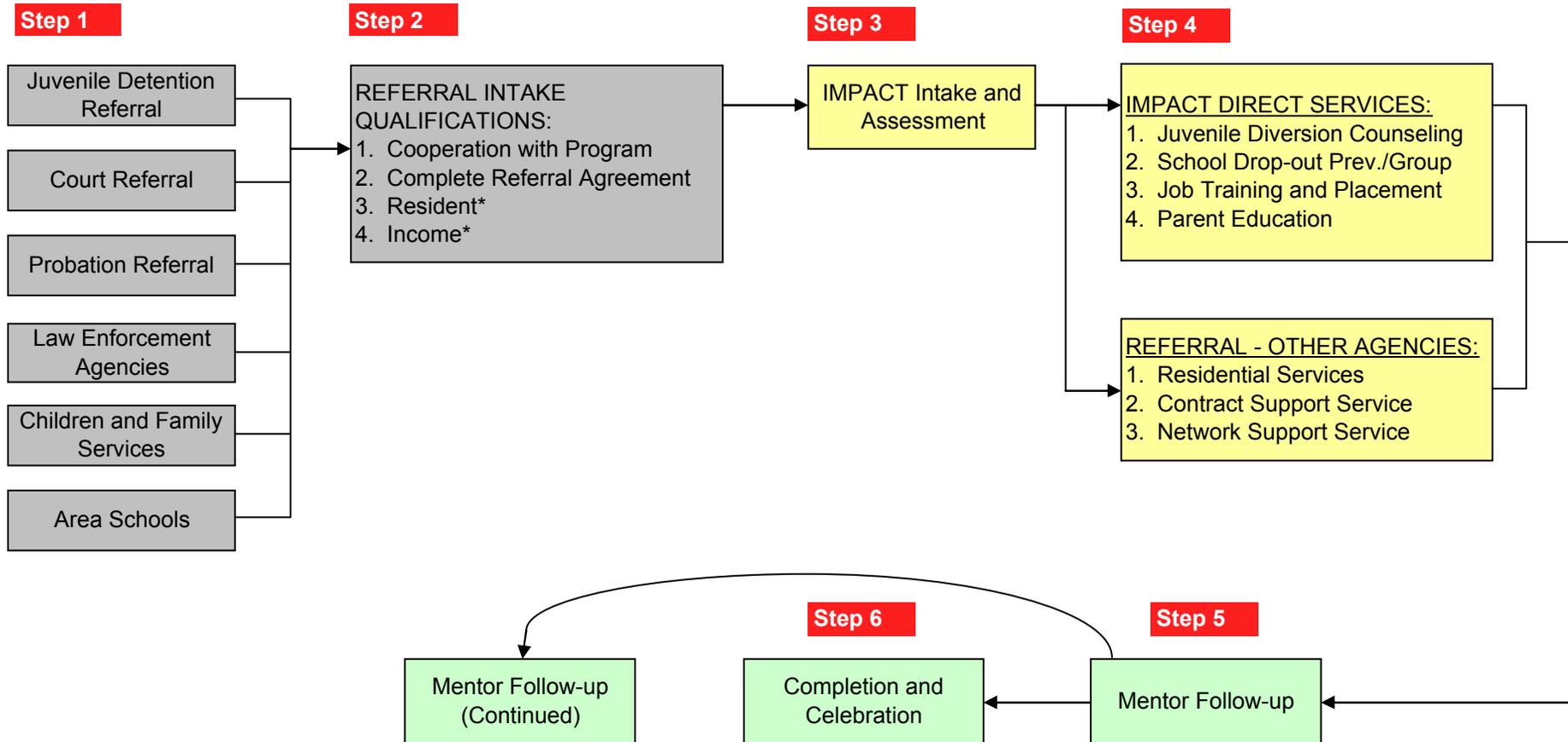
Program Flow Chart..... Attachment A

Support Services Flow Chart ..... Attachment B

National Recognitions..... Attachment C

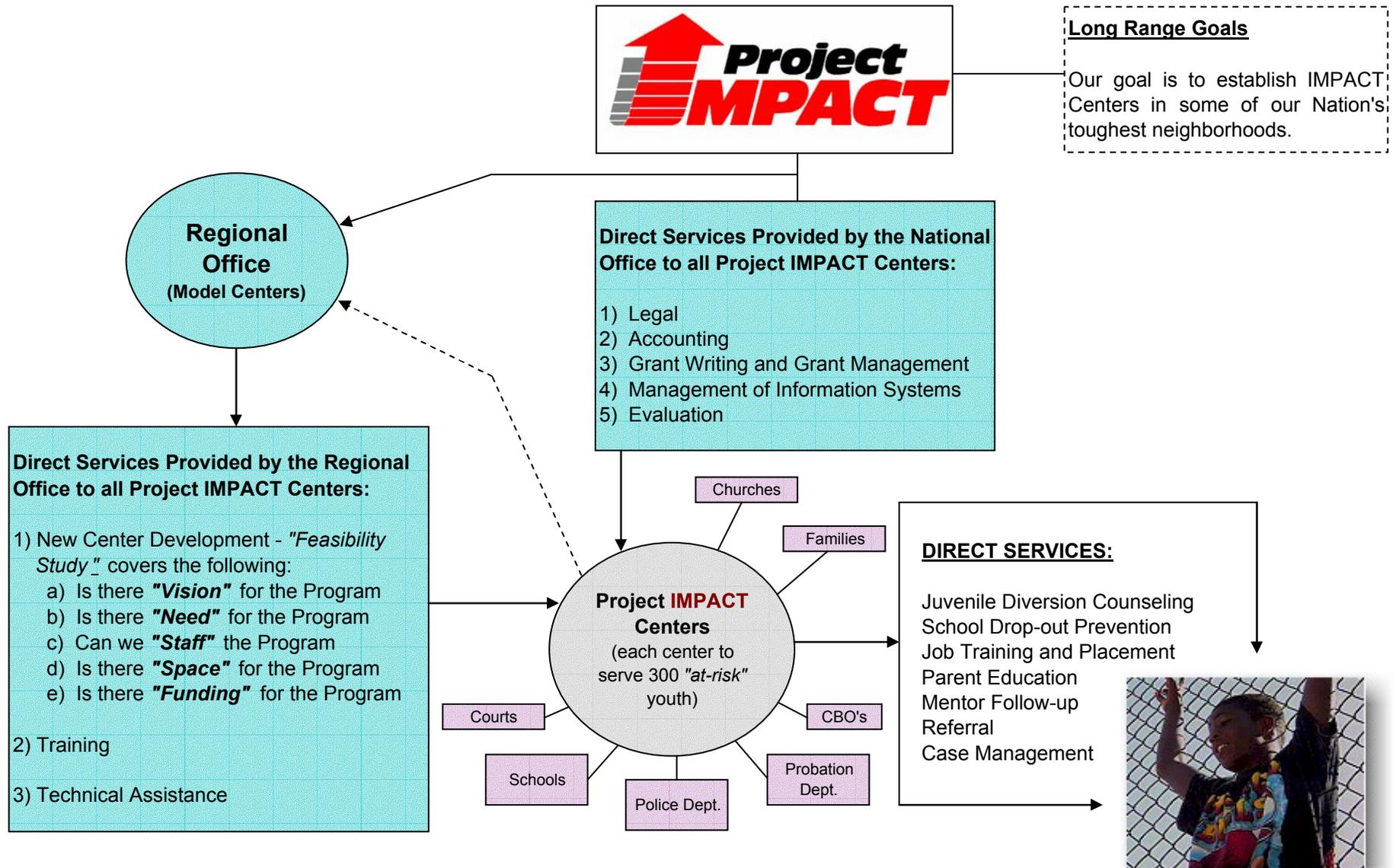
# Attachment A - Program Flow Chart

## Project **IMPACT** Program Flow Chart



# Attachment B - Support Services Flow Chart

## IMPACT AMERICA 2020 - "Vision For The Future"



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