

News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHOTO CAPTION: Somerset County Freeholder Director Brian D. Levine, left, presents a ceremonial check to the Rev. Timothy J. Wolf, who chairs the Hillsborough/Millstone Municipal Youth Services Commission.

Somerset County Awards \$106,000 in Grants *Investing in Our Future*

SOMERVILLE – The Board of Chosen Freeholders recently granted funds totaling \$106,939 to 14 Somerset County Municipal Youth Services Commissions, which serve 21 Somerset County municipalities. Funding was provided through the 2019 Municipal Youth Services Commission’s (MYSC) annual grant program and is used to support a wide variety of programs for local youths.

“We are happy to grant funding to these municipalities in support of our young people,” said Somerset County Freeholder Director Brian Levine. “These grants will help fund valuable initiatives in our local communities. I believe that when we invest in programs for our youth we are investing in our future.”

All municipalities with a K-8 grade school receive a \$5,000 annual grant. Seven competitive grants were also awarded, which totaled \$26,939.

Annual Grant Awards

Grants in the amount of \$5,000 were presented to the following MYSCs: **Bernards** for its Ridge Against Drugs (RAAD), and Viking Yoga; **Branchburg** for its Students Tackling Ordinary Problems (S.T.O.P.), and Run 4 Fun; **Bridgewater/Raritan** for the New Comers Club; **Franklin Township** for its Girls Circle, Boys Council, and Youth Council; **Green Brook** for the Girls Circle, Health In Steps (HIS), and Boys Council.

Hillsborough/Millstone received funding for its Project Teen Zone, and I Run; **Manville** for the ABIS Running Club, Weston Summer Camp, ABIS Splash Camp, Open Gym Nights and Counselors in Training; **Montgomery/Rocky Hill** for its Girls on the Run and LMS Yoga; **North Plainfield** for its Girls on the Run/Girls on Track and Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT); **Somerville** for its Challenge Yourself, Girls on the Run, and Drug Education; **Warren** for the Diversity Club, and the Mind, Body, Teen Spirit club; **Watchung** for its TREP\$ Club and Pursuit of Excellence club.

The **Bound Brook/South Bound Brook** MYSC, which has two K-8 schools were awarded \$10,000 for its Girls Empower, Character Education, Middle Earth Community Center, and Hispanic Support Club.

The **Somerset Hills** MYSC, which represents the towns of **Bedminster, Bernardsville, Far Hills, and Peapack-Gladstone**, received \$10,000 for its Intergenerational Socials, Youth Summit, and Be Well.

Competitive Grants

Seven MYSCs were also awarded competitive grants that include: **Bernards**, which received \$6,000 for its Peer Educators at William Annin Middle School; **Bridgewater/Raritan** was awarded \$3,815 for the Game Squad: Be Board, Not bored; **Franklin** received \$4,000 for its Peaceful Warriors; **Montgomery/ Rocky Hill** was awarded \$6,000 for the Upper Middle School GSA; **Warren** received \$2,274 for The Council for Boys and Young Men, \$2,274 for its Girls Circle, and \$2,576 for the Save Promise Club.

The Municipal Youth Services Commissions mirror the County Youth Services Commission and are responsible for assessing the needs of youth in their local communities who are at-risk of or are involved in the juvenile justice system.

These services bring together key community leaders and community volunteers to carefully examine the needs of the at-risk youth in their local area in order to develop appropriate prevention and intervention strategies that address those issues.

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