

Writing Sample: Karissa St. Pierre

Grant Funder: Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation

SAMPLE PROPOSAL RESPONSES:

Question 1) Organizational Overview:

Since 1969, the Boys & Girls Club of [Client City] has empowered young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. We provide a safe, inclusive environment where youth achieve academic success, develop strong character, and adopt healthy lifestyles through mentorship, skill-building, and enrichment opportunities.

Each year, more than 1,200 children and teens participate in our preschool, after-school, and summer programs. Of these youth, 62% come from low-income households (based on FFIEC income guidelines), 57% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, 39% live in single-parent households, and 31% identify as a race or ethnicity other than white.

Providing free meals when schools are closed is a core component of our support for the community. Each day after school, all youth receive a free snack and dinner. During the summer, we deliver free lunches to ten public meal sites. When funding allows, we also provide weekend meals to our most vulnerable members to ensure consistent access to food when both school and Club programming are unavailable.

Question 9) In 200 words or less, explain how the funds would be used:

From October 2025 through May 2026, we will provide weekend meals to children in our after-school programs who are currently experiencing—or at high risk of—food insecurity. Each Friday, children will receive a backpack containing two non-perishable meals for the weekend.

In addition, once per month, families will receive fresh dinner kits with ingredients and a recipe to prepare a meal for four. As funding allows, we will also provide grocery store gift cards to help offset food costs.

We have implemented this model previously and received positive feedback from both children and families. This modest but consistent support reduces stress, provides peace of mind, and allows weekends to be more focused on family time. Our approach promotes dignity, centers children's preferences, and gives parents the flexibility to meet their families' unique needs.