



# GRIT Mid-Year Update

Gang Reduction & Intervention Task Force | City of Yakima



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## Overview

- Now is the Time 2 Pilot Program Grant Proposal Funded by the Governor
  - Purpose is to develop a sustainable organized response to gang activity utilizing evidence-based resources, focusing efforts on intervening with 6<sup>th</sup> graders attracted to or joining gangs.
  - Steering Committee formed
  - Matt Fairbank retained to assist on forming the program and working with partners to develop the sustainable organized response
  - Searching for grants and leveraging funding to sustain the program
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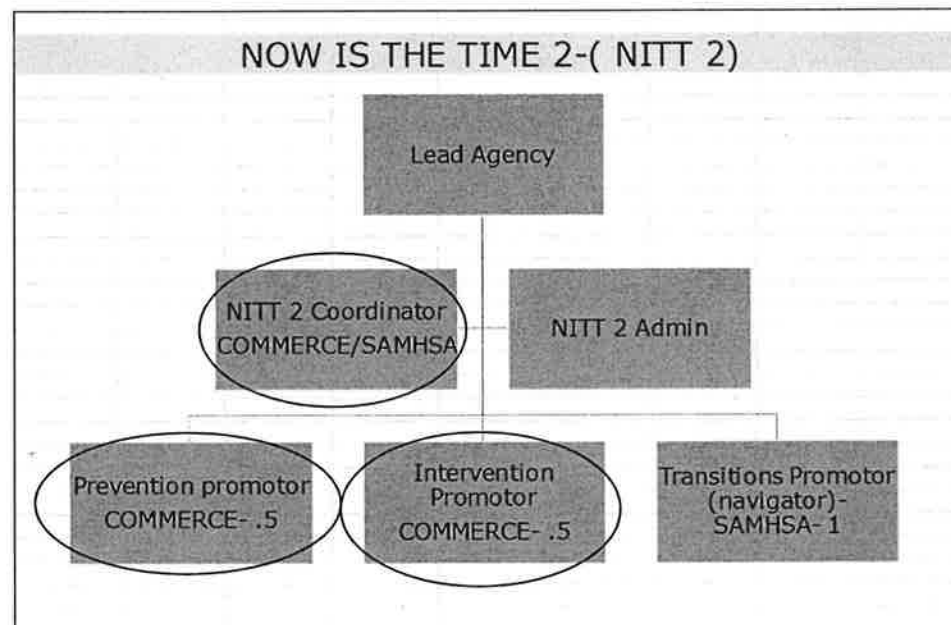
## The Village

- Providers
  - Social service agencies, drug and alcohol treatment program providers, after school program providers
- Educators and Counselors
  - School counselors, education advocates, teachers, ESD staff
- Police and Criminal Justice
  - Yakima Police Department, juvenile justice representatives, probation officers, legal services

The Village meets every two months. Presentations are determined based in part on the interest of the members of the Village in feedback provided to Matt. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>.

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## Summary of Program Personnel



The Prevention Promotor (Promoter) and the Intervention Promotor (Promoter) are intended to act similarly to Promotoras de Salud, or Health Promoters.

For purposes of the Pilot Program, the Lead Agency is the City.

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## Prevention Promotor and Prevention Strategy

- Contract with Rocío Carrión and Radio KDNA for weekly radio spots
  - Spots will discuss various prevention measures, community health issues (ACEs, trauma informed care) information about gang influences and mannerisms, youth opportunities, health care and resources for youth and families
  - Spots will be aired at 5pm-6pm slot on Wednesdays
  - Spots will be aired February through May
  - Spots are geared towards parents, guardians and adult family members
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## Intervention Strategy and Intervention Promotor

- Intervention Strategy
    - One-on-one and small group intensive coaching with ten 6<sup>th</sup> graders by the intervention promotor
    - 5 students from Franklin and 5 students from Lewis & Clark will form the pilot program
    - Coaching and mentoring of both the students and their parents, guardians and families to provide positive modeling, information about resources, etc.
    - Coaching will start as soon as the youth are lined up for the program, and go through the school year until approximately June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Intervention Promotor
    - Gary Garza, former Yakima Police Officer and School Resource Officer
    - Worked with middle school youth as SRO and is familiar with coaching and gang prevention/intervention techniques
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## Resources: Data, Strategy, Research

- Alise Mnati, Spokane
    - Providing consulting help—she went through a similar process in Spokane setting up its program, which received federal funding
    - Helping with forms, providing input on best practices, strategic thinking
    - We have a weekly telephone conference with her to talk about the status of Yakima's program and to provide advice and input on Yakima's program
  - Juliana Van Olphen, San Francisco State University
    - Providing research and data collection help—will formulate and draft a final report on the program which can be used for future grant applications
    - Helping with forms, surveys for youth and guardians, and providing information on how to best collect pertinent data for the report
    - She also is on the weekly telephone conference outlined above
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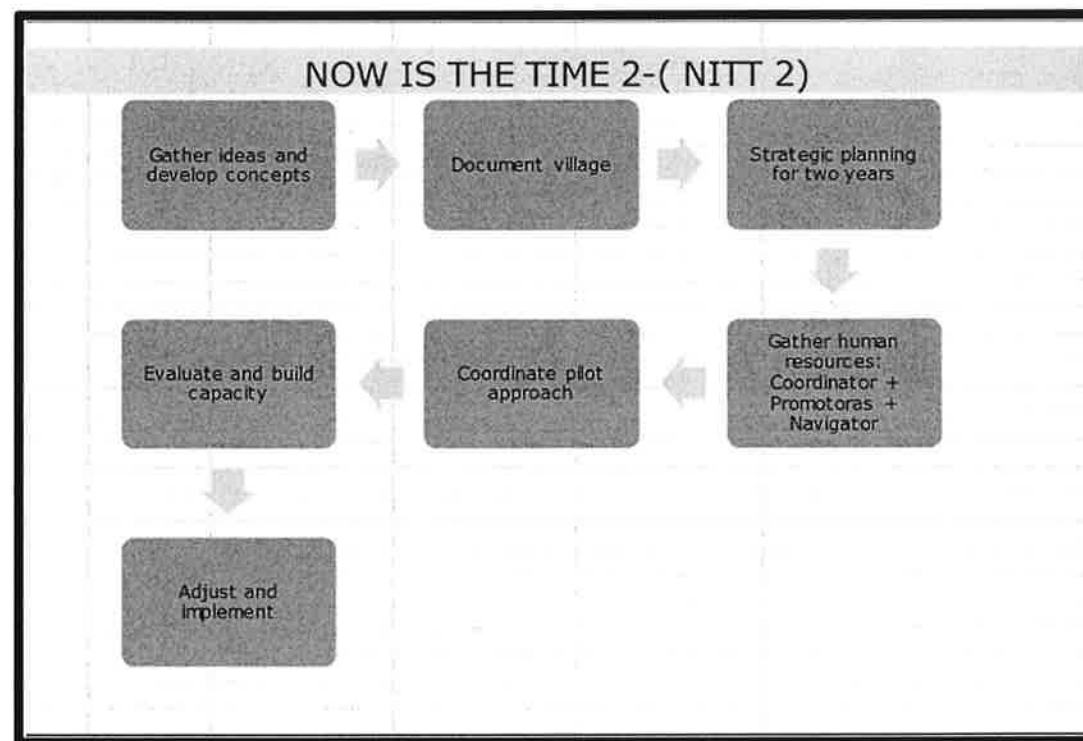
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## Next Steps

- Recruit 3-7 high school students to help provide advice on non-technical matters
    - Titles for persons working within the program (i.e. mentor? coach? coordinator?)
    - Review and comment on language used in the surveys for the youth (make sure it is language that will be understood by youth so Yakima can collect good data)
    - Provide input on questions to ask youth to get additional valuable data
  - Continue Village Meetings
  - Work with the 10 youth in the Pilot Program and their families
  - Compile data and create final report
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## Long Term Plan





Questions?

