



**Laurus Grant Writing  
& Evaluation Services**

**37 Kings Road  
Madison, New Jersey 07940  
(973) 476-8393**

**Evaluation Quote: Township of Union Public Schools**

**Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, 2025-2026**

Laurus Grant Writing and Evaluation Services (Laurus) proposes to serve as the evaluator of the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program led by the Township of Union Public Schools for the 2025-2026 contract year. Both formative and summative evaluations will be conducted, examining program implementation and program outcomes.

Term: The Agreement shall commence on September 1, 2025, and, unless earlier terminated herein, shall terminate on August 31, 2026.

Duties: Laurus will provide a comprehensive evaluation of the Township of Union Public Schools 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. Focuses of the evaluation will include:

- Student recruitment and student attendance;
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development;
- Quality of program activities (including academic remediation, academic enrichment, cultural/artistic, health/fitness/wellness, and youth development) and Activity Plan;
- Relationships with schools, partners and community stakeholders;
- Alignment with school and inquiry-based learning outcomes;
- Sustainability plan;
- Parental involvement and engagement; and
- Program goals and objectives.



Evaluation activities will include:

- Ongoing review and analysis of data from any NJDOE data management system;
- Three site visits and Site Coordinator Interviews – 1<sup>st</sup> visit to include program observation with findings reported in Mid-year Evaluation Report, a 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to include program observation with findings reported in the Annual Evaluation Report, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> summer visit for program observation;
- Twice yearly in-depth analysis of student attendance data, including an assessment of attendance and enrollment by activity, gender, grade, and ethnicity/race;
- Annual parent surveys;
- Annual student surveys;
- Annual analysis of student grades and scores;
- Attendance at Advisory Board meetings;
- Attendance at mandated NJ Department of Education evaluator meetings;
- Compliance with best practices for afterschool (using New Jersey Quality Standards for Afterschool), reviewed annually; and
- Ongoing technical assistance, as requested by the program.

Evaluation deliverables will be:

- Bimonthly informal email or verbal reports describing recent activities and events, as well as changes to the program and notable trends;
- Monthly data snapshot reports;
- Mid-year and Annual formal evaluation reports addressing whether the program is being implemented as planned, and whether it is moving towards goals and objectives. Reports will also provide recommendations for the purpose of ensuring program improvement;
- Assistance with evaluation sections in the continuation grant submission process;
- NJ DOE required annual report; and
- Phone conferences and emails, as needed.

**Cost:** \$15,000 annually (Paid Quarterly)

**Date:** June 24th, 2025

**Christine Corriston, MSW, LCSW**

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(908) 462-2994

**EDUCATION:**

Hunter College School of Social Work, New York, New York  
Masters of Social Work, Group Work Concentration, May 1992

Fordham University, Bronx, New York  
Bachelors of Arts, May 1987

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

President and Managing Partner, Laurus Grant Writing and Evaluation Services  
March 2011 – current

- Lead the evaluation of more than twenty-five 21st Century Community Learning Center programs in New Jersey and New York City
- Provide technical assistance and guidance to programs in developing sustainability plans, expanding partnerships and leveraging grant funds for expansion
- Provide grant-writing assistance to a diverse group of clients
- Develop and deliver Professional Development training to New York Public School teachers in the Bronx and Brooklyn
- Provide grant writing workshops to school districts and non-profit organizations

New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition, Westfield, NJ  
May 2009 to March 2011

Director of Special Projects

- Managed NJ DOE 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Technical Assistance Grant
- Administered technical assistance and professional development for program quality to participants of this statewide initiative
- Provided on-site observation, resources, and support to afterschool programs and summer camps in New Jersey for quality improvement and capacity building
- Agency representative of New Jersey No Child Left Behind Advisory Board
- Agency representative of New Jersey High School Graduation Campaign Coalition

AIDS Resource Foundation, Newark, NJ  
October 2008 to May 2009

Director of Social Services, St. Clare's Social Services

- Lead the Social Service Department, providing medical case management, clinical counseling, support with GA, TANF, SSD, Food Stamps, other entitlements, and family services to HIV positive clients
- Supervised transitional housing program for HIV positive women in recovery
- Supervised all staff in assisting clients with emergency housing and HOPWA, Section 8 and scattered site housing assistance applications
- Oversaw all casework, group counseling and files in compliance with grant requirements and funding
- Oversaw distribution of Direct Emergency Assistance (DEA) funds by medical case managers
- Provided supervision for medical case managers, substance abuse counselors, housing manager, van driver, and social work interns

- Managed budgets and grant writing in collaboration with Executive Director and Director of Development
- Collaborated with government and community based agencies to support client services and advocate for clients
- Offered leadership designing and implementing new program initiatives and improvements in line with agency mission such as Family Night Events, Summer Camp for Families, Clothing Closet, AIDS Walk NY, etc.

New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition, Westfield, NJ

January 2002 to September 2008

Quality Advisor/Social Work Consultant

- Worked as a Trainer, Statewide Monitor, and NGO grant reader for NJ Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Center Grantees
- Worked as a Trainer and Quality advisor for Youth Service Organizations
- Provided on-site support and designed training for 20 start-up school based middle school programs focused on at-risk students and special needs issues through Department of Human Services grant funding
- Collaborated with various agencies to provide technical assistance and training in an effort to support at-risk children and adolescents with special needs and psychosocial and emotional issues in camps and afterschool programs

Homefirst, Interfaith Housing & Family Services, Plainfield, New Jersey

September 2003 to June 2009

Clinical Coordinator of Families First Support Group

- Provided weekly counseling and support to teens of parents living in transitional and supportive housing
- Collaborated with Plainfield Public Schools for client support services schools

Alliance for Inclusion and Prevention, Inc.

Washington Irving Middle School, Boston, MA

September 1995 to May 2001

Director of Prevention & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program

- Designed and directed all aspects of a therapeutic inclusionary after school program for regular education and special needs, including students with behavioral and emotional issues
- Supervised Parent Involvement Program as demonstration project for the Eisenhower Foundation's Full-Service Community Schools Replication Project
- Coordinated in-school clinical services and provide direct counseling and support to identified at-risk students
- Supported teachers and administration with behavioral interventions and treatment plans for youth
- Supervised the afterschool program supervisor, behavior specialists, art teacher, social work interns and volunteers
- Facilitated and implemented parent education workshops on issues relating to adolescent development, discipline, and communication
- Developed and designed a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program, providing daily activities for over 150 students

- Facilitated collaborations with multiple community-based organizations
- Provided staff training for teachers, counselors and afterschool staff in behavior management, conflict resolution and crisis management

Comprehensive School Age Parenting Program  
English High School, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts  
October 1993 to September 1995  
Clinical Social Worker

- Provided clinical counseling and development of individual treatment plans with pregnant and parenting teen mothers and teen fathers
- Provided resource information and advocacy for teens and their families related to welfare, housing, day care, health care, mental health services, Department of Social Services and education
- Developed and facilitated groups and workshops for agency on teen parenting
- Collaborated with Boston Public School administrators and teachers, health care providers, and a wide range of government and non-profit agencies
- Facilitated pregnancy prevention counseling and consultation to larger school population

Casa Nueva Vida, Hispanic Bi-lingual Family Shelter (Safe House)  
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts  
January 1994 to February 1995  
Consultant/Group Therapist

- Developed and provided weekly therapy groups for children living in bi-lingual family shelter
- Provided resource information and support to mothers living in shelter regarding government entitlements, educational system and other resources as needed

Center for Family Life, Brooklyn, New York  
September 1991 to September 1993  
Co-Director, Summer Youth Employment Program

- Administered Summer Youth Employment Program, (SYEP) for over 1,000 teens
- Responsible for job development and job placement, payroll, site supervision, coordination and community outreach
- Trained and supervised social work staff and worksite monitors
- Developed evaluation methods and prepared mechanisms for reporting to funders in compliance with federal and local government regulations

#### CERTIFICATIONS:

New Jersey State Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)  
Certification in Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy, Boston University Graduate School of Social Work, Department of Continuing Education, May 1995  
Quality Advisor Certification, National Institute for Out of School Time, September 1999  
National Institute for Out of School Time School-Age Child Care Advanced Leadership Institute, July 1999  
Certification in Clinical Social Work Supervision, NJ NASW, June 2006  
Board Member, New Jersey Association for Social Emotional Character Development (NJASECD), 2011- 2015