



Step Up Work Session

Request to review the Step Up program and to seek direction for potential action

Presentation by: Samantha Ferrero, Board Representative

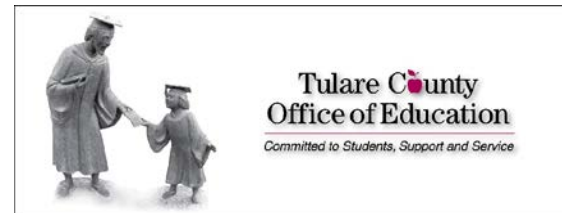
May 7, 2019

What is Step Up?

Step Up is a consortium of programs and partnerships that are united by the shared goal of improving the outcomes for youth in Tulare County

How are we improving outcomes for youth?

- By working with partners, communities, stakeholders, youth, and parents
- By encouraging participation in positive activities and extra-curricular involvement
- Through collaboration and the fostering of positive associations and social networks



What is Step Up?

What is the County of Tulare's role in Step Up?

- Have consistently funded the program since 2008
- Worked to make it an official county committee to ensure longevity
- Staffed the program since 2008

Step Up Timeline



2007 - Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force formed

- Youth Transportation Service Pilot Program
- Step Up Gang Summit

2008 –

- Step Up Youth Activities Grant Program created
- Youth Commission created
- Youth Challenge Awards program created

2009 – An ad hoc subcommittee of the Gang Prevention Task Force began to meet to provide structure to the program

2011 – Two programs were created to fill existing gaps:

- Summer Night Lights
- Youth Challenge

2013 – Established the #LEAD program

2015 - Established the Step Up Advisory Committee as an official County committee

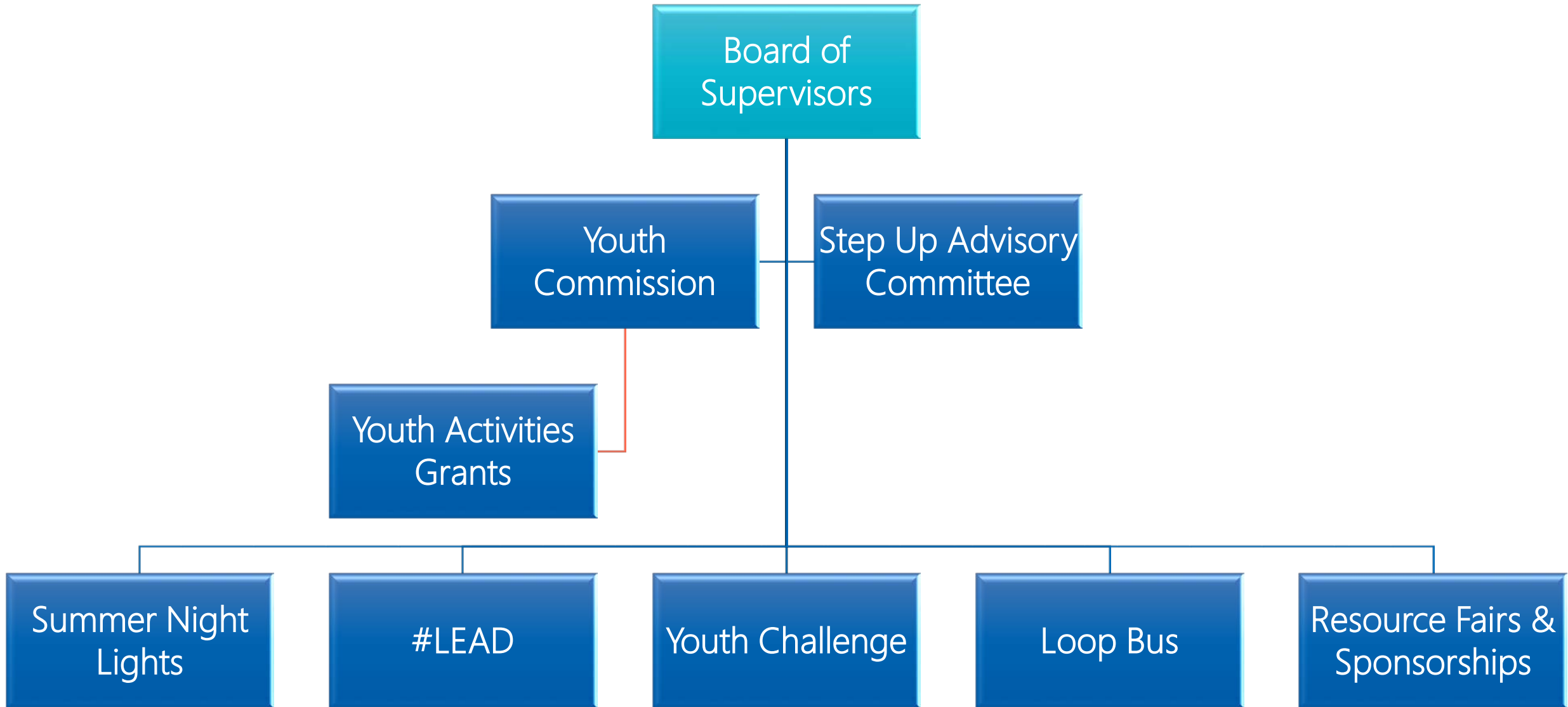
- Established the Step Up Program Coordinator position

2016 – Deleted the Step Up Program Coordinator position

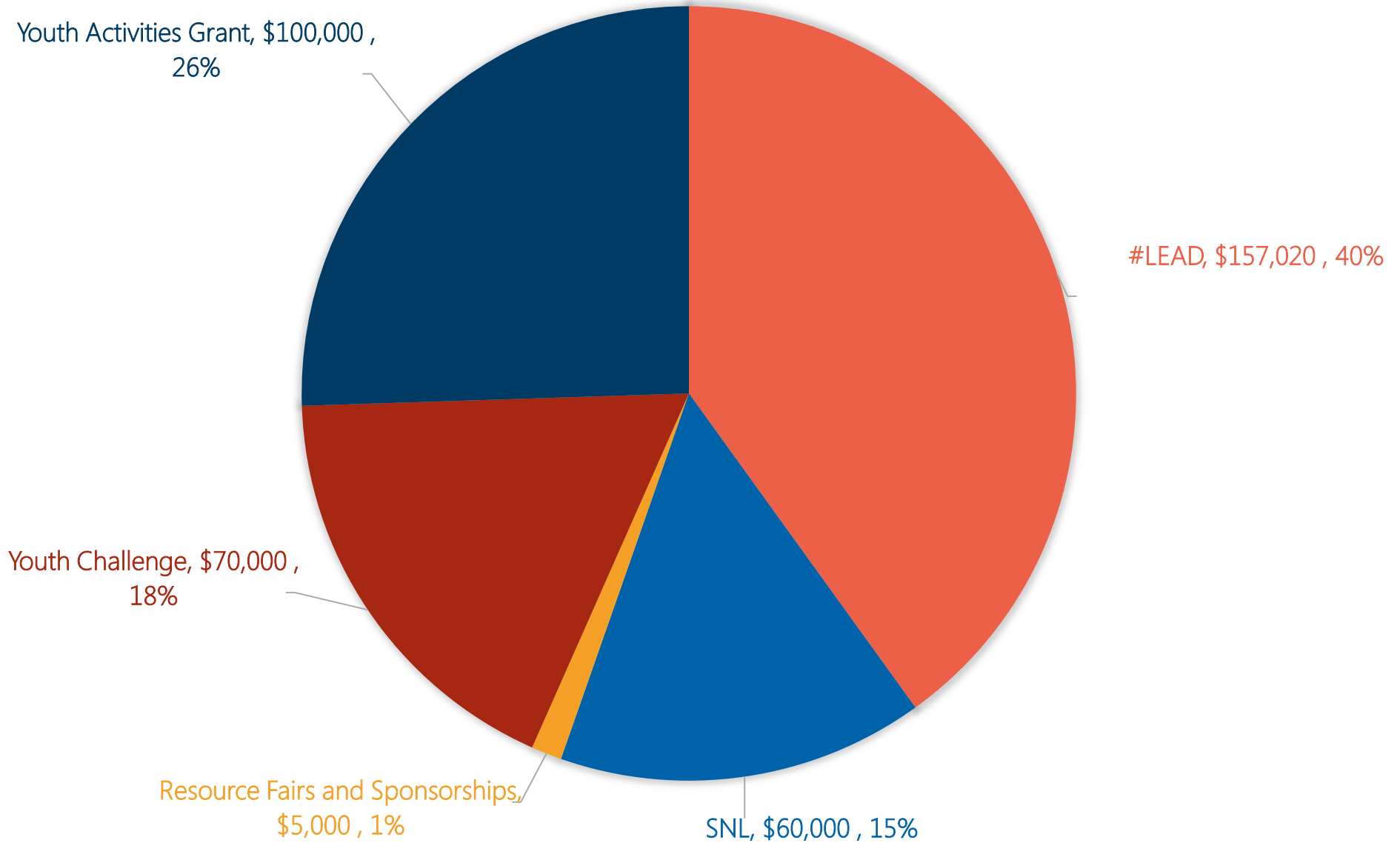
2018 –

- Contracted with Tulare County Office of Education to coordinate the Youth Challenge Program
- Revised Loop Bus Policy adopted

Organizational Structure



Budget



Step Up Programs

Youth Challenge

- Reverse-grant, community service project
- Middle School and High School teams
- \$1,000 and \$2,500 grant awards
- Contracted out to TCOE for 2018-19 program
- Community Partners: CSET, VUSD, TCOE, HHSA, Sequoia Riverlands Trust

#LEAD

- Mentorship program with opportunities for summer work experience
- Work with HHSA to recruit and graduate foster and cash aid youth
- Youth served are Juniors & Seniors in High School
- 4 cohorts: Visalia, Tulare, Porterville, Dinuba
- Contracted to CSET since 2013-14

Summer Night Lights

- Funding provided to community organizations to host events during the summer months
- Open to youth and families
- Events include: Swim Nights, Resource Fairs, themed-nights, Movie nights, etc.
- 17 communities participate
- Multiple community partners in the various participating communities

Step Up Programs

Resource Fairs & Sponsorships

- \$1,000 provided to various communities to host events
- Sponsor printing costs for fliers
- 2018-19: Cutler Orosi, Terra Bella, Woodlake
- Sponsorships: TCSO Youth Football League, Rise Above Project

Youth Activities Grant

- Youth Commission makes recommends to BOS
- \$100,000 in funding (\$20,000/district)
- Open to non-profits in Tulare County whose program improves the quality of life for youth
- Grant cycle runs from July to June

Loop Bus

- Funded by Measure R
- BOS Staff, RMA Staff, MV Transit Staff
- Policy adopted June 2018
- \$150,000 allocated every year to fund this program

Step Up SWOT Analysis

February 2019

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

INTERNAL

STRENGTH

- › Collaboration between multiple organizations
- › Consistent funding shows commitment from County of Tulare
- › Seed programs and events (Loop Bus, SNL) to increase capacity of communities

WEAKNESS

- › Lack of Data
- › Limited staff time and resources
- › Changing definition and expansion of targeted youth populations served

EXTERNAL

OPPORTUNITY

- › Better branding
- › Could use Step Up to fill gaps in smaller communities
- › Leverage partnerships to expand program

THREAT

- › Lack of data
- › Leadership changes could result in funding instability

What are Other Counties Doing?

Inyo County – Juvenile Services Redesign Initiative 2018 CSAC Challenge Award Winner

- *How can we provide more services to youth in the most efficient way possible?*
 - Re-titled job descriptions of Probation Officers to Rehabilitation Specialists
 - Partnered with HHSA to maximize resources and skillsets
 - Worked together to provide a mentoring and education program for youth and their families
 - Goal to enhance services to youth without duplicating efforts
 - Created a holistic approach to helping youth by creating a team of partners, including school staff, probation and HHSA and behavioral health
 - Able to serve twice as many youth as before

Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

- Shift funding and staff oversight to Probation and HHSA
- Maintain Step Up Advisory Committee role to provide programming recommendations to BOS
- Come back for potential action at later date
- Leverages existing County resources

Recommendation 2:

- Contract entire Step Up program out
- Create a Request for Proposal
- Maintain Step Up Advisory Committee role to provide programming recommendations to BOS

Work Session Goal

- Provide background and update to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Step Up Program
- Seek direction from Board of Supervisors based on the recommendations presented
- Come back with an agenda item for action in the future



Questions?