

**Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action, Inc. (STEP)**

2138 Lincoln St.

Williamsport, PA 17701

570-326-0587

**Grant Award, Year One:** \$300,000

**Award Year:** 2006

**Organizational Description:**

Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action, Inc. was founded in 1966 with a mission "to assist low-income persons to achieve self-sufficiency and to impact on the causes and conditions of poverty" in Pennsylvania's Lycoming and Clinton counties. These goals are accomplished through the operation of social services, training, and education programs (STEP), through development of the economy and affordable housing, and through the mobilization of local, state, and federal resources. Most recently, STEP has worked to develop service-learning opportunities for middle school youth as a strategy for resisting gang membership.

**Name of CEY Initiative Project:**

Capacity in Action

**Project Description:**

STEP will build the capacity of faith and community-based organizations to provide enhanced social services to address gang activity and youth violence. The Capacity in Action project will include: 1) pre-organizational needs assessments to refine partners' understanding of capacity building and how they can grow, and post-organizational needs assessments to measure improvements; 2) training in topics such as community engagement, positive youth development, sensitivity/cultural awareness, and volunteer recruitment and retention; 3) assistance with audits, fiscal controls, and preparation of tax returns; 4) professional development for partner staff through attendance at national conferences and completion of certification programs; 5) equipment enhancement supplemented with technical assistance in database creation and management, newsletter production, online marketing and public relations, Web page design, and overall communication system improvement; 6) curriculum development and refinement; and 7) regular partner meetings to enhance collaboration between partner organizations. STEP also plans to lead the effort of developing a countywide Gang Taskforce to strengthen ties between youth and their families, schools, and communities.

**Partners:** Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Lycoming County, Inc.; The Campbell Street Family, Youth, and Community Association (The Center); Community Alliance for Progressive Action; Lycoming County Salvation Army; Williamsport Crime Commission