Introduction

- Black student athletes are neglected by society.
- Black student athletes fall behind academically.
- Division I Black student athletes’ graduation rate at 67% is lower than White student athletes’ graduation rate of 86% (Carter-Francique, Hart, & Cheeks, 2015).
- Parental engagement, while youth are still in grade school, plays an enormous role in cultivating success, especially in Black males (Harris et al., 2014).
- When dealing with student athletes who are courted by coaches as early as middle school, proactive steps to ensure their well-being must be implemented.
The idea that the only non-criminal way out of poverty for Black youth is athletics should be a major concern for every social worker.

Social workers need to develop and fund more programs for Black youth that provide a way out of poverty and help them achieve their potential.

Focusing on improving the well-being of Black student athletes is consistent both with values of social work and congruent with the role of a school social worker.

Valuing the dignity and worth of the person is congruent with promoting the well-being of youth.
Cross Cultural Relevance

- Based on a review of prior research, Shakib et al. (2011) concluded that high school males from lower Socioeconomic Status (SES) backgrounds were more likely to choose athletics as their path towards upward SES mobility compared to males from an upper SES background.

- Family structure is one of the factors that can affect the academic achievement of student athletes (Reynolds et al., 2012).

- The chances of getting an athletic scholarship are greater for those who have had more opportunities to excel academically and in sports.

- SES is a major factor in pursuing a professional career in sports (Reynolds et al., 2012).
Methods

- Target Population – Black Student Athletes.
- Research for grant making foundations within California was conducted using the Grantsmanship Center of Los Angeles website (http://www.tgci.com/).
- Foundations that focused heavily on the well-being of youth and showed a history of funding programs that benefit teenagers and young adults were identified.
Methods

- The Weingart Foundation (http://www.weingartfnd.org/) provides grants to improve the capacity and effectiveness of nonprofit organizations working in the areas of health, human services, and education.

- A review of articles using Academic Search Complete, Social Service Abstracts, and SocINDEX through EBSCO Host was conducted, which provided important information on the needs of student athletes from disadvantage communities.

- Total Budget: $56,149

- Total Salary Wages: $47,629

- Total Program Expenses: 8,520
Grant Proposal

- The purpose of the proposed program is to promote the well-being of student athletes on their journey through high school and ultimately through college.

- The goal of the program is to enhance the well-being of student athletes through a variety of classes and mentoring activities.

- Living in underprivileged communities places Black youth at risk for a series of risk factors, including dropping out of high school and involvement in crime.

- Objective 1: To promote the well-being of African American student athletes.
Grant Proposal

- Objective 2: To prepare African American student athletes for a career in college athletics.

- Through group therapy sessions, along with individual sessions, it is anticipated that participants will begin to discuss areas of their lives where they feel they need additional support.

- To maintain sustainability, a new class of students will be enrolled yearly.

- Data will be collected from school staff, coaches, and student participants. Focus groups and self-administered surveys will be used for data collection.
Lessons Learned/Implications for Social Work

- The review of the academic literature identified that there were not many mentoring programs dedicated to working with student athletes in high school.

- This project revealed that Black student athletes are under an enormous amount of pressure to be financial providers to their families at a very young age.

- Due to all the stressors that these youth face, their well-being can be at risk.

- Social workers need to advocate for more service for Black youth and develop programs to support their well-being.
References


