

Project Narrative – anc1D 2008 Small Grants



Title: In 15 words or less, give a title that describes the project's main beneficial result.

Teach Life Survival Skills to Spanish-speaking women enabling them to lead independent productive lives.

Narrative: 500 words or less, all on this page. Label paragraphs - A: Group. B: Project. C: Benefits. D: Leverage.

A. Group

Park Marconi Survival Skills Group (SSG) is primarily targeted to Spanish speaking women who stay at home. The SSG will teach women life skills that will empower and enable them to participate more fully in the community. Skills include: building a household budget, bill paying, banking and credit, starting and managing home businesses, completing job applications and learning interviewing techniques.

B. Project

The SSG will be publicized and students recruited via Park Marconi Building Association. We will identify classrooms, primarily seeking public spaces, but the need may arise to rent a low cost meeting room. A former high school technical education instructor will be recruited to develop the curriculum. Once the curriculum is in place, volunteers and low-cost instructors with expertise in the individual skill areas will train the students in the various walks of life.

Course materials will be written, printed, and reproduced. The SSG will work with the Neighbors Consejo, Central American Refugee Center (CARACEN) and volunteers from the Mount Pleasant Branch of Bank of America. Guest speakers will be invited to speak on specialty topics, and a small honorarium may be required.

C. Benefits

The women who successfully complete the SSG course will be able to move into additional and advanced coursework that ultimately will allow them to seek out gainful employment, manage their own personal money, better manage their household's money, and engage in civic and community activities. The SSG will reach out to women at Park Marconi and will collaborate with a similar action group at Sarbin Towers (3132 16th St NW), also in ANC 1D, potentially reaching as many as 150 Latinas.

D. Leverage

This kind of grassroots, low overhead, direct impact project historically draws \$10 of volunteer time for every \$1 invested, provides proof of the concept; and thus, is likely to attract further funding for a scale-up. Since there are about 50 buildings with similar needs, over time, the program seeded by this grant has the potential to impact several thousand people in Mount Pleasant.