

Project Narrative – anc1D 2008 Small Grants **anc1D** mount pleasant, dc

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

Teach Survival English to Spanish-speaking women to enable them to have greater participation in the community.

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

A. Group

Park Marconi Learning Initiative is primarily targeted to Spanish speaking women who stay at home. The men in the families go out to work and have access to English and the children go to public school; thus, they are becoming bilingual. Therefore, the women have little opportunity to learn English resulting in other consequences. For example, because of the language barrier, they often shop in neighborhood grocery stores where the food is substantially more costly than in larger stores like Giant or Safeway. Learning Survival English will empower them to interact with the businesses and with their English-speaking neighbors – building a sense of shared community. The Initiative is designed to teach the women while their children are at school, and husbands are at work, so that they have time to fully focus on the curriculum. The course will further be designed so that what is learned can be used immediately.

B. Project

The Initiative 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. Additionally, an English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor will be hired to develop the Survival English curriculum.

Student teachers will be recruited with assistance from the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC). We have chosen student teachers to keep costs low, while benefiting youth who need to work part time. Once the teachers have been identified, the ESL instructor will train them in the Survival English curriculum. For quality assurance, the ESL instructor will conduct a midpoint review of the program.

When the curriculum is in place, course materials will be written, printed, and reproduced. The Initiative will work with Neighbors Consejo, and Central American Refugee Center (CARACEN) to ensure that, in addition to teaching English, we are addressing and respectful of cultural differences and consider these in our planning and instruction.

C. Benefits

Many women in the community are seen as second class citizens, and thus do not possess power over their own lives. As a result, oftentimes they suffer under male domination. They may experience physical and emotional abuse that leaves them despondent, hopeless, and with feelings of suicide. In DC, the highest rate of suicide is among Latinas. Survival English would give them the confidence to live more independent productive lives – benefiting the community. This initiative, in its early stages, will reach out to women at Park Marconi and will collaborate with a similar initiative 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 a \$10 of volunteer time for every \$1 invested and will provide proof of concept and thus is likely to attract further funding for a scale-up. Since there are about 50 buildings with similar needs, the program seeded by this grant has the potential, over time, to impact several thousand people in Mount Pleasant.