

# 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.

Oaklawn Terrace BA forms a Work Group on Fire and Emergency to Save Lives

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

A: Group.

Unincorporated Oaklawn Terrace Building Association  
3620 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington DC 20010

B: Project.

Form an Oaklawn Terrace Work Group on Fire and Emergency

In addition to working with fire regulations, we wish to practice self-help in case of a fire or emergency. We will create a roster of residents to account for each person. We wish to establish communication with all the residents.

A roster would also be useful in the case of sickness, depression, and other hardships where neighborliness can make an important difference and develop a checklist and procedures. We would very much want to avoid unnecessary accidents, suicides, and declines in health because of isolation.

Costs for this project will be producing guides, laminated checklists and procedures for each units. We also wish to work out a security plan that is approved by Police and Fire and Emergency Services.

Many of our residents are experienced tradesmen who recommend a different style of appliances and use of energy in the building, for fire safety. In 2006, a young man died here in a blaze. In a dense apartment building any unit that has a fire has adjoining walls, floors, and ceilings where the fire could easily spread. We also want to look into any kind of equipment that may be needed for the hearing impaired.

C: Benefits.

We have 300 or more residents, many with extended generational families who spend time here. Many of our residents are Latino and unacquainted with all available City Services and their rights as residents.

Some of our residents are disabled or elderly would benefit from meetings held at home where they could interact with representatives from city programs. We would be interested in holding fire drills with cooperation of management and the Fire Department. We may want to develop structures like floor captains to work with fire and safety experts. On many issues, we want to be in communication with each other, and if necessary hire someone to help inform us or conduct research, and then hold meetings to keep everyone informed.

D. Leverage.

We hope to develop procedures and fire plans with management and Fire and Emergency services that could be adopted by other buildings. There are a large number of talented, generous and civic minded people in the building who could work with other groups in Mount Pleasant to help tackle serious issues affecting us all. By combining our efforts with other Building Associations, we could increase participation and productive change in how fire safety is practiced in apartment buildings. We hope to contribute to a safer neighborhood and avoid disasters like the recent Deauville fire.