



***Johnson County Empowerment Area
Latino Family Support Project***

Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County
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Outcome Statement: The Latino Family Support Project will provide multidisciplinary supports for Latino families living in target neighborhoods to increase access to quality childcare, improve school readiness and increase parent involvement.

Amount of Empowerment funding requested: **\$44,955**

Program Name	Target Audience, #'s and Goals	Scope of Services	Performance Measures
Support for Latino Families \$44,955	Build stable, nurturing home environments and neighborhoods in three Latino communities in Johnson County (Forest View, Regency and the Broadway area) for 30 families through programs that include: adult education supports; parent education supports; and parent/child programs for Latino families with children birth to three years.	<p>A. Adult Education Supports -outreach and class registration assistance -transportation to and from class sites -tutoring and homework assistance</p> <p>B. Parent Education Supports -group workshops twice monthly</p> <p>C. Parent & Child Time (PACT) -twice monthly family events focused on literacy and school success</p> <p>D. In-home literacy education 2 – 4 times monthly (15 families per month)</p>	<p>A. Adult Education Supports -outreach and class registration -transportation to and from class sites -tutoring and homework assistance -referrals to child care</p> <p>B. Parent Education Supports -group workshops twice monthly</p> <p>C. Parent & Child Time (PACT) -twice monthly family events focused on literacy and school success</p> <p>D. In-home literacy education 2 – 4 times monthly (15 families per month)</p>

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

I. NEED FOR PROGRAM

Community Demographic Changes Create New Challenges

Latinos are a growing population in Johnson County. As the job market tightens, many Latino families are moving into the area for employment opportunities in construction, manufacturing and the service industry. Statistics from the Iowa City Community School District indicate a 257% increase in Latino students since 1995. There are currently 39 mobile homes at Regency Park occupied by Latino families. Our qualitative data suggests that many families are doubling-up and that the number of families could easily be over 50. Meanwhile at Forest View there are currently 85 Latino families with children. Our quantitative analysis indicates that 60 or more of those families have children birth to 3 years old.

It is clear that Johnson County and Iowa City are undergoing some significant transformations. As families with high-needs continue to make our neighborhoods their new home, we must take steps to help make their transition successful, particularly for the young children. We recognize that the success of children is linked to community's involvement in the education and support of all children. Fortunately, the Johnson County and Iowa City community has a long history of accepting responsibility for our children. Empowerment is integral in helping families settle in our community and finding success for parents and children.

Just as the population of Latinos has expanded in the County, they have been a growing part of programming for Neighborhood Centers. Consequently, we support four dual language (English/Spanish) accredited early childhood classrooms and provide other dual language programming for families. Families have been receptive to programs when those programs are neighborhood-based and delivered by native Spanish speaking staff who have a cultural connection to the families. This approach has helped to effectively build skills for children and adults. The result has been a good input to output ratio for programming.

The success of this program is related to NCJC's capacity to address a broad spectrum of family needs through our continuum of programs and our relationship with a diverse collaborative network of health and human service providers, businesses, public schools, Kirkwood Community College, and the University of Iowa. The research of Olds and Kitzman and others shows that family-centered programs with multiple goals and services, rather than single-focus programs, produce a better context for improved child and family outcomes. As a community-based agency, we believe in taking that concept one step further. We agree the key to success for the children and families is a blend of multiple goals support services, but we also acknowledge the importance of coupling that approach with the notion of a sound natural support network of helping relationships.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Neighborhood Centers has a history of providing culturally sensitive supports for Latino families living in the neighborhood and community. In addition to Latino families seeking out the services and supports of the Broadway staff, families are often referred to the Center by partner agency staff and ICCSD staff.

It is because of our past successes in working with the Latino community that we are seeking Empowerment funding to support families living in mobile home neighborhoods in Iowa City. We have found that families living in these neighborhoods are extremely isolated—the adults speak little or no English and cannot read in Spanish; the families have limited access to transportation; the children lack a medical home; the families are without any type of public assistance; etc. However, given supports in these areas, these same families can be vital, productive members of their neighborhoods and the larger community.

Through Empowerment funding, we will offer support services in three Latino neighborhoods in Johnson County — Forest View, Regency and the Grant Wood area. Our *Support for Latino Families* will include: adult education supports; parent education supports; and parent and child together programs and supports. The caseload will consist of 15 families at any given time, 30 families over the course of the year.

Core Components for the Latino Family Support Project

Adult Education & Literacy Supports

Adult Education will offer Latino adults an array of supports that will allow them to fully participate in area adult education activities offered through Kirkwood Community College. Supports include: outreach and class registration assistance, transportation to and from class sites, tutoring and homework assistance. We will also work to secure child care for young children during class times. Through off-site courses taught by Kirkwood Community College, Latino adults will have a variety of course options. They will include an array of classroom options and environments for improving literacy skills including adult basic education, English Language Learners (ELL), GED, or a combination of these programs.

Parent Education Supports

At the base of all our programming is the belief that parents are the first teacher of their children and we design programs and activities to foster and support this belief. As such, we will offer *Parent Education* to address topics that will enhance parents' abilities to support their children's growth while strengthening their skills in the areas of employability, life skills, and meeting basic needs. Parent Education will be offered in group workshops and in individual homes.

- *Group Workshops:* Anticipated topics include home first aid, literacy, child development, birth control, human sexuality, budgeting, nutrition, credit, communicating with the schools, and child safety. Workshops will be offered twice monthly.
- *In-Home Support of Literacy Education:* Outreach, assessment, educational programming and support services will take place within the context of each family's home environment.

Our home based work focuses on literacy development, parenting, and childhood development. Curriculum includes *Partners for a Healthy Baby* and *Parents as Teachers* curriculum. Families will participate in 2-4 monthly home visits.

Parent & Child Time (PACT)

Interactive literacy activities are designed to nurture the bond between parents and their children, to support family literacy strengths, and to create an informal network of support between Latino families. PACT will provide educational activities and parenting skills training to support and prepare children for school success. PACT will provide an opportunity for parents to interact with their children in outside activities that expose parents to literacy opportunities in the community. PACT activities will include: Library trips, Children's Museum Trips, exploring Iowa City Landmarks and Parks, and lots of on-site activity events. Families will attend two PACT events each month.

Addressing Local Indicators

The Latino Family Support Project addresses the Empowerment local indicators, with special emphasis on the following:

- *Healthy Children:* NCJC parent support programs provide general health screening in a number of ways. We offer assistance with HAWK-I enrollment and accessing a medical home. For pregnant mothers, we provide referrals to the Nest program. We also provide referrals and transportation to the Healthy Care Community Clinic. Grant Wood AEA conducts Child Checks in our child care programs and we make sure that children in programs are immunized and screened for lead poisoning. The Lion's Club conducts regular vision screenings for children under the age of three years.
- *Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments:* NCJC maintains fully licensed and accredited childcare programs for low-income families. Through the Support for Latino Families Project, we will facilitate access to child care slots for non-English speaking families in Johnson County.
- *Secure and Nurturing Families:* Neighborhood Centers programs are intergenerational; we emphasize the importance of nurturing home environments and building natural networks of support within the neighborhood. Each component of Latino Family Support Project builds on the strengths of the family and builds support systems within neighborhoods. Ultimately, we hope to decrease the incidence of child abuse reports.

Budget

Funding for the *Latino Family Support Project* is based upon 15 families on a caseload; with 30 families participating over the program year. The home visitor portion of the budget is consistent with the Empowerment Family Support program. Participant supports include family literacy materials for group and individual programs, such as story boxes and books. Administration and program coordination is matched through NCJC local funds.

III. PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Latino Family Support Project works with the poorest and most under-resourced communities in Johnson County. We are pleased with the progress of our 29 families currently involved in the project. Families make significant personal gains through the Project—most of the gains are quite simple, but so dramatic and life-changing for the family. However, they are also difficult to evaluate quantitatively. The Project makes differences in the daily lives of real mothers by teaching them how to take their child’s temperature and giving them a thermometer to keep at home *or* in helping a parent receive an eye exam and a pair of reading glasses so that she can finally read simple stories to her youngest child *or* in showing an entire family how to use the Iowa City Transit System so that they can leave their neighborhood during the daytime. In addition to the Goals and Objectives listed below, this Project makes real differences for real people.

Goals and Objectives

STATE GOAL: Improve cognitive, speech/language and health outcomes for very young children.

Method:

- Home Visits
- Group Workshops
- PACT

Measure:

- Ages & Stages and Ages & Stages SE
- Grant Wood AEA Screening
- Immunizations
- Lion’s Club Screenings

STATE GOAL: Increase learning preparedness to improve future school performance.

Method:

- Home Visits
- Group Workshops
- PACT

Measure:

- Ages & Stages and Ages & Stages SE
- Program participation

STATE GOAL: Increase parents’ involvement with their children.

Method:

- Home Visits
- PACT

Measure:

- Empowerment Education and Support Participant Evaluation
- PEP (Parent Education Profile)
- Parent/child attendance in PACT events

PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS

Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County is a community-based, family-centered human services agency. We operate two centers in Iowa City and provide outreach to mobile home parks. Our programs and activities reach over 220 children and up to 100 adults each day. Our continuum of programs begins with child development programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers and continues with in-school and after school prevention programming for school-age children. In addition, we also work closely with parents and other adults through our Empowerment Family Support program.

Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County has a reputation for providing quality programming that is adaptive to the changing needs of the areas we serve. We are recognized for our youth programming and operate a top quality child development program. We are currently undergoing reaccreditation by the National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC).

Our family-centered and community-based approach provides a long-term commitment to improving the quality of life for families in the low-income neighborhoods we serve. By offering a consistent and stable neighborhood presence, we are able to provide a balanced mixture of programs and activities that build community, teach new skills and provide advocacy and support for families. This balance also allows us to facilitate relationships among families and offers the necessary support before a crisis erupts. Each program or service creates a layer that is individually important, but collectively creates a context that allows families to enhance their quality of life and achieve a sustainable level of self-sufficiency and success.

We employ 48 full time staff and have an operating budget of approximately \$1.828 million. Our funders include, but are not limited to the following: 1) Iowa Department of Education; 2) Iowa Department of Human Services; 3) Iowa Department of Human Rights; 4) Head Start Expansion; 5) U.S. Department of Agriculture; 7) City of Iowa City; 8) Johnson County; 9) United Way and; 10) private donations from businesses and corporate sponsors. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit governed by a volunteer board of directors.

Laura Martinez will act as the Family Support Worker with Latino families. Laura has a Linguistics degree from the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon and has 12 years experience working with children and their families. She has also taught ESL, worked as a teacher at both HACAP/Head Start and Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County. Most recently, Laura has worked as a Family Support Worker and Early Access Coordinator at Neighborhood Centers. Previous to that, she worked in the Even Start program facilitating home visits and group ELL classes with Spanish-speaking families. Laura will be trained in each of the curriculum used, including Parents as Teachers in June, 2008. She will be responsible for facilitating home and group parent and child programs, recruitment, and on-going outreach and support.

Empowerment Budget Form

Provide

details for each line item. For multiple programs, identify each program. For example, "Salaries & Personnel" might include "Program 1 salaries" and "Program 2 salaries". Specific salary details should be in Chart A. Other Revenue details should be in Chart B. For other line items, include details in the budget form. For example, "Program Costs" might include materials and promotion or "Participant Supports" might include child care, incentives, meals, and transportation. You may add additional detail lines where necessary.

SUPPORT FOR LATINO FAMILIES - FY09

	Total Program Cost	Empowerment Request	Other Revenue (detail chart B)
Salaries & Personnel <small>detail chart A</small>			
a. Family Support Worker - home visits 15 families X 52 wks	\$ 32,040	\$ 32,040	
b. Family Support Worker - group workshops/PACT	\$ 7,830	\$ 7,830	
1. Salaries subtotal	\$ 39,870	\$ 39,870	\$ -
Program Costs <small>provide detail</small>			
2. Program Costs subtotal	0	0	0
Participant Supports <small>provide detail</small>			
a. Food & Supplies for PACT activities \$124/month X 12	\$ 1,488	\$ 1,488	
b. Transportation 75 miles/wk @ \$.33/mile X 52 weeks	\$ 1,287	\$ 1,287	
c. Family Literacy Materials \$154/family X 15 families	\$ 2,310	\$ 2,310	
3. Participant Supports subtotal	\$ 5,085	\$ 5,085	0
Equipment <small>provide detail</small>			
4. Equipment subtotal	0	0	0
Other <small>provide detail</small>			
5. Other subtotal	0	0	0
6. TOTAL DIRECT <small>(total lines 1+2+3+4+5)</small>	\$ 44,955	\$ 44,955	\$ -
Administration	\$ 2,698		\$ 2,698
Other Indirect			
7. TOTAL INDIRECT	\$ 2,698	\$ -	\$ 2,698
8. TOTAL EXPENDITURES <small>(total lines 6+7)</small>	\$ 47,653	\$ 44,955	\$ 2,698

12915

Detail Chart A: Salary Costs

Job Title	% of FTE for project	Total Cost	Empowerment Request	Other Revenue
1 Family Support Worker	1.0 FTE @ \$39,870	\$ 39,870	\$ 39,870	

2				
3				
4				
5				
Totals		\$ 39,870	\$ 39,870	\$ -

Above totals should be the same as budget line 1; if these two numbers aren't the same, check the arithmetic

\$ 39,870 \$ 39,870 \$ - Chart A
 \$ 39,870 \$ 39,870 \$ - Line 1

Detail Chart B: Other Revenue

Source of Other Revenue	Total amount of other revenue from source
1 Local Funds	\$ 2,698
2	\$ -
3	\$ -
Total Other Revenue	\$ 2,698

Total should be the same as budget line 8 far right column; if these two numbers aren't the same, check the arithmetic

\$ 2,698 \$ 2,698 Line 8