

Strategic/Preventive Investment Funding LOI Cover Page

Contact Information

Organization Name: Centro LatinoAmericano

Mailing Address: 944 W 5th Ave

City/State: Eugene, Oregon

Zip: 97402

Contact Name: Marcela Mendoza

Title: Interim Executive Director

Phone: 541-687-2667, ext 113

Email: mmendoza@cla1.org

Website: www.cla1.org

Fax: 541-284-2139

Organizational Information

Mission Statement: We are a bilingual, multicultural agency dedicated to the empowerment of the Latino community of Lane County by offering social services, access to community resources, and advocating for fair treatment.

No. of Employees: 12 (twelve)

FTE: 7.3

No. of Volunteers (annually)/ Volunteer Hours (annually) 160 / 1544

Name of Executive Director: Marcela Mendoza

Name of Board President: Juan Carlos Valle

Term Ending Date: Jan 2011

Number of members on Board of Directors: 6 (six)

Total Agency Budget: \$ 383,980

Fiscal Year End: June 30

Geographic Service: Lane County

Unduplicated Lane County Residents Served Last Year: (07/01/2008 to 06/30/2009) 3,254

Has your organization been previously funded by UWLC? No Yes, Year(s) 2009

Proposed Service(s):

Name of Proposed Services: Support Program for Latino Families with Children with Developmental Disabilities / *Grupo de Apoyo para Familias Especiales*

1. Mission:

Centro LatinoAmericano (Centro) was established in 1972 to meet the needs of the growing Latino population in our county: *"We are a bilingual, multicultural agency dedicated to the empowerment of the Latino community of Lane County by offering social services, access to community resources, and advocating for fair treatment."*

Today Centro is meeting this challenge by addressing the needs of immigrants in bilingual, culturally appropriate manner as it continues to provide vital services such as support for children and families, crisis intervention, referral, employment advocacy, interpretation and translation, and other services. Centro is the primary access point for Latino immigrants, especially those with limited English proficiency. Our programs and special projects are divided into four main areas: Children and Families, Crisis Intervention and Employment, Alcohol & Drug Outpatient Treatment Services, and educational and enrichment classes. Committed volunteers provide a variety of educational opportunities and assistance to our clients.

2. Goal Alignment:

The proposed Strategic/Preventive Services will make a meaningful difference in supporting the UWLC'S **education** goals, clearly stated as preparing children for success in school and life through targeting underserved and underrepresented families, including children with disabilities in minority families who speak Spanish at home (English language learners).

3. Funding Strategy Addressed and Proposed Strategic/Preventive Services:

We will fund this new collaborative program with UWLC's preventive investment funding, targeted fundraising, and in-kind donations from the partners (Centro LatinoAmericano, CDRC at OHSU, and EC CARES). We anticipate that the families will conduct their own fundraising to help defer the costs of a conference.

This collaborative support program for Latino families with children with developmental disabilities (DD) / *grupo de apoyo para familias especiales* has the following specific community outcomes: (1) Latino families will develop a formal and informal social network that will help them to get together and share information among parents; (2) the families will create a self-sustained organization to support other Spanish-speaking families and their children with DD; and (3) Latino immigrant families will have a better understanding of the local, state, and national resources available to them and their children with DD.

The total amount of funds requested is \$ 45,600, divided as follows:

First year (logistic support and coordination): \$16,200

Second year (logistic support, coordination, and conference): \$27,800

Third year (logistic support): \$1,600

4. Need and Target Population:

Children with DD have higher needs for attention, time, and dedication. Parents of children with DD have increase levels of stress. These parents tend to have lower income, more financial burden, decreased social activities, and more isolation.

Caregivers of children with DD also have increased risk for medical problems and receive less medical care. Latino immigrant families, and particularly Latino women who care for children with special needs tend to be more isolated and have higher levels of mental and emotional problems; their problems compound even more due to linguistic and cultural barriers. There are many Latino families with children with DD in Lane County. In the last year, just one of the physicians at the OHSU Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) in Eugene saw 65 Latino children in this clinic. EC CARES serves all the children younger than 5 years of age with DD or developmental delay in Lane County. EC Cares is currently serving about 171 children listed by ethnicity as Latinos. Some of Centro clients are caregivers of children with developmental disabilities. These parents experience stress, reduced opportunities for socialization, and financial challenges. We propose a **collaborative support program for Latino families with children with developmental disabilities / *grupo de apoyo para familias especiales***. This three-year program will bring together the services of Centro Latino Americano, the Eugene office of OHSU Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC), and EC Cares early intervention center, which is part of the College of Education at the University of Oregon, to develop a series of meetings and group discussions with families of children with DD, and a one-day conference, with the long term goal of facilitating the creation of a self-sustainable support group for Latino families with children with special needs. **Our goal is to create an opportunity for parents and caregivers in Spanish-speaking immigrant families with children with DD to meet, and foster the formation of a self-sustained support group**, while they learn about relevant issues from healthcare professionals and other parents facing similar challenges.

Centro will provide space for monthly meetings and logistic support, with two (part-time) bilingual and bicultural staff dedicated to this program. We anticipate that most of the initial organization will be carried out in the first year by the organizations participating in this proposal (Centro Latino Americano, CDRC, and EC CARES). Since our goal is to foster the creation of a self-organized group, in the second and third years we plan to continue providing logistical support to the group of Latino families, and will co-organize an annual conference with the parents. The activities proposed for the second and third years are contingent of the success of the activities planned for the first year. During the third year, Centro will continue providing space, a webpage, and in-kind assistance and advice to the group organized by the parents.

Collaboration/Innovation:

The services proposed for this collaborative initiative include UWLC and non-UWLC resources. With UWLC funding, Centro Latino Americano will provide the core logistic support and project management and administration. Oregon Health Sciences University Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) Developmental Pediatricians Mario Petersen, MD, and Randy Phelps, MD, will provide in-kind professional advice and participate in the meetings as needed. Staff at CDRC will provide the initial contact with the families served by CDRC. EC CARES will provide in-kind professional advice and participate in the meetings as needed.