

The National Council of La Raza / Annie E. Casey Foundation 2009 Family Strengthening Awards Program

Rewarding NCLR Affiliate Programs for Their Work in Strengthening Latino Families

NCLR



OVERVIEW

Please review all of the following information before completing the application.

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) believe that in order for children to have the opportunities necessary to achieve and grow up in a healthy environment, their families must have access to services and social networks that strengthen their ability to provide for and nurture their children. The factors necessary to strengthen families include opportunities to work, earn a decent living, and build assets; social networks that help isolated families link with friends and neighbors as well as social, civic, and religious institutions; and accessible and responsive public services, such as good health care, decent schools, and fair and effective law enforcement. NCLR's network of Affiliate organizations plays a key role in providing Latino families with the tools and resources they need to take advantage of the opportunities that this nation has to offer them. To recognize these efforts, NCLR and AECF have partnered to reward those community-based organizations that help improve outcomes for families by connecting them to the trustworthy and responsive resources they need to succeed.

The NCLR /AECF Family Strengthening Awards Program presents awards on an annual basis to NCLR Affiliate **programs** whose exemplary work in the Hispanic community has made a measurable impact in strengthening Latino families. The impact made by the Affiliate organization must demonstrate an approach that is **comprehensive** in addressing education, housing, employment, health, and advocacy issues, whether through direct efforts or through partnerships with other organizations. This award offers NCLR a forum in which to honor the work of outstanding affiliate programs for strengthening the Hispanic family.

In 2009, NCLR will offer Family Strengthening Awards of \$16,500 to each of **three** NCLR Affiliates who can demonstrate how their holistic programs have made an impact on Latino families in their communities. This one-time award gives financial recognition for existing programs, not funding for future programs. Award-winning Affiliates will then work with NCLR to document and disseminate their best practices to fellow NCLR Affiliates through workshops at NCLR's Annual Conference, onsite training sessions, and articles in various NCLR publications. NCLR will cover costs, as appropriate, to support training sessions for winners to share program strategies with other NCLR Affiliates.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Affiliate Status**

Eligible nominees must have been affiliated with NCLR for a minimum of **two years** and be current in their dues payments and recertification documents (including the General Member Memorandum of Understanding, Board of Directors List and Financial Statements). Please contact Mauricio Hernandez (mhernandez@nclr.org) at NCLR to ensure that the Affiliate organization is in good standing before submitting the application materials. **Nominated programs must have undergone at least two cycles of outcome measurement to be eligible.** Programs that strengthen families need not be large in size to be competitive; quality of service, programmatic longevity and replicability, and outcomes are the important factors.

- **Informational Conference Call for Family Strengthening Award Applicants**

Affiliates intending to submit an application packet are encouraged to participate in this call to review the Family Strengthening Program application process.

Interested applicants may participate in one of two informational Conference calls set for:

Friday, February 6, 2009 at 2 P.M. EST

OR

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 2 P.M. EST

Please RSVP to Mauricio Hernandez at mhernandez@nclr.org if you will participate in the Conference Call.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Eligible Affiliates may apply for the grant by nominating at least **one program** per award cycle, and may not nominate programs that were award winners in the previous year. Applicants are required to submit a formal application form and include detailed supporting information describing their impact in strengthening Latino families. In addition, applicants should submit a formal recommendation letter from at least one community-based organization with which they have worked closely during the past year and testimonies from at least three families they have served.

Application forms will be distributed to the Affiliate Network on January 16, 2009. Completed application packets should be received (preferably via email) at NCLR's headquarters in Washington, DC no later than Friday, **March 6, 2009**. Incomplete or late application packets will not be considered.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be considered by the Awards Selection Committee and should act as a guide in nominating NCLR Affiliate programs for the Family Strengthening Awards:

- The nominated program directly serves to strengthen Hispanic families by connecting parents to the resources, social networks, and support that provide a solid economic grounding for their families and help their children succeed.
- The Affiliate demonstrates a holistic approach in providing services that address education, housing, employment, health, or advocacy issues, whether through direct efforts or through partnerships with other organizations.
- The Affiliate uses the NCLR Affiliate Network or its relationships with other community-based organizations to maximize the effectiveness of its services to the Hispanic community through cooperative efforts.
- The Affiliate demonstrates sound financial judgment in the management of its program and makes effective use of its resources, as evidenced by program budget.
- The Affiliate designs its program according to the needs of the Hispanic community it serves.
- The applicant's program has achieved established goals and objectives as evidenced by quantitative and qualitative outcomes reported from program activities.
- The organization has maximized the opportunities available through its affiliation with NCLR as shown by a strong relationship with NCLR staff and Affiliates and attendance at NCLR's Annual Conference, regional meetings, and other events.
- The program has the potential for replication within the NCLR Affiliate Network.
- The Affiliate is committed to sharing program specifications with other NCLR Affiliates.

BEST PRACTICES DISSEMINATION

NCLR recognizes the importance of sharing the best practices of the Family Strengthening Award winners with the rest of its Affiliate Network. This will be done through workshops at the NCLR Annual Conference, peer-to-peer training sessions, submissions to NCLR's *Strengthening Hispanic Families* annual publication, and other NCLR publication venues.

NCLR will also implement a formal documentation process of these efforts to measure the impact that the sharing of best practices has on its Affiliate Network. The process will include formal evaluation of Affiliates that receive peer-to-peer training sessions, a six-month follow-up, and written guidelines for best practice replication to be shared with other Affiliates.

NCLR RESPONSIBILITIES

- A written agreement that outlines the responsibilities of the winner and the responsibilities of NCLR to support these activities.
- A cash award of \$16,500 (in three disbursements which will be specified in Grant Agreement).
- Assistance and guidance in documenting best practices and lessons learned for the NCLR Annual Conference and peer-to-peer training sessions.
- Editorial assistance in preparing best practices for publication in the *Strengthening Hispanic Families* Best Practices Guide.
- Guidance and financial assistance for training sessions.
- Compensation for airfare and hotel accommodations for one organization representative to attend the NCLR Annual Conference to receive recognition award.

AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Document and disseminate best practices in collaboration with NCLR, which includes drafting and reviewing materials and being responsive to NCLR deadlines.
- Supply technical assistance to at least **five** other NCLR Affiliates upon receipt of the award, through peer-to-peer training sessions or onsite consulting and visits from other Affiliates to the Award Winning Organization's site.
- Submit at least one article for placement in NCLR publications and the *Strengthening Hispanic Families* Best Practices Guide.
- Present at the Family Strengthening panel session at the NCLR Annual Conference (The NCLR 2009 Annual Conference will take place in Chicago, Illinois, July 25-28, 2009).
- Submit a six-month and one-year report tracking use and impact resulting from the Family Strengthening Awards Program, which should include up to date financial reports of how the award money has been used.

APPLICATIONS

The 2009 Family Strengthening Award Applications will be available **January 16, 2009** via email and on NCLR's website, www.nclr.org.

Complete applications will be due no later than **Friday, March 6, 2009 - 5:00 p.m. EST.**

The completed application packet contains **six parts**:

1. A signed Basic Information cover sheet.
2. Answers to questions in the Application Narrative Sheet.
3. A completed Annual Program Expenses Form for 2008 activities
4. A completed Annual Program Budget Form for 2009 activities
5. A signed recommendation letter from a community-based organization with which the NCLR Affiliate has worked closely during the past year through its nominated program.
6. At least **three** signed testimonies from families whom the nominated program has served within the last year (the testimonies may be written in Spanish or English).

Please email application packets to mhernandez@nclr.org by March 6, 2009, 5:00 p.m. EST.

Narratives may also be mailed to the address below. The narrative must be received by the deadline. If mailed or hand-delivered, please staple together the pages of your application. Do not bind or put the application in a notebook.

Mail or deliver your nomination materials to:

Mauricio Hernandez
National Council of La Raza
Raul Yzaguirre Building
1126 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Contact Mauricio Hernandez at mhernandez@nclr.org or 202-776-1716 with any questions or concerns.