The Thriving Families Initiative

A Project of the Marin Community Foundation
October 2003

Margins to Mainstream: A Peer Exchange Workshop —October 24-25, 2003—Baltimore, MD
Sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and co-organized by Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth (CCFY) and Rural Development Philanthropy Learning Network (RDPLN) —The Aspen Institute

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Marin Community Foundation

- MCF serves the Marin County, CA community & is home to more than 300 funds.

- MCF has assets of approximately $1.1 billion. In FY 2003, MCF made $58,500,000 in grants and received $23,190,000 in gifts.

- MCF’s grantmaking focuses on Art, Community Development, Education, Environment, Human Needs and Religion/Ethics.

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VISION
All Marin Families Thriving – economically, socially, emotionally.

CATALYST
• 14 yrs community experience, fragmentation within service community, infusion of best practices needed

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PURPOSE

- Strengthen nexus between family support services and community development

- Create/improve web of supports and opportunities available to low-income families with dependent children (including welfare to work, undocumented, low wage and non-custodial parents)

- Access to and the ability to maintain living wage jobs and asset development opportunities

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- Program Strategies
  - Affordable and Fair Housing
  - Income Enhancement
  - Responsible and Fair Housing
  - Infrastructure and Systems Development

- Support Structure for Agencies

- Currently, 5 yrs and 10 million dollars

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..... Through a FES Lens

**Earn It Outcomes**

- Skills, Abilities and Expertise for Community/Regional Jobs
- Finding and Landing Better Jobs
- Benefits

**Synergy**

- **Keep It** – financial literacy, secured credit cards
- **Grow It** – savings

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Tactics and Funded Activities
- **Families** - Soft skills training, direct subsidies for emergencies & beyond, placement
- **Employers** – convening, bi-lateral coaching
- **Community Delivery System** – partnerships with government, technical assistance providers, research, support from influence leaders
- **Policy** – bi-annual policy initiatives (hsg & child support), transportation initiative matching funds, convening
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What’s Working

- Measurable Wage Increases
- Individual Progress on Skills
- Piloting Lessons Learned with Government
- Non-Funded Groups Cooperating

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Challenges

- Timeline for Change/ Lack of Urgency
- Context – cost of living, housing cost and environment, staff turn over
- Data
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Strengths

- Continued Measurable Progress
- Participating Agency Leadership
- Client-Feedback Mechanisms
- Trustee Support
- History of Building on Lessons Learned

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Thank You!

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