



The Thriving Families Initiative

A Project of the Marin Community Foundation
October 2003



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.**



Thriving Families Initiative

VISION

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

CATALYST

- **14 yrs community experience,
fragmentation within service community,
infusion of best practices needed**



Thriving Families Initiative

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**



Thriving Families Initiative

- **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**



Thriving Families Initiative

..... 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



Thriving Families Initiative

- **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



Thriving Families Initiative

What's Working

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



Thriving Families Initiative

Challenges

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



Thriving Families Initiative

Strengths

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



Thriving Families Initiative

Thank You!