

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Residents' Council



UNDER THE TREE PROGRAM

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February 11, 2003

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Proposal
2003-2004

The Chapel Hill Carrboro Residents' Council (CHCRC) requests funds from the Department of Housing Capital Funds in the amount of \$ 43,500.

GOAL: TO INCREASE RESIDENT PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY BUILDING

Program Summary

The Emancipation Oak and trees in the communities across the nation serve as a gathering place to relax, discuss issues, and fellowship. The Under the Tree is a program designed to draw from the power of informal community relations, enhance community development and awareness, and trainings to improve the quality of life for public housing residents.

Under the Tree are focusing on the residents' lack of involvement, interest, and knowledge of the CHCRC. For the most part, the relationship with authority dominates the public housing neighborhoods of Chapel Hill. While the CHC Residents' Council exists to support residents and community, the perception is that the CHC Residents' Council is an arm of the Housing Department. Unfortunately, this misperception is reinforced by the presence of the CHCRC office in the basement of the Housing Department building. This misunderstanding of the role of the CHCRC means that many residents avoid CHCRC activities and involvement because of its associated with the "authority." For other residents, the CHCRC is understood as a support and resource, but is approached to fix problems or to intervene in crises. In either situation, the CHCRC is limited in its ability to foster a sense of community and resident "ownership" of the CHCRC and it is often expected to advocate for resident with the Housing Department and other agencies. This perception of the CHCRC forces the resources of the CHCRC to be directed toward crisis management for individual residents, rather than addressing broader goals of the community building and fostering self-advocacy.

It's essential for residents to be part of a true neighborhood and apart of the larger Chapel Hill community. The Ambassador's realizes that this is a critical component to building, strengthening and improving our neighborhoods. As we foster relationships, we'll develop a greater vision and structure for the CHCRC. With this in mind, the CHCRC intends to focus on these goals this year:

- 1) To increase residents involvement and participation in the CHCRC meetings and its sponsor activities
- 2) To provided communities with resources, training and programs that will allow resident to clearly understand the issues and articulate them

These goals support the overall CHCRC goal of creating community building and fostering self-advocacy and self-determination among community residents.

OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURES

1. Increase resident participation in CHCRC sponsored programs by 30%, improve community relations, to plan community events, identify and deal with "hot issues".
 - a) Organized 3 communities into Action Groups or Associations that will advocate for the needs of the community.
 - b) The residents survey results will be analyzed and prioritized into activities and programs that of most interest to the residents.
 - c) Create and distributed newsletter quarterly
 - d) Report on sponsor programs and attendance to be kept as response to increasing participation.
2. Provide employment opportunities and training for six (6) Ambassadors recruited from the housing communities first, before advertising to general public.
 - a) Six Ambassadors will receive training for the job of Ambassador.
 - b) Ambassadors, after training, will work with residents in the thirteen communities,
 - c) The Director of the program will supervise ambassadors.
 - d) Training will be offer to other residents
 - e) Ambassador will assist residents is planning and implementing activities

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Ambassador training will include:
 - Counseling and Mediation (including confidentiality, crisis intervention etc.)
 - Public Relations (event advertising, responding to policy changes, etc.)
 - Goal Setting/ Event Planning
 - Non-threatening Reporting Skills
 - Leadership and Community Development

2. Childcare and transportation will be provided for trainings and programs.

Outcomes

- 1) 30% increase in RC participation in meetings and activities
- 2) 3 communities will meet on regular schedule with assistance
- 3) Provided part-time employment for six residents (Ambassadors)
- 4) Ambassador will provided resources manuals to household quarterly
- 5) Apply for 2 other source of funding to support this programs
- 6) Research space and funding for office and programs

Budget

Program Director	(25 hrs wkly @ \$13 x 12 mths)	18,000
5) Ambassadors	(30 hrs mthly @ \$ 9 x 12 mths)	17,800
Training		2,000
Program Insurance & Activities		2,500
Transportation/Childcare		600
Supplies/Equipment		1,500
Refreshments		<u>1,100</u>
Total		43,500