



WELFARE PEER TA NETWORK
GRANTS WRITING ASSISTANCE
Short Report



BACKGROUND

His Guiding Light Ministries (HGLM) is a small, start-up organization in Plano, Texas. A new 501(c)3, this organization focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty. HGLM works on removing obstacles faced by single parents on the path to self-sufficiency, such as low wages, lack of job skills and resources, and the absence of child care.

HGLM has initiated a pilot program to address these issues. This program is implemented in two phases, with the first phase lasting approximately 24-months, and the second phase between six and nine months. Upon completion of the program, it is expected that the single parent and children will have achieved self-sufficiency. After the pilot program is concluded, HTLM hopes to host the program in the low-income rural areas of Texas, and, eventually nationwide.

TA REQUEST

On February 26, 2003, Betty Trombetta, President of HGLM, submitted a Peer TA request form. HGLM required assistance in developing grants to gain funding for their organization. Ms. Trombetta indicated that she had been searching the Internet for training and grants writing services, however her search had been unsuccessful.

After an initial call to Ms. Trombetta, it was decided that Caliber Associates would help HGLM identify resources to assist them in locating grant-writing services.

TA OUTCOME & FUTURE

On March 12, 2003, Dr. Freddie John Martin of Caliber Associates contacted Ms. Trombetta to inform her of the Institute for Youth Development (IYD). IYD, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, initiates numerous programs and activities focused on ensuring the futures of children by promoting positive choices and behaviors. Through contact with the Office of Community Service (OCS) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), it came to Caliber Associate's attention that IYD was conducting conferences in Texas on writing grants. With this information, Ms. Trombetta accessed the Web site, and found a grant-writing training workshop available in Waco, Texas on April 15, 2003.

On April 30, 2003, Caliber Associates contacted Ms. Trombetta to follow-up with the progress of her TA request. Ms. Trombetta conveyed that she attended the workshop, and that it served to be an excellent resource for HGLM. Because of this workshop, and the assistance provided by the Welfare Peer TA Network, HGLM recently received the Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$22,000. In addition, HGLM also created a presentation for a community services block grant offered by the city. Ms. Trombetta thanked Peer TA for the provided services, and indicated that HGLM is much better organized and informed as a result of our assistance.