



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #8c1

DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2010

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)
JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS GRANT

The Institute for Community Collaboration, Inc. applied for and was awarded a grant from HHS. The project, entitled the *Legacy Green Empowerment Program*, will create new jobs for residents receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and other low-income and unemployed residents in communities in Miami-Dade County. The intent of this project is to seed an agribusiness in these lower-income communities for a sustainable industry that young people with minimal skills and greater needs can master, build wealth, and pass on the healthy benefits to the community and to younger generations. Many of these youth are descendants of gardeners and farmers who knew how to grow and cultivate food, share community gardens and sharecropping, and build farm businesses that kept their families and communities alive in the most difficult economic times. The *Legacy Green Empowerment Program* will help them return to this cultural and historical industry in urban neighborhoods. Comprehensive community building can be launched from this Project to revitalize, rebuild and empower the people and the places.

The *Legacy Green Empowerment Program* will create and retain 30 new jobs for Liberty City, Overtown, and Coconut Grove (West Grove) residents and expand two (2) existing Miami businesses: Master C Culinary Training in Liberty City and Elfin Acres Organic Farms in Homestead. Participants will be eligible for assistance to and from their homes and the training and job sites via transit passes.

Applicants will be recruited and assessed to determine their employment readiness and need for supportive services. Participants will receive comprehensive skill development and on-the-job training before placement in newly-created, permanent jobs with the two cafés and four gardens. Participants also will receive tree planting and agribusiness education along with culinary arts/food service training with a focus on healthy foods production. The community cafés and gardens will be the worksites and the gardens will provide the produce for the healthy meals served in the two neighborhood cafés.

The Institute will contract with the Council for staff services and support. In addition, the Institute will engage additional professionals with expertise in job training and the direct provision of community-based services.

Recommendation

Information only.