



Strengthening Refugee Marriages Newsletter

Fresh Thoughts

July 2004

Continuation 2005

USCCB/MRS has been notified that we have received our continuation funding for Year 2 -September 2004 through October 2005- for the Strengthening Refugee Families and Marriages Program. We will be working with all sites to determine continuation, updated proposals and renewing awards and budgets in August 2004.

BRYCS

BRYCS' web site for additional resources on refugee youth: www.brycs.org

Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS) is a national program of technical assistance addressing challenges refugee youth and children face. The fundamental purpose of BRYCS is to broaden the scope of information, resources, and collaboration among service providers for refugee youth, children, and families.

BRYCS is a joint effort of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and USCCB/MRS. The project is supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement.

BRYCS has worked hard to provide an assortment of services and resources for agencies working with refugee youth.

BRYCS Resources Include

Parenting Services Manual: this manual will be useful to smaller organizations by providing guidelines for strengthening programs that support refugee parents. It contains guidelines and tools based on what the interviews revealed about the challenges newcomer parents face, how parenting services can help them, the role of evaluation, and which resources are helpful in planning and carrying out effective services.

Foster Care at a Cultural Crossroads: Refugee Children in the Public Foster Care System Roundtable Report. Professionals working in the field of child welfare and refugee resettlement recognize the communal nature of the problems they encounter, and the need for collaborative responses. BRYCS helps agencies work together on national and local levels to develop solutions with a positive impact on refugee youth, children and their families.

Events



Several programs held activities on June 20, World Refugee Day, which highlighted strong families in their communities. Youth within the Houston program and youth from Under Urban and Social

Attack created a mural of the Houston skyline. The artists received pictures of themselves and their families in front of the mural at Catholic Charities Galveston-Houston World Refugee Day Event.

Websites & Listservs for Funding Announcements



www.Grants.gov – select areas to be notified about funding

FAITH_BASED_INITIATIVE@LIST.NIH.GOV – request to be on the listserv

smartmarriages@lists.his.com – you will get newsletters also with this list

mailinglist@clasp.org – newsletters and funding announcements

National Family Day September 27, 2004



**Smartmarriages Conference
2004**

- 19 individuals represented USCCB/MRS at the conference
- HIAS & USCCB/MRS had a poster session
- Two meetings with Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) funded programs and representatives from Administration of Children and Families (ACF)

The conference was full of ideas and information on models, activities, and program strategies. USCCB/MRS appreciated everyone’s participation. I hope everyone is ready to implement the information they received at the conference.

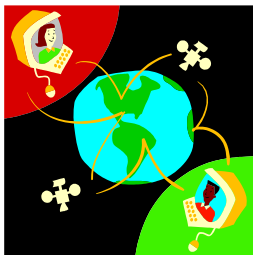
One concern brought up at the joint meeting was some of the reporting challenges coordinators are faced with in dealing with different agencies. USCCB/MRS is trying to develop an outline and description of roles and responsibilities of these different agencies, and how they might be able to assist you.

FYI:

**Second Semiannual report due:
October 15, 2004**

Attachments

- Guidance to Faith-based and Community Organizations on Partnering with the Federal Government–Some Dos and Don’ts for the faith-based organizations.
- Beyond Marriage Licenses: Efforts in States to



Families &

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Strengthen Marriages and Two-Parent Families.

Technical Assistance Grantee

The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement, provided a Technical Assistance grant to Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) for the Family Enrichment Grantees. This technical assistance grant will provide assistance in the areas of

- Model development
- Program implementation
- Community outreach
- Capacity development
- Evaluation
- Strategic planning

Sites will be identified and contracted to be provided the additional technical assistance.

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

- Maria Teverovsky 212-613-1471
Maria.Teverovsky@hias.org

Site Visits for Monitoring & Technical Assistance:

**September–November 2004
Grand Rapids & Chicago**

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