

## Section 1 – Introduction

The viability of nonprofit organizations depends on leaders who have a sense of purpose and passion to succeed but also requires a healthy dose of optimism and wielding of critical nonprofit management tools. Strengthening the network of nonprofit leaders, particularly those leaders who serve low-income communities and/or communities of color can go a long way to sustaining the nonprofit infrastructure.

To support this work, WHL-San Joaquin Valley is being launched to increase training and leadership development opportunities for women leaders of nonprofits in Merced, Madera, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties. Supporting women leaders of color by increasing social capital, enhancing leadership skills, and supporting development of peer networks will increase job retention and satisfaction and long-term impact of their organizations. WHL-San Joaquin Valley has two specific outcomes:

- Increase social capital among nonprofit women leaders serving low-income people and communities of color in the four county area
- Strengthen leadership and management capacity of nonprofit women leaders

We seek to support changes among participants of the program including:

- New and strengthened relationships and collaborations
- Reduced feelings of isolation
- Increased feelings of effectiveness, influence, and confidence
- Increased sense of purpose and commitment to their work in nonprofit
- Increased understanding of collaborative processes
- Increased understanding of management tools

*WHL-San Joaquin Valley is a special project of Women's Health Leadership (WHL), a program of the Center for Collaborative Planning, Public Health Institute. WHL-San Joaquin Valley is supported by a grant from The Community Leadership Project, a joint effort funded by The David and Lucile Packard, James Irvine, and William and Flora Hewlett foundations.*

## Section 2— Eligible Applicants

Women leaders serving in capacity of Executive Director, board member and/or senior staff of nonprofit organizations working in diverse sectors and issues such as education, housing, environment, social services, and health in Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, and/or Stanislaus counties. WHL-San Joaquin Valley welcomes applications from multiple members within an organization who may wish to participate as a team. Up to 20 participants will be selected for the 2010 Session.

## Section 3— Program Activities

Applying 15 years of experience in the leadership development field, WHL-San Joaquin Valley is structured as a year long leadership learning community that focuses on a combination of personal and professional development areas based on community building and strength-based practices. Participants will engage in the following activities designed to support networking, skills building, and personal renewal:

- *Leadership assessment* to identify strengths and challenges in leadership and management skills and knowledge
- *Leadership development plan* to map out personal and professional goals and action plan to achieve those goals during the program year
- *Four 2-day, in-person retreats* to include opportunities for community building, training, reflection, and rejuvenation
- *Conference calls/webinars* to network, build skills, and maintain connection and communication
- *Mentoring* to provide coaching, technical assistance, consultation on leadership development plan and goals
- *Peer learning groups* to provide smaller, more intimate circles for relationship building and collaboration

Participants will also be connected to the statewide Women's Health Leadership (WHL) alumni network of 350 women leaders.

## Section 4— Conditions of Participation

Individuals selected to participate in WHL-San Joaquin Valley agree to participate in the following program activities to the best of their ability:

- Participate in program activities that will begin upon notification of acceptance in March 2010 and end in March 2011.
- Maintain regular communication with program staff throughout the program year.
- Attend four retreats during the program year. Retreats will be held in the four county area on April 22-23, 2010; July 15-16, 2010; November 15-16, 2010; March 10-11, 2011. Travel support will be provided.
- Attend virtual meetings via conference call or webinar.
- Complete and submit a self assessment of leadership and management knowledge and skills prior to the first retreat (assessment guidelines will be distributed to program participants in their acceptance packet).
- Complete and submit a Leadership Development Plan at the beginning of the program year.
- Participate in program evaluation activities.
- Pay a program fee of \$100 upon notice of acceptance into the program – due April 22, 2010.

## Section 5— How to Apply and Selection Process

- Please complete the application included in this announcement. Applications are due on or before 5:00 p.m. PST on March 10, 2010. Submit applications electronically only to [sarah@connectccp.org](mailto:sarah@connectccp.org).
- Applicants will be notified via email within three working days of receipt of application. If you do not receive notification, please call Sarah Newton at 916-498-6969 to confirm receipt.
- A selection committee will review complete applications for the best fit with program goals and objectives. Phone interviews may be requested during the review process.
- Applicants will be notified of their status by March 24, 2010.

WHL—San Joaquin Valley Application

Deadline: 5:00 p.m. PST, March 10, 2010

Name

Title

Organization

Address

City, State, Zip

Daytime Phone

Daytime Fax

Email

County

Please identify the ethnic group(s) you feel best describes you:

How did you hear about this opportunity?

I have read the Conditions of Participation on Page 3 of this application package and agree to the terms.

Name (Typed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Narrative Statement

Please respond to the following questions in no more than six pages:

### A. Personal Leadership Qualities and Goals

- Describe your personal leadership goals and interests.
- Describe your leadership experience, especially your role and contributions to the non-profit community.
- What do you hope to gain as a participant in WHL-San Joaquin Valley? What goals do you want to achieve? How will you use this opportunity to enhance the impact of your organization?

### B. Organizational Information

- What is your organization's vision and mission?
- Describe your organization's target service area, target population and primary services provided.
- What are your organization's strengths and challenges?
- Why does your organization want to be part of WHL-San Joaquin Valley?
- Provide one or two examples of San Joaquin Valley-based organizations you currently collaborate with, if any. Describe the nature of that collaboration. Is your organization interested in pursuing new connections with non-profits in the community?

## Required Attachments

- Please attach a letter of support from your organization.

Deadline: 5:00 p.m. PST, March 10, 2010

Submit to: [sarah@connectccp.org](mailto:sarah@connectccp.org)

Questions? Call Sarah Newton at 916-498-6969