



Making a Difference for Youth, Families and Communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Center for Self-Sufficiency Awarded Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Program Grant
\$500,000 U.S. Health & Human Services grant will support workforce development and economic recovery services in economically distressed areas of Milwaukee

(Milwaukee, WI...October 9, 2009) The Center for Self-Sufficiency (CFSS) (www.centerinc.org) has been selected to receive a Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) grant award by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Administration for Children and Families' Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) was created in 2002. The primary purpose of the CCF is to help faith-based and community organizations increase their effectiveness, enhance their ability to provide social services to serve those most in need, expand their organizations, diversify their funding sources, and create collaborations to better serve those in need. The CCF reflects the administration's recognition that faith-based and community organizations are uniquely situated to partner with the government in serving poor and low-income individuals and families, particularly those with the greatest needs such as families in poverty, prisoners reentering the community, homeless families, and at-risk youth. The one-year grant totals \$500,000, of which \$225,000 in subawards will be provided to small nonprofit organizations through capacity-building financial assistance. This demonstration program has a special emphasis on serving grassroots nonprofit organizations with annual budgets less than \$500,000 that serve low-income individuals residing within zip code areas that have been identified as economically distressed neighborhoods.

The organizations CFSS will serve with this grant provide vital social services that impact poverty reduction through workforce development and economic recovery services, such as:

- employability and access to employment
- better employment and tax credits
- employment supports/job retention
- financial education and credit repair
- asset building
- and family supporting wages.

"My goal since establishing the Center is to work through existing networks of mission-oriented secular and faith-based nonprofit organizations. This grant will enable us to expand upon that vision by developing capacity within these small nonprofits so they can more efficiently serve those families in Milwaukee who need it the most," said Angela Turner, president and CEO of the Center for Self-Sufficiency. "This grant is perfectly aligned with the CFSS mission, and is even more relevant in our current economic climate," continued Turner. "Sixty-two percent of employed families in the City of Milwaukee have income below 185 percent of poverty, and 73 percent in the project's targeted zip codes have income below that level. We can now help more organizations serving in those communities, in turn stabilizing families' financial situations and reducing stress."





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The demonstration program model will identify and screen 20 grassroots Milwaukee secular and faith-based nonprofit organizations for CCF capacity building services then invite those nonprofits to submit a request for proposal to participate further. CFSS will select eight nonprofit organizations to receive one-on-one technical assistance, group seminar training, one-year follow-up services and financial assistance sub-awards. Those organizations that are not selected will receive a technical assistance manual with sample capacity building work products to be replicated free of charge.

The Center for Self-Sufficiency (CFSS) is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, founded in 1997 that specializes in providing capacity building, technical assistance, and evaluation services for small to medium secular (community) and faith-based nonprofit organizations in Milwaukee and in other regions of the United States. CFSS also plans, develops and implements effective family and youth services, and we transfer lessons learned from effective program models to its network of nonprofit organizations in 58 U.S. communities. As a capacity building and technical assistance firm, CFSS has assisted 86 nonprofit organizations develop capacity to secure more than \$80 million in federal funding since 2001. For more information, visit www.centerinc.org or call 414-332-0050.

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