Educating the Elderly Latino Immigrants who are Spanish Speakers Only about the Process of Acculturation in the United States.

Grant Proposal

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INTRODUCTION

- Latinos have already become the largest minority population in the U.S.
- It is expected that they will be more than double by the year of 2050 (Escobar, Nervi, & Gara, 2000).
- Latinos and the importance of the relationship between their acculturation and their mental health status.
- Acculturation process can cause stress in the lives of Latino immigrants.
- Because the Latino population is growing very quickly, there is a need for them to consider becoming culturally connected and educated about the benefits of being acculturated in the U.S.
SOCIAL WORK RELEVANCE

- Social workers must keep in mind the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics which is the core of values for social workers. These values include service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, integrity, competence, and the importance of relationships (NASW, 2008). Professional will abide to the Code of Ethics and will make sure that participants are treated with dignity, respect and integrity at all times. This program is designed to assist this vulnerable population in gaining acculturation in order for them to be more independent in their lives and become self-sufficient. Being more acculturated will also help these clients to avoid feelings of loneliness and emptiness that can lead to mental health issues.
CROSS-CULTURAL RELEVANCE

- The Latino population is over 4.1 million or 47.3% in Los Angeles county alone (U.S Census Bureau, 2008).
- Latinos is a big and important population; therefore, we should emphasize programs that target and help this group.
- Professionals working in this program live in the same community, they are bilingual in Spanish and English and understand the cultural and historical background of Latinos.
- This program seeks to provide an opportunity for the elderly Latino group to become more acculturated by learning English and engaging in activities to explore other ethnic groups.
METHODS

- The target population:
  The target population this grant intends to serve is the elderly Latino between the ages of 60 years or older who are Spanish speakers only in the area of Los Angeles.

- Strategies used to identify and select funding source:
  Internet searches via local, state and federal was conducted.
  California State University of Long Beach Library database.

- Keywords used: Latinos or Hispanics, ethnicity, older adults, acculturation and mental health.
Funding source selected:
The California Endowment.
Its mission is “to expand access to affordable quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvement in health status of all Californians”.

Sources used for needs assessments:
There are multiple sources of information that can provide and expand the needs assessments for this grant. U.S Census Bureau, U.S Department of Health and Human Services, National Association of Social Workers, California State University Long Beach Library databases. These will be used.

Budget guidelines:
The estimated budget for this grant will cover the cost of salary of workers. This budget will also cover expenses for materials and supplies needed in the program.
GRANT PROPOSAL

• The purpose of this project is to write a grant proposal that will provide the opportunity for Latino seniors ages 60 or older who are Spanish speakers only to become more acculturated.

• The objective of this program is to help participants understand the need of acculturation to better their lives in general, so that they will feel more connected and more self-sufficient in American society.

• This program is designed to engage participants in more activities that will provide interaction with different ethnicities and the use of English language.

• The program will educate the elderly on acculturation process.
Social Work Implications

Social workers decide to work in this field to bring positive change in this society and because this career is very fulfilling and rewarding. Stigma is a challenge in the Latino community; therefore, social workers will have to help this group to overcome this and many more challenges. By creating programs such as this grant proposal, social workers can have the opportunity to reach forgotten communities such as the elderly Latino and help them reach personal goals. Social workers will provide educational materials to improve mental health of this group. The writing of grant proposals empowers social workers who are working towards the implementation of new programs to better serve vulnerable communities.
REFERENCES

