EDUCATION WORKSHOPS FOR LATINO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: A GRANT PROPOSAL

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The high probability of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in having medical conditions, co-morbid psychological mental disorders, and maladaptive behavioral challenges, increases the need for additional health care and intervention services.¹

Latino families of children with ASD encounter cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic challenges that create barriers in accessing and utilizing available resources.²

Latina mothers report challenges in obtaining a diagnosis, and difficulties advocating for their children.³

**Purpose:**

To write a grant proposal for funds to develop educational workshops for Latino parents and families with children with ASD.
Social Work Relevance

- To address inequalities of the service delivery system, social workers are in a position to bring awareness of the barriers to access and be involved in the process of creating interventions that are culturally competent and relevant to the needs of this population.

- Social workers can positively impact the reduction of systematic inequity of resource utilization, and help families access support services that will yield positive outcomes for their children and their family’s well-being.
Prevalence of ASD rate among Hispanic children is about 1 in every 127.⁴

Latino parents of children with ASD report encountering many difficulties in obtaining specialty services for their children.⁵

Disparities in health care utilization among Latino children with ASD were evidenced in the domains of access, quality of care, and utilization when compared to White children with ASD.⁶

Social workers need to examine how stigma and discrimination impact Latino families attempting to understand and navigate the service delivery system.
METHODS

• **Target Population:** Latino parents of children with ASD or suspected developmental delays that have children within the age range of birth to 18 years old.

• **Strategies Used to Find Funding Sources:** An internet search and grant database search were used to identify potential funding sources.
  - Key words and phrases included: “parent education and autism funding,” “parent advocacy training and ASD funding,” “parent workshops and ASD”.
**METHODS**

- **Funding Source:** The Crial-Johnson Foundation was selected for the proposed program.
- **Sources Used for Needs Assessment:**
  - U.S. Census Bureau
  - California Department of Developmental Services
  - California Department of Health Services
  - California Department of Public Health
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network
  - Peer reviewed literature
- **Projected Budget:**
  - Personnel Costs
  - Direct Program Costs
  - Indirect Costs
  - In-Kind Resources
- **Total Amount Requested:** $55,559.32
Program Summary and Description
The Parent Enrichment Workshops (PEW) are designed to be a series of educational workshops that aim to promote familiarity and confidence in navigating the service delivery systems for Latino parents with ASD or suspected developmental delays. The PEW series is intended to be an extension of the specialized workshops offered at the Family Resource Center for the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic.

Program Objectives
1. Facilitate 16 educational workshops and provide resource linkage opportunities within the community that will service approximately 12 families per workshop.
2. Parents will increase knowledge on how to locate community based resources that will enhance their child’s well-being.
3. Parents will increase awareness of the referral process for special education, steps in obtaining an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) assessment, school-based services available, and advocacy strategies.
4. Parents will increase sense of empowerment through improving Latino parents’ sense of confidence in the navigation of service delivery system.
• **Sustainability:** strategic alliances and partnerships with community organizations such as schools and regional centers to streamline effective linkages. Promote parent support networks and encourage partnerships with families that will increase investment in the PEW program.

• **Evaluation:** a pre-test and a post-test questionnaire using the Family Empowerment Scale, and complete a self-report open-ended qualitative questionnaire at the end of each workshop attended.
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<th>Lessons Learned</th>
<th>Implications for Social Work</th>
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<td>• Grant terminology, grant-seeking strategies, and learning how to follow guidelines specified by each potential funding source.</td>
<td>• Exposure to the grant writing experience is an invaluable tool for increasing the social work administrative capacities of future social workers.</td>
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<td>• Getting familiar with the guidelines, restrictions, and priorities of the foundation also helped in narrowing down if the funding source would an appropriate fit.</td>
<td>• Skills gained through the grant writing process can be applied to build sustainability for programs and services that address the needs of vulnerable populations in the community.</td>
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<td>• Gained valuable insight regarding the program design and framework development for the project.</td>
<td>• As the Latino population continues to grow, it is important to understand and address the factors that contribute to the disproportionate utilization and acquisition of services.</td>
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REFERENCES


