

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-141**

Providing Hacienda Community Development Corporation (Hacienda, CDC) \$36,000 One-Time-Only Grant for Micro-Enterprise Program

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. Multnomah County's dwindling resources demand that taxpayer funds not only treat the symptoms, but the root causes of poverty.
- b. In recent Multnomah County budgets, Commissioners have prioritized one-time only investments that meet the county's mission to care for vulnerable populations, but reduce ongoing costs and provide long-term savings. These programs often aim to give adults the tools to lift themselves out of poverty and give children the opportunities for enrichment that will last a lifetime.
- c. Two years ago, with private funding, Hacienda CDC launched a successful micro-enterprise program (Micro Mercantes) for low-income Latina women living in the affordable housing projects surrounding the Ortiz Center.
- d. The Micro Mercantes program trains women in business skills including management, finance, marketing, securing licenses and compliance. Once trained, participants use these new skills to augment their income by selling prepared food at local farmer's markets.
- e. Participants in the Micro Mercantes program typically see their household incomes increase by 20% to 30%, helping them achieve financial independence and reducing their need for government assistance.
- f. Though successful, expansion of the program has been limited by the seasonal nature of farmer's markets, lack of childcare and the unavailability of commercial kitchens in which to cook. Participants have been unable to accept catering and retail orders because of the difficulty of finding a consistent, clean commercial space in which to prepare food.
- g. A one-time-only grant would leverage private funds and in-kind donations to upgrade an existing kitchen in the Ortiz Center, Northeast Portland's Latino Community Center. This one-time upgrade would allow expansion of the Micro Mercantes program to more individuals and allow participants to sell their products on a year-round basis, further lessening the need for government assistance.
- h. A public purpose will be served by this grant because it is an anti-poverty program. The Micro Mercantes program will assist participants to become financially independent and less reliant on government resources.

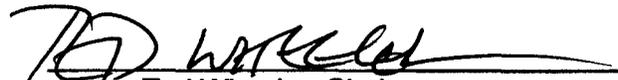
**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

1. The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners directs the Department of County Human Services to:
  - a. Provide up to \$36,000 to Hacienda CDC for capital investments in the Micro Mercantes Program.
  - b. Draft an agreement to be signed by Hacienda CDC as a condition of receiving grant funds that contains the following:
    - i. Detailed and transparent accounting of the expenditure of grant funds.
    - ii. A report detailing the extent that the capital improvements increase the number of Micro Mercantes participants and increase the ability of the participants to take advantage of catering and retail opportunities.
    - iii. A requirement that the Ortiz Center kitchen and its improvements will be used only for the Micro Mercantes program, other anti-poverty programs, nutrition classes or other community activities.
    - iv. A prohibition on selling, leasing or encumbering the Ortiz Center kitchen or any of its improvements, appliances or equipment without the prior written approval of Multnomah County.
    - v. A provision permitting Multnomah County to use the Ortiz Center kitchen upon request with approval from Hacienda CDC for nutrition classes or other community activities.

DATED this 16th day of October, 2008

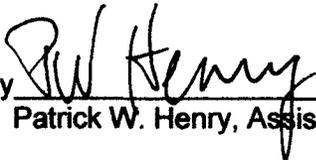
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



  
Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By   
Patrick W. Henry, Assistant County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Maria Rojo de Steffey, Commissioner, District 1  
Jeff Cogen, Commissioner, District 2