

Summary of the Innovative Grant Application Recommended for Award**Hearts and Hands Working Together****Up to \$71,800**

Heart and Hands Working Together's High Conflict Diversion (HCD) Program is a classroom based 12-week program, designed for divorcing, divorced and single parents and/or parents who are involved in a custody battle, which teaches communications, conflict resolution and parenting skills and does not require the cooperation of both parents. This program supports the role of parents as a child's first and best teacher as they implement and demonstrate the skills learned in this program and the parents' ability to enhance their children's social and emotional development. As this program is not currently offered in Spanish, the goal of this proposed project is to provide HCD training to two bilingual (Spanish & English) teachers who will deliver the training at no charge to at least 90 Hispanic monolingual or low proficiency English speaking parents of children 0-5. It is estimated that a minimum of 90 children 0-5 will be affected by these services.

High Conflict Custody and divorce cases can often create animosity and hostility between the parents. The two bilingual teachers trained in HCD Program will be able to offer and refer the HCD Program free to the participants (parents) affecting at least 90 children under the age of five. HCD Program is a 12-week class that 1) teaches communications skills to help build healthy relationships; 2) empowers parents to rely and think on their own, as oppose to the court system; 3) identifies strategies that will help parents disengage from high conflict divorce; and 4) teaches relaxation techniques that helps parents to calm down during a custody battle.

The current HCD Program is only available in English. Court judges, lawyers, and health care counselors have requested this program to be available in Spanish and allow the disenfranchised population to have the same opportunity and access to the program as their English-speaking counterpart. With First 5 innovative funds, the HCD Program will be able to reach the target population by training bilingual teachers and providing translated materials.

Total Innovative Funds - Up to \$71,800