



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN

Mayor

July 22, 2011

Ms. Michele Walters
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance
370 L'Enfant Promenade S.W.
5th Floor East
Washington, DC 20447

Dear Ms. Walters:

RE: Hmong American Partnership's grant request to
Community-Centered Healthy Marriage and Relationship Grants,
HHS-2011-ACF-OFA-FM-0193

As Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota, I am writing in support of Hmong American Partnership's application to the Administration for Children and Families for funding under the Community-Centered Healthy Marriage and Relationship Grant program, HHS-2011-ACF-OFA-FM-0193.

The main office of Hmong American Partnership (HAP) is located in the heart of the East Side of Saint Paul, and a second HAP office is located along the Central Corridor, where a new light rail transit system will soon connect downtown Saint Paul with downtown Minneapolis. The neighborhoods served by HAP are some of the most diverse in the city and have been transformed by recent waves of refugee arrivals, particularly Southeast Asian refugees.

For more than two decades, HAP has provided critical services and supports to these new refugee communities. HAP truly understands the needs of new refugees and has developed expertise in the process of helping refugees become successful, contributing members of their new Saint Paul community. The supporting partners for the proposed "Southeast Asian Healthy Marriages and Relationships" project have reputations and track records that are equally as strong.

Working together, HAP and its collaborative partners identified a strong need for culturally-appropriate services and programs to support and promote healthy marriages within Southeast Asian refugee communities. To address this need, they developed a project model that utilizes each organization's assets and expertise, incorporates culturally-appropriate curricula, and uses a wide range of activities to achieve project goals.

I believe that HAP's proposed project is critical for our Southeast Asian families, and I fully support HAP's grant application.

Sincerely,

Chris Coleman
Mayor, City of Saint Paul