

Partners for Prosperity
NEW BEGINNINGS FOR EASTERN IDAHO



March 27, 2006

Viki Kimsal
Associate Community Liaison
Northwest Area Foundation
60 Plato Blvd East, Suite 400
St. Paul, MN 55107

RE: Annual Report for 2005-2006

Dear Viki,

We are pleased to enclose our annual report for fiscal year 2005-2006 highlighting achievement of outcomes in both "Attachment C" and the four community level outcomes identified by the Northwest Area Foundation. You will note that many of the documents in the overall report were created directly by the P4P staff leading the specific project/initiative. We have attempted to provide examples of community involvement such as input, partnerships and decision-making. Whenever possible we have included more in depth information—the personal connection—in order to get a clearer understanding of our community and the people involved with poverty reduction efforts. In addition, the memos and reports contain specific data on the numbers of people involved and the achievements of the working groups. This is in addition to the measurable outcomes identified and completed in Attachment C.

Attachment C Outcomes

Overall there are 104 measurable outcomes identified in Attachment C. Of these outcomes, P4P completed 100 outcomes or 96% of the total. Two of the outcomes required a mid-course correction (2%) and two of the outcomes are pending (2%). Further explanation about these outcomes is required.

In terms of the pending outcomes, one will be completed by March 31, the end of our fiscal year. This outcome relates to the creation and distribution of a "hotsheet" of information that will be sent to all elected officials in our region and at the federal level. Although the hotsheet is complete, it will not be sent until the week of March 27, 2006.

Therefore at the time of this report it is still pending, but in terms of overall completion of outcomes, it will be complete by the end of our fiscal year.

The other pending outcome is more difficult to complete in terms of showing the actual increase at this time and it may be appropriate to develop a new way to measure our success. This outcome relates to the Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign and the outcome of a 3% increase in utilization of the credit. P4P has been informed by the Internal Revenue Service (a partner in the campaign) that this data will not be available until a much later date (2007). Therefore, in partnership with Idaho State University, AARP (campaign partner) and other EITC coalition partners, P4P is compiling other types of measurements to present as indicators of the campaign success. These measurements include the overall increase in utilization of the free tax preparation services offered in the campaign; the call volume to IDAHO 211, the information provider in the campaign; and an informal survey of other tax service providers regarding the increase in EITC participation. This information will be compiled after April 17, 2006 (Income Tax deadline) and sent to the NWAFF by May 1, 2006 as a supplement to the annual report.

There were two outcomes that required a mid-course correction and both are connected to mentoring programs. Initially, the goal was to develop and implement a mentoring program for members of the lowest economic quartile. The intent of the program was to help LEQ members develop skills and make connections necessary to lift themselves out of poverty. Based on community and consultant input, as well as staff observations, a “group mentoring” program was developed to help community members develop the capacity and skills necessary to make an individual mentorship program successful. Therefore a group mentoring project was implemented that currently reaches approximately 40 people. Members of the initiative have received soft skills training and other types of training. Plans in the coming year call for training related to public speaking, leadership and additional soft skills development. A particular focus will be placed on encouraging community members to interact with community members from outside their specific community.

Community Level Outcomes

In addition to the outcomes identified in attachment C, P4P has used the framework of the four community level outcomes identified by the NWAFF. All of the activities, projects and initiatives of P4P are connected to these outcomes:

Expand Economic Opportunities

- EITC campaign; small business training and technical assistance; adult education initiative (linked to a skilled workforce for Eastern Idaho); math, science and technology initiative (linked to Eastern Idaho’s largest economic engine); Individual Development Accounts; Economic Summit (focused on entrepreneurship as part of overall economic development success); “Mercado” project; Native American Business Association (Snake River Basin Business

Association in Fort Hall); and the Native Vendors initiative (Creative Hands of the Land in Fort Hall).

Inclusive Decision Making

- P4P Working Group Model; Regional Prosperity Task Force; Community Based Research; Leadership Project; and Group Mentoring Initiative.

Identify and Develop Community Assets

- Asset Mapping (asset based community development); Secondary Data Research; Community Capacity Building (strengthening and expanding successful poverty reduction projects and developing new ones); partnerships with over 70 regional, state and national organizations; and participation on numerous boards, councils, coalitions and collaboratives.

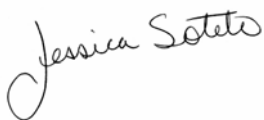
Design, Lead and implement lasting community change

This outcome is perhaps the single more important outcome and the three previous outcomes all fall under the realm of creating lasting community change. P4P strives not only to implement lasting community change but to take the lead in this effort. Through community input and inclusive decision making, we have designed several projects and initiatives that have tremendous potential to create systemic change. One of the most difficult things to capture is the spirit of P4P, including the people and organizations involved. How do we measure hope? How do we measure momentum? These are two critical elements of our work and yet they are perhaps the most difficult to measure.

P4P is gaining the reputation of being action oriented while maintaining significant ties to grassroots participation. We endeavor to find balance between community input and guidance with realistic poverty reduction measures. Our challenge is to maintain an innovative and “out of the box” approach while recognizing the need to deliver solid proof that the approach is reducing poverty. We embrace the opportunity to evaluate our organization, its projects and initiatives during phase II. We believe strongly in the need to remain a flexible organization that responds to changing information.

We look forward to moving into Phase II of our ten year strategic plan. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding this report. Thank you for your assistance and support in our pursuit of poverty reduction.

Sincerely,



Jessica Sotelo
Executive Director