

Application: 0000000018

Virginia Gittens Escudero - virginiae@unidoswi.org
Violence Prevention Grant Program

Summary

ID: 0000000018

Last submitted: Jun 2 2023 09:02 PM (CDT)

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Completed - Jun 2 2023

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Lead Name of Organization

UNIDOS Against Domestic Violence

Fiscal Agent (If Applicable)

N/A

Unique Entity ID (UEI):

VMXDKLGKPP3

US CAGE Code (If UEI cannot be provided):

N/A

Organization Address:

2005 W Beltline Hwy, suite 211, Madison WI 53713

Contact Person:

Virginia Gittens Escudero

Contact Email:

virginiae@unidoswi.org

Contact Phone Number:

608-256-9195

Program Information

Program Name:

UNIDOS

Total Amount Requested:

**Limit \$10,000 - \$80,000*

\$ 31,485

Roadmap Goal and Objective

Goal 4: Bolster and Increase Intervention and Continuous Healing for Those Affected by Violence : Provide trauma screening, reduction and healing-informed care support to residents, professionals who address violence, and others experiencing primary and secondary trauma

Please Select Service Area:

Both

Estimated Percentage of Work time in Service Area:

**Total Must Equal 100%*

City of Madison:	50
Dane County:	50

Brief Summary of your Program:

**150 Words Limit*

UNIDOS has been supporting the Latino community in Wisconsin since 1996. Our mission is to empower Latine and other marginalized communities to break the cycle of domestic violence, end sexual assault, and promote healthy family systems. Our core values are 1) Social justice: respecting human dignity and promoting social equity; 2) Education: providing safe venues to dismantle myths about domestic and sexual violence; 3) Empowerment: supporting victims/survivors to seek community-driven solutions to end violence; 4) Collaboration: building a strong coalition of victims, survivors, and allies. Programs include direct services for victims and survivors, legal advocates, resource specialists, counseling services, specialized support groups, and a 24-hour bilingual hotline. All of our programs are free, confidential, and bilingual.

SECTION 2: SCOPE OF PROPOSED WORK

Completed - Jun 2 2023

SECTION 2: SCOPE OF PROPOSED WORK

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Provide a detailed description of your proposed program that includes:

- 1. Scope of the programs services and activities**
- 2. Specific needs for services/activities this program addresses in the target community this program reaches**
- 3. An explanation of how your program directly addresses the selected Roadmap Objective**
- 4. How health and racial equity will be incorporated into the proposed initiative**
- 5. Relevant data, research, best practices and/or evidence based practices that inform the programs design**

1. This proposal seeks funding to enhance our initiatives to provide cultural and linguistic spaces for healing to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Dane County. To accomplish this goal, we are partnering with Roots4Change, the first immigrant marketing cooperative in Dane County, working to change the maternal and child health landscape to address inequities in perinatal well-being by empowering families and challenging the system. R4C will provide five workshops and three experimental activities for UNIDOS clients. This initiative seeks to advance racial equity, strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault and improve outreach, services, prevention, and support for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking from underserved communities.

2. UNIDOS has identified the need for healing spaces for survivors that address the linguistic and cultural needs of the population we serve. We have made strides by offering individual counseling and support groups; however, we feel the need to innovate how we provide services and support to survivors by making activities rooted in Latin American healing traditions available to them.

3. Racial equity is centered in everything we do. Our organization is led by a Latina who prioritizes racial equity in tackling sexual assault and domestic violence, specifically for the Latine community across Wisconsin. Our values, staff, and leadership all reflect this value -- our staff is all Latine, and our board is 75% Latine. Many of our staff, board, and volunteers come from the community that we serve. Our values also reflect our commitment -- we seek to respect human dignity and promote social equity. Our mission and vision specifically focus on racial equity and providing victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in our most marginalized communities with accessible, free, confidential, and bilingual support, including the first Spanish language 24-hour helpline in the State.

4. Domestic and sexual violence are just as serious and prevalent in the Hispanic community as in other racial and ethnic groups. Like other victims, Hispanic victims face important internal and external barriers to leaving an abusive relationship. These barriers include: hope that the abuser will change or that the abuse will stop embarrassment or shame, financial dependence on the abuser, fear of emotional and physical retaliation if they leave, lack of supportive relationships, hopelessness, and guilt – among many others. Hispanic victims, however, also face additional unique challenges when seeking help and addressing their domestic violence relationship, making their situations and even their healing process complex. According to the National Sexual Violence

Resource Center, therapy and counseling are common outlets for survivors to express trauma, process, and find closure. However, this can be a barrier for many survivors, especially in immigrant communities who lack access to health insurance or the financial means to access mental health services. Community programs are addressing this need by incorporating other activities and programs that open spaces for healing holistically.

B. SERVICE AREA AND TARGET POPULATION

Provide an estimate of the number of participants populations to be served in the areas below:

City of Madison	50
Dane County (Excluding Madison Numbers)	50

Provide an explanation of the service area and population your program will serve include:

- *Details about the targeted geographic area and the population this program seeks to serve*
- *How you will ensure that all the activities conducted are culturally relevant to the populations you serve*
- *How you language access will be ensured for your program*

The target populations to be served by UNIDOS programs and services are Latine immigrant adults, families, and youth living in Dane County, Wisconsin. This includes the recently arrived refugee/immigrant community and the immigrant/refugee community with a more extended, multi-generational history.

Most of the individuals served in this project require language assistance; approximately 95% have no English proficiency. Our service data shows that approximately 98% of UNIDOS' clients identify as Latinos or Hispanics, with an age range of 18-55 years. They have, on average, 3-4 children, Spanish is their primary language, and the average hourly wage for the families we serve is \$12.00, and most do not qualify for dental or health insurance. Their work is generally seasonal, does not offer transportation, and they cannot obtain a Wisconsin ID or Driver's License. In addition, this population faces significant mental health challenges due to the psychosocial stress associated with their status as racial, cultural, and linguistic minorities—the stress intensifies with the presence of violence and/or sexual assault, racial discrimination, oppression, and increased threat of immigration enforcement. These threats to well-being are most intense for monolingual Spanish speakers.

UNIDOS incorporates respect for diversity and cultural competency in all its services and programs. UNIDOS Staff, volunteers, interns, and clients engage in conversations about culture, values, beliefs, and customs to educate one another. UNIDOS strives to create an environment that respects differences and diversity where, clients, staff, volunteers, and interns feel welcome, safe, and have a sense of belonging.

All UNIDOS services are provided in Spanish, such as our 24/7 hr. Spanish language live responder hotline (La Red) has been an important resource for our organization and the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. Latinx victims reach out to the organization via our helpline, to seek and understand information about services that will allow them to return to an effective and safe life following victimization by providing information and referrals in a linguistically and culturally competent manner to callers; both those seeking UNIDOS services and those seeking access to more community-based services.

All UNIDOS services and programs are delivered in Spanish and English by bilingual, bicultural staff. Individuals seeking services at UNIDOS who speak languages other than Spanish and English are served through language interpreters.

Using the table below, describe implementation plan and timeline for the program (Complete at least 3)

	Estimated Benchmark Date (Month, Year)	Key Staff (Name and Title)	Milestone (Program development phase completed)
A.	August 2023	UNIDOS Executive Director, Associate Director and Community Engagement Coordinator - Root4Change Staff	August 2024
B.	August 2023	UNIDOS Executive Director, Associate Director and Community Engagement Coordinator - Formando Lazos Familiares Committie	December 2024
C.	January 2024	UNIDOS Executive Director, Associate Director and Community Engagement Coordinator, Administrative and Financial Assistant	August 2024
D.			
E.			
F.			
G.			

C. IMPLEMENTATION

Describe your organization experience implementing community-based programs that specifically focus on using violence prevention and intervention methods to reduce violence activities and improve safety

UNIDOS believes domestic violence and sexual assault are public health, community, and human rights problem. As such, it is necessary to develop and implement effective responses to help prevent abuse in all its forms in our communities. UNIDOS services and programs aim to support those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault to regain safety and stability and gain the tools to disrupt and dismantle societal norms and behaviors perpetuating violence in our communities. Support through the helpline has allowed us to reduce the barriers to connecting with other providers, helping us bridge the gaps in services between the community and other community agencies and services. Our advocates follow up referrals to ensure that needs are met, and there are never limits imposed on the number of meetings a client can have with staff. This practice is successful, is supported by clients, and has been especially critical in ensuring we provide meaningful and authentic service to the community.

Our ability to withstand challenges can be best exemplified by our ability to respond to the community's needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected marginalized and underserved communities and made survivors of domestic abuse more vulnerable. To respond to the needs of the community at large during the pandemic, UNIDOS and other community leaders that form part of the Latinx Consortium for Action quickly mobilized to strategize support for the families in our community. As a result, the LCA Relief Fund was formed, and the coalition distributed approximately \$1,000,000 to individual families. A portion of the funding was allocated to UNIDOS to be distributed exclusively to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence from 2020 to 2022.

There is no doubt that with the COVID-19 pandemic, the stressors and dynamics which lead to familial violence become even more dangerous for survivors. During this time we remained focused in providing mental health support, including individual counseling and support groups for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault, which proved essential in such a hard time for victims whose victimization intensified during the pandemic. In addition, we provided remote case management and legal advocacy services.

Our Education and Outreach initiatives recognize the need for privacy, traditions, and family values of the immigrant community, also acknowledging how some of those values and beliefs perpetuate abuse in our communities, which is the case of machismo, the equivalent of toxic masculinity.

D. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND EVALUATION

Provide 3-4 objectives for your program that connect both to measuring the success of program activities, as well as to the progress towards addressing the selected Roadmap Objective

Objectives should us the SMART approach:

- *Specific: includes the “who”, “what”, and “where”*
- *Measurable: focuses on “how much” change is expected*
- *Achievable: realistic given program resources and planned implementation*
- *Relevant: relates directly to program/activity goals*
- *Time-bound: focuses on “when” the objective will be achieved*

	Describe Objective	Evaluation Tool (i.e. client surveys, program hours or number of individuals reached)	Outcome (i.e. # of individuals reached, % of positive feedback from surveys)
Objective 1	Facilitation of workshops for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence to foster self-agency and support the healing process of survivors.	Participants will be asked to complete a survey ranking their level of satisfaction with the workshop/experiential activity.	20-25 individuals from the Latinx community in Dane County. Open to the community.
Objective 2	Linguistically and culturally specific experiential activities centered in Latin American healing traditions.	Participants will be asked to complete a survey ranking their level of satisfaction with the workshop/experiential activity.	15-25 survivors will participate in experiential activities in person to indulge in the richness of our culture and its healing traditions. Making herbal remedies, limpieas, closing our hips rituals, and other self-care activities.
Objective 3	Facilitation of workshops with community participation to aim to prevent abuse and foster healthy ways of communication to prevent violence in all its forms.	Self-reflection slips. Platicas participants will complete a tool that promotes self-reflection.	80% of participants will connect with others to confront and overcome real-life challenges, strive for justice, and give back to the community.
Objective 4			

E. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Provide a detailed description of your proposed program that includes:

1. Describe how your organization is plans to partner with the Madison Dane County Prevention Coalition to support program implementation when possible
2. Provide information on how your organization will meaningfully collaborate with other organizations in Madison and Dane County.

At UNIDOS, we understand the importance of working in partnership to help break the cycles of abuse in our communities. We value opportunities for co-advocacy, collaboration, and teamwork. Over the years, UNIDOS has established great relationships with many community agencies and organizations locally and across the state. UNIDOS also participates actively in many regular community groups, including the Commission on Sensitive Crimes Coordinated Community Response Task Force, the Latino Support Network, Latino Children & Families Council, Latino Health Council, Dane County Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Coordinated Community Response, Community Coordinator Response to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children among many others. In addition, UNIDOS has a Memorandum of Understanding regarding referrals and service coordination with the Sexual Violence Resource Center (RCC), YWCA Madison, DAIS, and Project Respect.

Please complete this table below if your program will include collaboration with community partners

	Partner Organization	Contact Person	Signed MOU?	Role and Responsibility
Community Partner #1	Roots4Change	Mariela Quesda	Yes	Coordination and facilitation of workshops and experiential activities
Community Partner #2	Latino Children and Families Council	Fabiola Hamdan and Teresa Telles Giron	No	Coordination and Facilitation of monthly Platicas/workshops and radio programs
Community Partner #3				