



“JFS Workshops for Healthy Dating”

Grant Request to the
Columbus Jewish Youth Foundation

Submitted _____

WRITING SAMPLE: SOPHIAJOHN Writes
Grant Narrative



General Information

Project Name:

JFS Workshops for Healthy Dating (a component of the JFS Domestic Violence Program)

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Name of Organization, Address, and Website:

Jewish Family Services | 1070 College Avenue | Columbus OH 43209 | www.jfscolumbus.org

Contact Person(s), Title, Telephone, and E-mail:

Lisa Carroll, Project Coordinator | 614.231.1890 | HH_lcarroll@jfscolumbus.org

Proposal Summary (80 Word Limit)

We respectfully request a \$_____ grant to support our JFS Workshops for Healthy Dating, a component of the JFS Domestic Violence Program. The funds will provide professional and culturally sensitive training materials on domestic violence customized for the Jewish community. These early intervention workshops will educate junior high and high school students, parents, teachers, and rabbis in the Columbus OH area about the warning signs of abusive relationships and the characteristics of healthy dating.

Project Information

1. Please provide a brief description of your organization's mission and history. How does your organization relate to the CJYF goals and focus areas?

For 100 years, JFS has worked to keep a pulse on the evolving needs of our diverse Jewish community, while also touching the lives of thousands of people each year in the general Columbus population. Established in 1908 (under the name of Jewish Charities of Columbus), Jewish Family Services has a legacy of dedication and commitment to meeting changing community needs.

During its beginning years, our agency defined itself by its work with immigrants who came to be called the “New Americans.” Through these early experiences with different immigrant populations (both Jewish and non-Jewish people primarily from Eastern Europe), JFS learned to provide effective services by focusing on the primary needs of these new Americans, i.e., food, shelter, and work.

In the 1950s, when immigration patterns declined and the needs of the pre-existing Jewish community became prominent, JFS expanded beyond its immigration services into a “multiple-

function counseling agency.” This “counseling” component became a core part of JFS services that continues into the present.

Known as one of the leading social service agencies in Franklin County today, JFS provides clients with two integrated centers for service:

- 1) JFS Individual & Family Service Center; and
- 2) JFS Career and Workforce Development Center. *(For details of our services, please see attachment entitled “JFS: An Overview of Services.”)*

At JFS, we understand the **inter-connection** between the well being of a child, individual or family and their success in school and/or the workplace. For adults, issues such as a lack of education, marital discord, addictions, domestic violence, and mental illness can make it difficult to secure or retain employment. In turn, job loss and unemployment can put an insurmountable strain on relationships, marriages, and families causing effects such as anxiety, depression, marital strain, thoughts of suicide, financial ruin, and homelessness.

Of course, these issues often effect the children within the family causing behavioral changes such as a decline in school grades, increased incidents of acting out or fighting, social withdrawal, lack of sleep, change in appetite and more.

Recognizing the depth and complexity of these challenges, JFS has committed itself to providing a continuum of integrated services to fulfill its mission of *helping individuals and families in facing life’s challenges*.

2. What was the need or problem that inspired this project?

In 1999, a survey conducted by the Columbus Jewish Federation indicated that there were 1,200 families experiencing domestic violence within the 22,000 Jewish people living in Columbus. To address this need, JFS began a small Domestic Violence Program with a grant of \$50,000 from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services designed to provide services customized for specific needs of the Jewish community. This program and funding have run continuously for the past eight years.

JFS is the only social service agency in the Columbus area to address domestic violence issues from the perspective of the Jewish culture. Although domestic violence occurs in 15-25% of all Jewish homes at roughly the same percentage as the general population, women in the Jewish community, unfortunately, tend to remain in violent relationships 5-7 years longer than women in the general population (whose average stay in abusive relationships is less than five years).¹

¹ In a 2000 Columbus Jewish Family violence survey of 6,000 local Jewish residents, female respondents identified the following issues related as to why women remain in an abusive relationship: dedication to keeping the family together 89%; financial security 87%; fear of retaliation 83%; self-blame 81%; bringing shame upon the family 65%; and family pressure to remain married 62%.

Perhaps the major reason that Jewish women stay longer in an abusive relationship is a distortion of “shalom bayit” or “peace in the home.” Shalom bayit religiously places women with the natural responsibility for preserving the home and family life. This practice becomes distorted when women blame themselves (or are blamed by others) for domestic abuse and violence and the inability to maintain a peaceful home.

Too many Jewish victims stay silent for a wide variety of reasons – such as they are fearful of the unknown, unduly ashamed, or emotionally paralyzed – thereby creating a secretive environment within the Jewish community where domestic violence is not discussed.

Statistics validate that domestic abuse occurs in Jewish homes within all socioeconomic levels and all denominations. They also indicate that Jewish women are reluctant to use secular resources outside the Jewish community.

Therefore, JFS, the only social service agency in Columbus devoted to serving the Jewish community, has sought to develop culturally sensitive resources for breaking down barriers and creating effective support systems, interventions and treatment.

3. What outcomes do you hope to achieve?

The goals of the JFS Domestic Violence program are to:

- 1) Increase awareness of family violence in the Jewish community;
- 2) Increase awareness in the general community of the cultural issues facing victims of domestic violence in the Jewish community; and
- 3) Provide education, advocacy, and case management services to the Jewish community.

To help achieve these goals, we will conduct at least five JFS Workshops on Healthy Dating within the Bexley, Gahanna, and New Albany areas reaching at least ___ participants a year (or ___ for FY 20__ and FY 20__). The number of annual workshops each year is limited by the workload of the two part-time staff positions (each 25 hours a week) serving the JFS Domestic Violence program.

Funding of this proposal will enhance our agency’s ability to provide customized training materials developed to address the cultural needs of the Jewish community, increasing our effectiveness at preventing the cycle of abusive relationships with this population.²

4. Who will be served? Describe your target population.

Since its inception, the JFS Domestic Violence Program has targeted the Jewish community of Central Ohio; more specifically, the teenagers, women, parents, rabbis, and Jewish professionals serving victims of abuse. Although the majority of the Jewish population is dominantly located in the Bexley/Berwick area, our Jewish constituents are also a growing population within Gahanna and New Albany.

² Statistics show that in approximately 50% of spousal abuse incidents, children also become victims. In addition, up to 2/3 of the children who witness spousal abuse end up in abusive marriages as adults, thereby perpetuating the cycle.

Because research shows one (1) in five (5) teenagers are involved in an abusive relationship during their high school years, the JFS Workshops for Healthy Dating will be primarily targeted towards high school students, helping to educate them about the warning signs of an abusive relationship.

5. What are the specific activities or supplies that will be supported by this grant? Please tell us exactly how, where, and when the grant money will be used.

Our agency will conduct a minimum of ____ free JFS Workshops for Healthy Dating within the Bexley, Gahanna, and New Albany areas of Ohio during FY 20__ (starting July 1, 20__). But the exact location and calendar for these workshops will not be determined until this summer, the usual planning period of the program.

Nevertheless, JFS does anticipate holding workshops for the following organizations with which we have long-term affiliations: Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority at OSU, Columbus Torah Academy, Temple Beth Shalom, Temple Israel, and the Agudas Achim Synagogue. Additional outreach activities will begin in June to build on these initial locations.

Due to our agency's history of outreach programs in the Jewish community, we confidently estimate that the JFS Workshops for Healthy Dating will reach at least ____ participants a year (or ____ for FY 20__ and FY 20__). We are also confident in the \$____ estimate needed to cover the following workshop expenses during the two-year period:

- Training materials such as program videos/DVDs, curricula, toolkits, workbooks and informational brochures;
- Presentation supplies including packets, pencils or gift away items with positive messages, and healthy snacks;
- Marketing materials; and
- Photocopies or printing production.

Currently, JFS does not own any videos or DVDs for its healthy dating workshops. Therefore, we have borrowed from other agencies and organizations. The majority of these "borrowed" materials are older. They are also designed for the general community, not addressing issues related to the Jewish culture. To compensate, JFS has been creating additional materials to support our general resources. This grant will allow us to purchase the latest training materials developed by Jewish Women International for the Jewish community.

6. How do you intend to implement the program, and in what projected timetable?

Lisa Carroll, Project Coordinator, and Angela Tashayeva, Service Outreach Provider, will conduct the healthy dating workshops of the JFS Domestic Violence Program.

Lisa Carroll, a licensed registered nurse, is an international trainer in the area of child abuse prevention, shaken baby syndrome, and bullying prevention. She is also JFS's outreach

representative to the Jewish community through the Agency's Bonei Mishpachot program, funded by the Columbus Jewish Federation.

Angela Tashayeva is bilingual and bicultural as a member of the Russian Jewish community. Working in the field of domestic violence for over eight years, Angela is responsible for community education and outreach in this arena.

As mentioned under Question #5 of this proposal, the fiscal year calendar for the 20__-20__ JFS Workshops for Healthy Dating is to be established during the summer of 20__. It is anticipated that the majority of the workshops will be conducted in the fall of 2008 and the spring of 20__, the most popular time periods requested by schools and synagogues.

7. Identify any perceived problems in implementation and state how you will address them.

JFS has conducted many effective workshops and trainings for its Domestic Violence Program since it began in 1999. As a result of this experience, JFS does not foresee any implementation problems. In addition, JFS expects that funding of these workshops and materials will provide the agency with a greater, up-to-date set of culturally sensitive tools for reaching the Jewish community, thereby increasing our effectiveness at early intervention against violence.

8. How will you evaluate the proposed outcome of this project?

The JFS Domestic Violence Program evaluates its workshops and trainings by requesting that all participants complete their registration/sign-in form as well as a detailed questionnaire handed out at the end of the workshop. (*Samples of workshop evaluation forms are available upon request; completed evaluation forms are also available for your review.*)

9. Describe if other organizations are doing similar programs, and how your program differs?

To the best of our knowledge, JFS is the only social service agency in the Columbus area to provide workshops on healthy dating.

There are, of course, organizations such as CHOICES, Battered Women Survivors, Action Ohio Coalition for Battered Women, and Decision Center that provide crisis hotlines and shelters for women and their children. Some of them also provide support groups and workshops, but these programs address individuals who are already victims of domestic abuse.

The workshops of the JFS Domestic Violence Program differ from other social services agencies in that they seek to "prevent" abuse by educating junior high, high school, college students, parents, and teachers about healthy relationships.

Abuse often happens slowly; teenagers especially do not always recognize that they are in an abusive relationship until they have dated their boyfriend or girlfriend for months. In addition, once they are in an abusive relationship, it is often very difficult to walk away without a lot of support.

That is why JFS workshops offer a great advantage over those presented by schools or faith-based organizations. Instead of providing an outside referral system, our professional workshop presenters can address needs directly at the workshop by immediately linking participants with JFS counselors and case managers.

Last, but not least, JFS is the only social service agency in Columbus whose mission is dedicated to serving the needs of the Jewish community. Our domestic violence workshops and services are specifically customized to address the Jewish culture.

Closing Comments (100 Word Limit)

In closing, here are a few quotes of what participants from Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority at OSU said about our February 26, 2009 JFS Workshop on Healthy Dating:

- “I learned many helpful signs to watch for in order to know if I am in an abusive relationship.”
- “Incredibly helpful. I learned so much about the signs of emotional abuse, and how I can help others who are in an unhealthy relationship.”
- “I now realize my high school relationship was abusive. More important, I get what healthy dating is all about.”

Financial Information

1. Please provide a complete and detailed project budget and amount of grant request.

JFS Workshops for Healthy Dating: 20__ - 20__ Budget <i>Budget expenses are estimated for ___ workshop participants, ___ in FY 20__ and ___ in FY 20__.</i>	Cost
Training materials include: program videos/DVDs, curricula, toolkits, workbooks and informational brochures. (<i>Jewish Women International is a major source for these materials.</i>)	\$ ____
Additional presentation supplies include: packets, pencils and/or giveaway item engraved with positive message, and healthy snacks.	\$ ____
Marketing: <i>Workshop flyers, announcements, articles</i>	\$ ____
Photocopy / Printing Production: <i>Some materials will need to be customized and printed separately from the above items.</i>	\$ ____
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$ ____

2. If additional funds are needed for the project, from what other sources will the necessary funds be obtained, and what funds have been raised to date?

JFS is requesting additional support from The Women's Fund and Huntington Bank. No funds have been received to date.

3a. What is the overall annual budget for your entire organization? \$ _____

3b. What percentage of the organization's overall budget goes towards administration and fundraising cost? Administration: ____% Fundraising: ____%