

PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

Project Title: The Commitment Project

Applicant Name: Marriage Resource Center of Miami Valley (MRCMV)

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The Commitment Project seeks to positively impact the lives of children and families in the Miami Valley Ohio region (Clark, Champaign and Greene Counties) by providing programs and services that support: (1) Committed, Healthy Marriages and Relationships; (2) Committed, Responsible Fatherhood; and (3) Increased economic stability and self-sufficiency of families served.

Specific needs to be addressed are the region's unacceptably high: Marriage Failure Rates; Out of Wedlock Births; and Father Absence prevalence. Using a definition of commitment that involves "making sacrifices for the well-being of another" – *The Commitment Project* seeks to provide skills and resources to inspire and enable: Marriage and Relationship commitment; Parenting commitment; and Economic commitment for the benefit and well-being of families and children.

MRCMV will build upon its previous success as a federal Healthy Marriage grantee and provide overall leadership to this initiative in addition to provision of core marriage and relationship programs and services. Key to the success of this project is the partnership with **Job and Family Services of Clark County (JFSCC)** to include: Child Support, Family and Children's Services, WorkPlus and BenefitsPlus and their commitment not only to refer, but to incentivize program usage and give access to robust case management systems. Other key partnerships and their respective roles: **Project Woman**-Domestic Violence; **CitiLookout**-Case Management; **Urban Light Ministries**-Fatherhood; **Jobs & More**-Job and Career services; **Ohio State University, Clark County Extension (OSU-CCE)**-Budgeting and Financial Management; and **Family and Youth Initiatives**-Relationship Education in High Schools.

The Commitment Project anticipates providing relationship education to 1,400 high school students and 220 adults; marriage education to 175 couples; marriage mentoring to 28 couples; fatherhood education to 156 men; and job skills & placement services to 50 individuals.

Although services will be available on a non-discriminatory basis, the specific targets MRCMV proposes to serve are low-income individuals and couples, TANF and TANF-eligible families and non-custodial parents.