

SPA 8 Council Workplan 2006 - 2007

1. Identify how you will build a base of parents, residents, and/or youth?

The SPA 8 Council is committed to sustaining its strategic community building focus by focusing on measuring results that will capture and demonstrate the impact made on the five outcomes of child and family well-being. The Council's long-term goal is to impact the three strategic areas identified below, contained within the Children's Planning Council's 2007-2009 strategic plan:

- Mobilize Empowered Communities for Kids (**Mobilize Communities**)
- Promote Responsive Family Strengthening Institutions (**Responsive Institutions**)
- Promote Bold Policies to Improve Child Outcomes (**Bold Policies**)

Mobilize Communities:

Over the past four years, the SPA 8 Council has been steadily working to build its base of parents, residents, and youth and has built an infrastructure of 23 community groups called Neighborhood Action Councils (NACs). The SPA 8 Council's most significant strategic opportunity is its relationships with the residents in the NACs and the capacity, generosity, and gifts/talents of those residents. Hundreds of people of all ages volunteer their time and energy to improve their communities and the lives of the families living in those communities. The SPA 8 Council's main purpose and reason for existence is to support these individuals and recognize their contributions.

Northern SPA

- Inglewood Neighborhood Action Council
- Inglewood Southside TRF Head Start NAC
- Centinela Bible Church TRF Head Start NAC
- DeVan Multipurpose Center TRF Head Start NAC
- Hallaan Center TRF Head Start NAC
- Inglewood Senior Action Council
- Lennox Senior Action Council

Central SPA

- Green Parents Group
- Lawndale Middle School NAC
- Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)
- Madres Activas
- Parents in Action
- Faith Christian Center NAC
- Green Elementary Youth NAC

Southern SPA

- Dominguez Parents
- Stevenson YMCA C.L.I. Graduates NAC
- Willard Elementary School NAC
- Mother's Brigade
- Long Beach Community Partners Council
- Stevenson YMCA Youth Leadership Group
- Stevenson YMCA Youth Advisory Council

SPA-wide Groups

- Leaders in Action (LIA) Youth NAC
- SPA 8 Childcare Providers Workgroup

SPA 8 has established diverse groups, with five of the NACs comprised primarily of parents of preschool aged children, seven based at elementary schools, one comprised of childcare providers, two general groups with residents of all ages and interests, two made up of seniors, and six youth groups. Approximately half of the groups are English-speaking, with the other half being Spanish-speaking, and two bilingual groups.

During the fourth quarter of the 2005-2006 fiscal year the SPA 8 NACs worked on the following projects and/or are in the beginning stages of group development, as described below:

Stevenson NAC: This group's main focus is to revisit their group work priorities as well as to go out into their community and conduct a short survey on the community's interests. The group has also engaged in an on-going beautification effort, during which they planted flowers and grass on the school grounds and put large planters with plants and flowers outside each of the bungalows in the playground. Through the group's beautification and outreach events, the group's relationship with the principal has grown and the group is now working to address existing issues or problems in the school.

The group is also planning a year-end retreat focused on further developing relationships amongst group members and working more efficiently as a group for the well-being of their community. The group is also working on developing an immigrant education handbook. Upon completion, this handbook will serve as a resource for new immigrants who move into Long Beach.

With full support from the school, the group recently launched a Safety Patrolling Project in front of the school during the morning and after-school when parents pick-up and drop-off their children. Members of the group will patrol in the morning and in the afternoon help the children cross in a safe manner and to keep traffic flowing at the same time.

Community Partners Council (CPC) NAC:

The Community Partners Council consists of the Long Beach CPC and six sub-committees working on issues such as public safety, housing, youth development, fundraising, programming, and health. The subcommittees meet at least once per month and report on their progress at the general meetings each month.

Monthly health and housing meetings are being coordinated with Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma and Community Partners Council to join efforts in addressing housing and health or any other issue that may be of interest or relevance to the group's work. For example, the health sub-committee started an eight-week healthy cooking class.

The mental health sub-committee holds two mental health support group meetings. There is one support group at Hamilton Elementary in North Long Beach with 20-25 participants and another at the Children's Clinic with 15-20 participants. Five Community Partners Council leaders completed training through the Children's Clinic as support group peer facilitators.

The Folklorico sub-committee had elections in June and a new executive committee was elected to run the group, which organizes eight-session dance classes for adults and youth.

Long Beach CPC is also in the planning process to organize a safety and outreach fair in August where the Fire Department, Police Department, and other community safety agencies will present on safety and health resources, such as Neighborhood Watch, available in the City of Long Beach. In addition, the group wants to improve the collaboration between law enforcement and the community. The Safety Fair will also be an opportunity to outreach to residents about the group and recruit new members.

Willard NAC: The Willard NAC initiated English as a Second Language classes (E.S.L.) to further their own leadership development and as an outreach tool to recruit more parents into the NAC. The NAC also designed and implemented a relaxation and outreach event on April 8, 2006 which was held in several NAC members' homes. The group also designed and implemented a Decorating and Outreach Fair. Parents and other community residents participated in a home interiors decorating lesson where they were shown how to take simple, inexpensive items and make beautiful arrangements such as table centerpieces.

Cesar Chavez NAC: The Cesar Chavez Mothers Brigade held a Day of the Child celebration in April to outreach to other parents, build a better relationship with the school, recognize school staff for their hard work and support to the group, and celebrate the children. Leadership training was also provided by other parents that have taken and completed the program. These classes include conflict resolution, leadership styles, community resources, public speaking, and other topics that will enable them to further develop their leadership abilities.

The group's 2006-2007 work plan includes activities such as continuing to patrol the neighborhood around the school before and after the school day, community clean-ups, fundraisers, getting more involved in city meetings, and forming different work committees that focus on issues that are important to the group.

Inglewood NAC: Members hosted a Community Fair in June, which was also the day of the end of the year picnic for the City of Inglewood preschools. The picnic was hosted at the Rogers Park Preschool site and provided a perfect opportunity for the NAC to do some outreach to recruit new members. Members participated in all the pre-event planning such as making flyers and decorative signs for the event, purchased all of the supplies, and recruited other moms and grandmothers as volunteers. A total of 68 families attended the fair. Based on the success of this fair, the group plans to put on a Health Fair for the Inglewood community.

Child Care Provider Workgroup NAC: This workgroup will coordinate a Community Building and Leadership Summit for forty (40) Family Child Care Providers in SPA 8 where they hope to have conversations on topics that affect family child care providers. The group is targeting child care providers with leadership potential that they feel would be an asset to their group. They will utilize this event to recruit new members and stress the importance of the child care community advocating on its own behalf. The group has chosen the location for their event and specific topics to be covered at the Summit. The group is working closely with Jocelyn Tucker, Child Care Advocate, on their Leadership Summit.

LIA (Leaders in Action) NAC:

The LIA, a group of 13-19 year-old youth, many of whom are involved with the foster care system, made a fun and educational film entitled "Locked in at the Lock-in". Members acted in the film and learned about the filmmaking process. The group plans to use the film as an outreach tool to show other youth the kinds of activities they can do and the fun that they have as a group.

They also planned their Lock-in, an overnight "retreat" from 8pm Friday night to 10am Saturday morning. The youth developed a schedule of events, which included both structured and unstructured activities. The goals of the event were two-fold: (1) get to know one another better, and (2) gain more respect for one another. Both goals were met during one of their structured activity times they called "Real Issues Talk". The group started the talk by discussing their fears and ended with family and self-esteem topics.

One of the group's members joined the Steering Committee as a youth representative and is also working as a youth organizer for SPA 8 to create a new middle school NAC.

South Bay Youth Project, Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) NAC: The YAC collaborated with members of the LIA to plan and present a breakout session entitled, "For Youth, By Youth", at the 11th School Readiness Conference. The two groups worked so well together that they are now planning to collaborate again for the fall 2006 conference.

El Grupo Milagro (Formerly the Lennox Seniors Action Council): The Senior group meets every Tuesday in the Lennox Senior Center. This is a group of seniors willing to help and open to learning new things. The group is working on relationship building, group development, and other elements that are based on building strong relationships. The seniors seem to enjoy doing projects and they love talking about themselves, their values, and their families. The seniors had various meetings based on group development and strong relationship building and are now working on planning a dance so other seniors and community members can see who they are and what they do. The seniors stated that the reason they want to have this event is to meet other seniors and raise their self-esteem because they will feel like they have power in their community because they were given the opportunity to plan something for the community.

SPA 8 Lawndale Middle School Leadership Group:

SBCC has an on-going relationship with Rogers Middle School in Lawndale and was able to connect with the school counselors about developing a youth NAC in Lawndale. The principal approved the outreach for a new group during a leadership class at the school, at which 12 youth signed up to design the kick-off event. During the event, 24 students participated in a three-hour long event consisting of icebreakers, a leadership activity, lunch, and a raffle. The next step with this group is to meet weekly and plan/make the decisions for their group.

All of the SPA 8 youth groups will be jointly planning a relationship building activity this summer to create or strengthen their relationships in anticipation of the youth conference they will be planning for November 4, 2006.

Inglewood Seniors Action Council: The senior group meets every other Thursday in the Inglewood Senior Center to work on relationship building, group development, and other elements based on building strong relationships. The seniors are interested in organizing an event for the other seniors in their community.

Training and Research Foundation (TRF) Head Start Groups

SPA 8 has developed four groups in conjunction with TRF Head Start. Each of the groups is at various stages of the group development process. SPA 8 community organizers have designed a series of seven meetings to create new NACs for parents with young children. The organizers designed these meetings around the SPA 8 School Readiness Conferences I-V DVD and the Community Building and the Role of Power video. The first four meetings are based on Chapter 2 of the DVD, "What is School Readiness?" Each meeting addresses one of the four elements of school readiness, *Kids ready for school*, *Schools ready for kids*, *Families doing their part*, and *Communities doing their part*. Each meeting involves an icebreaker, showing the video about that element, engaging in a discussion about that element and the parent's values, and finally school readiness activities the parents can do at home with their kids. The first four meetings allow the group to get to know each other and understand their own values better - as well as the values of their neighbors.

After the four elements of school readiness, the focus of the meetings turns to Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). Meeting number five begins with the gift exchange exercise where members talk one-on-one about their gifts and talents and then share the gifts and talents of their partner with the whole group. Then the group watches the ABCD chapter of the SPA 8 School Readiness Conferences I-V DVD. This chapter features John McKnight, Henry Moore, and Mike McDonald talking about ABCD. The group then engages in a discussion about community building. The final activity in this meeting is an art project called *Faces* where people tape a Polaroid of themselves on a large piece of paper with a head drawn on it. Each person then draws or cuts pictures from a magazine that represent who they are on the inside. At the end of the project each person shares their collage and why they chose their images.

Meeting number six focuses on relationship building, in particular communication, friendship, and what it means to be part of a community. This meeting includes an icebreaker, conversation, and making a friendship lantern to capture the light of friendship.

Meeting number seven focuses on community building and the role of power. The meeting begins with the Community Building and the Role of Power video which shows many of SPA 8's NACs and projects they have worked on as well as interviews with NAC members talking about how being part of a community building group has impacted their lives, their children's lives, and the community. Following the video there is a discussion about community building, power, and what kinds of projects the group would like to do in their community.

Inglewood Southside TRF Head Start NAC: The group meets once a month and has completed six of the seven meetings described above. The group has decided to put on a picnic to welcome the new parents into both the school and the NAC. The parents will also be helping to run the meetings for the new parents as they go through the seven meeting series beginning. The newer NAC members will be folded into the existing NAC once they have completed the seven meeting series.

Centinela TRF Head Start NAC: The group meets twice a month and has completed five of the seven meeting series. The group members are interested in holding a multicultural potluck to bring together new and old parents. The goal of doing it multi-culturally is to let everyone know that no matter where one comes from or one's background, all are welcome to this community group. Some of the more seasoned members will also help implement and facilitate the seven meeting series for the new members. The newer NAC members will be folded into the existing NAC once they have completed the seven meeting series. One other project they want to work on is a sports/eating healthy program for the children in the Centinela Head Start Center.

Hallaan Center TRF Head Start NAC: This group started with a kick-off event for a brand new group of Head Start parents starting the new school year. The purpose of the event was for the parents to be introduced to the SPA 8 community organizer and be exposed to the idea of a community building group. This new group has just started to participate in the seven meeting series.

DeVan Multipurpose Center TRF Head Start NAC: This new group has just started to participate in the seven meeting series developed to build new groups with the parents of very young children.

Faith Christian Center NAC: This is another new group that emerged out of a partnership between SPA 8 and the Faith Christian Center church in Gardena. Many of the members of this church are struggling with economic issues, so engagement strategies might include facilitation of a four meeting series utilizing the Options video: Opening the Doors to Family Financial Success, as well as other activities to allow the residents to build relationships around shared values.

School Readiness Sites: The School Readiness sites are funded by the South Bay Center for Counseling's Family Support Collaboration. The school readiness education and training workshops have been identified by residents as being important to their neighborhood's growth and capacity building and have become one of the engagement strategies utilized in SPA 8 for community organizing.

186th Street: The group held ten (10) parent support groups (informal therapy sessions that allow the parents to openly discuss issues they are concerned about); facilitated ten (10) health enrollment workshops to help families enroll in a subsidized health program such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families; conducted ten (10) basic computer training classes; held nine (9) playgroup activities that focus on providing hands-on experience to parents to promote learning through play; held three (3) money management workshops that taught parents skills like budgeting, saving and tips on how to budget their checkbooks; held two (2) career workshops that focus on different aspects of job searching, including but not limited to resume writing and interviewing skills; and held two (2) LBYMCA Leadership Classes that provide leadership skills to parents.

In addition the group implemented a Principal's Reading Garden where more than sixty (60) parents and kids planted trees and flowers and created a well so that parents and kids can go to read in a pretty, quiet space.

Green: The group held ten (10) playgroup activities that focus on providing hands-on experience to parents to promote learning through play; held nine (9) parent support groups; facilitated nine (9) health enrollment

workshops to help families enroll in a subsidized health program such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families; held nine (9) basic computer training classes; held eight (8) LBYMCA Leadership Classes that provide leadership skills to parents; and held two (2) CFC that provide skills that enhance family quality time.

In addition, the group organized a Lawndale Community Festival. The William Green Parent Leadership Group worked really hard to organize this event, which came out of a desire to give families more opportunities to be involved in their community in a safe, fun way.

Green Elementary School Youth NAC: The children of the Green Parents Group wanted to establish their own youth leadership group at Green Elementary School and they are now working on relationship and group development as well leadership skills development.

Dominguez: the group held ten (10) basic computer training Classes; facilitated ten (10) health enrollment workshops to help families enroll in a subsidized health program such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families; held nine (9) playgroup activities that focused on providing hands-on experience to parents to promote learning through play; held nine (9) parent support groups; held four (4) CFC that provide skills that enhance family quality time; held two (2) career workshops that focus on different aspects of job searching, including but not limited to resume writing and interviewing skills; and held one (1) workshop on early literacy.

In addition, the group organized a Community Clean-Up. The group had a community clean-up where they cleaned eleven streets around Dominguez Elementary. Some of the neighbors actually came out of their homes to help them clean.

Fries: The group facilitated ten (10) health enrollment workshops to help families enroll in a subsidized health program such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families; held eight (8) LBYMCA Leadership Classes that provide leadership skills to parents; held three (3) basic computer training classes; held three (3) money management workshops that taught parents skills like budgeting, saving and tips on how to budget their checkbooks; and held two (2) playgroup activities that focus on providing hands-on experience to parents to promote learning through play. Parents also became more involved in on-site councils as well as participating in parent groups.

In addition, the group organized the Parents in Action - "Get to Know Your School Fries Fair". With 450 parents and children in attendance, the Fair, displayed every program and parent group/volunteer group that Fries has to offer, as well as entertainment such as: game booths with prizes, a Folkloric Group Performance, a Clown, Snow-Cone and Popcorn machines, and an Arts & Crafts area with water games and activities. The purpose of this project was to unite the school staff with the families, while at the same time encouraging parents to become involved in the school and bringing awareness of all of the wonderful (and free) programs Fries has to offer its families.

The SPA 8 Council supports the work of these groups by dedicating the majority of its resources to the development, goals, and sustainability of the NACs. The infrastructure for the NACs is as follows: each of the NACs has one dedicated community organizer who attends all of the meetings; helps to strategize with group members about how to further their own and the groups' leadership development. The community organizer also facilitates relationship building between the NAC members, the NACs and the SPA, and amongst the 23 NACs. The SPA 8 Council assists the groups in the development and implementation of resident-driven projects, programs, and events designed to improve the issues each group cares most deeply about. In addition, the SPA 8 Council provides core operating support in the form of materials, food, and childcare to allow the NACs to focus on community priorities. Supporting the NACs during the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year will continue to be the focus of the SPA 8 Council's work.

In addition to the core operating and organizing support for each of the NACs, SPA 8 convenes two School Readiness conferences each year to bring all of the NACs together, along with other interested community members. SPA 8 has now convened ten (10) conferences, which average 700-800 participants, with more than 200 children in childcare alone.

The purpose of the Council's community building efforts is to empower residents in the SPA 8 region to act on their own behalf. The SPA 8 Council believes, and the NACs have demonstrated, that when people are brought together and enabled to connect around shared values, they are capable of impacting their own lives and the life of their community in positive ways. SPA 8 region residents affiliated with the SPA are interested in taking leadership roles in their communities and in developing the skills necessary to effect the changes they want to see

in their neighborhoods. The SPA 8 Council believes that residents working together, with consistent support and encouragement by the Council, are the key to positively impacting the lives of children and families. The Council has seen this impact not only through the social networks and increased capacity of residents, but also through the concrete skills development and specific action taken by residents groups.

The SPA 8 Council 2006-2007 Goals:

- 1) Support the network of 23 NACs with staff, resources, and capacity building opportunities through the Community Building Institute (CBI) and at the local level through key partners.
 - a. Encourage NACs to become autonomous, while maintaining a strong relationship with their organizer and the Council
 - b. Provide four of the NACs a nine-week Leadership training program through the YMCA of Greater Long Beach
 - c. Provide customized skills development training to the NACs tailored to their individual projects and goals
- 2) Support and encourage collaboration between the NACs.
 - a. All SPA 8 youth NACs will design and implement a youth conference scheduled for November 4, 2006 that will be held concurrently with the SPA 8 Council's 11th School Readiness Conference (YAC and LIA will take the lead on this)
 - b. Support the Long Beach NACs in continuing to establish strong relationships and participating in joint projects because they share many of the same issues, are within a two mile radius, and are all parents of elementary school-aged children
 - c. Seek out other strategic opportunities for groups to collaborate on projects based on shared values
- 3) Host two School Readiness Community conferences, one on November 4, 2006 and another in the spring of 2007.
- 4) As part of the CPC's broader Family Economic Success Initiative to be implemented through the system of SPA/AIC Councils, the SPA 8 Council will provide all interested NACs with tools to achieve Family Economic Success.
- 5) Have each group design and implement at least three projects in their community throughout the year.
- 6) Support and participate in the CPC's Countywide Youth Leadership Conference scheduled for September 9, 2006.

Bold Policies

The SPA 8 Council will connect local public policy issues to the CPC's broader focus on creating bold policies for children and families. Over the last four years, the NACs have actively contributed to public policy change at the neighborhood level. For example, one public policy impact that NAC members recently contributed to was a request for resources in the form of small grants from the Los Angeles County Health and Human Service Departments. The NAC members collected and submitted hundreds of signatures to the Los Angeles County Department directors who participated in a Community Forum Feedback Session convened in January 2006.

SPA 8 NACs have also impacted the relationships between schools and parents through a collaborative relationship building approach. In four of our NACs, teachers are more open to accepting the leadership of parents and collaborating with them as equal partners in such projects as school gardens, community outreach fairs, as well as being open to suggestions for improvements in elective curriculum. In several schools, parent participation in school governance councils has increased. We have seen a genuine and authentic acceptance of parents' leadership that was not a part of the school climate before the NAC was formed. At Willard, Stevenson, and Cesar Chavez, the attitude of the principals toward parental involvement has changed as a result of the NACs. The ability of the parents to contribute to the well-being of the school has resulted in the principals consulting with the NACs about the school environment and how they can, together, make it better. Parents report that they feel respected and are viewed as assets to the schools, which conversely help them feel more motivated to engage with their children's school, to participate in learning activities at the school, and to work to improve the school environment, ensuring that it is clean

and safe. The principals have reported that they have seen an increase in parent participation on campus playing leadership roles and providing support since the development of the NACs.

What are the steps necessary to accomplish your goal and specific objectives?

The SPA 8 Council 2006-2007 Goals:

Goal # 1: Support our on-going groups with staff, resources, and capacity building opportunities.

In order to accomplish this goal, the Council will:

- Strengthen and expand the NACs, support NACs to become more autonomous while maintaining a strong relationship with their organizer and the SPA Council.
- Provide nine-week leadership training through YMCA of Greater Long Beach for four NACs.
- Based on projects and goals selected by the NACs, the Council will provide specific skills development training such as learning how to lead a meeting, organization skills, learning what is necessary to plan an implement an event, learning skills necessary to engage in effective advocacy, learning asset-based neighborhood research, learning how to evaluate the success of an event as well as learning about relationship-based organizing skills.
- Provide the three community organizers, who are the most essential tool for achieving the Council's goals because of their continued relationship building efforts with the NACs, institutional partner agencies, and potential new partners.
- Provide financial resources and partnerships to facilitate NAC trainings, such as leadership training through the South Bay Center for Counseling's Partnership for Families Program and family economic skills through the Loyola Marymount Small Business Center and Broad Spectrum.
- Mini-grant funds to fund NAC-driven projects.

Goal #2: Support and encourage collaboration between the groups.

In order to accomplish this goal the Council will:

- All SPA 8 youth NACs will design and implement a youth conference to be held on November 4, 2006 during the 11th SPA 8 School Readiness Conference
- To convene youth conference planning meetings
- Support our youth groups in developing stronger relationships with each other through a youth designed and implemented social outing between the YAC & LIA during the summer
- Allocate financial resources to support joint projects and the fall youth conference
- To convene a meeting of all the Long Beach NACs to determine what public policy concerns they share and what action they would like to pursue
- To convene NACs across geographic regions to determine how they might partner on projects, programs or events, or public policy concerns
- Continue to share information between NACs and encourage participation in other NAC events
- Review feedback from SPA 8 Community Forums to pursue potential arenas of joint NAC action on public policy issues
- To identify common areas of interest or concerns that all of our NACs may wish to focus on

Goal #3: Host two community conferences: one on November 4, 2006 and one in the spring of 2007.

In order to accomplish this goal the Council will:

- Consult with NACs to determine the focus of the November 4th conference.
- Partner with NACs to conduct afternoon workshop sessions at the November 4th Conference
- Mobilize NACs to attend the November 4th conference
- Mobilize institutional organizations such as SPA 8 Family Support Collaborative, South Bay Center for Counseling School Readiness Collaborative, South Bay Center for Counseling Partnerships for Families, business partners such as Conoco Phillips, Exxon-Mobil, BP, Valero, United Way, and United Steel workers Union to sponsor and attend the SPA 8 November 4th School Readiness Conference
- Identify public policy issues related to the focus of the conference
- Mobilize NACs to work on public policy issues related to the November 4th School Readiness Conference
- Allocate sufficient financial resources to support the November 4th School Readiness Conference
- Invite Senator John Edwards to be the keynote speaker at the November 4th Conference
- Invite Supervisor Don Knabe to give the opening welcome at the November 4th Conference

Goal #4: Partner with NACs to implement a Family Economic Success (FES) initiative that includes strategies related to asset building workforce/economic development, family supports, tax credits, and small business development.

In order to achieve the FES goal's the Council will:

- Partner with Broad Spectrum Community Development Corporation to provide financial literacy workshops to all the NACs
- Partner with the Loyola Marymount Small Business Development Center to provide support services to all NAC members wanting to start their own business
- Partner with South Bay Center for Counseling's Energy Career Pathway Program to provide access to high wage refinery jobs for NAC members
- Partner with South Bay Center for Counseling's Turnaround staffing company's placement program, to provide access to jobs for NAC members interested in applying
- Partner with Conoco Phillips to provide education regarding internship programs available for local youth through the refinery
- Partner with South Bay Center for Counseling's Family Support Program to provide access to youth summer internships for NAC members and their children.
- Partner with colleges to conduct outreach at the School Readiness conferences via informational booths
- Provide a space for employers to outreach at the conferences. Provide access to everything listed above to all of the NACs through presentations, written handouts, and one-on-one outreach

Goal #5: Each NAC will design and implement at least three projects in their community throughout the year.

In order to accomplish this goal we need:

- Mini-grants
- The 10 step training process designed by SPA 8 to help residents plan and implement projects

- Community Action research to evaluate effectiveness of NAC projects

Goal #6: Support the CPC Countywide youth conference.

In order to accomplish this goal the Council will:

- Participate in CPC SPA/AIC Council planning process for the youth conference
- Outreach to SPA 8 youth to encourage participation in the youth conference
- Attend the Youth conference

What are the strategic opportunities inside of your SPA that will help you reach your goal?

The strong network of NACs across the geography of SPA 8 and the convening of that network twice a year to commit to continuing work at the neighborhood level to build the capacity of families and communities to act on their own behalf continues to be a strategic opportunity that will enable us to meet all of our stated goals.

Responsive Institutions

Partnerships with CBOs are the second significant “strategic opportunity” inside the SPA that help the Council reach its goals. Many community-based and governmental organizations have dedicated time and resources to partner with the SPA Council to develop the NACs. The Council has also established a new partnership with the Casey Family Program that will provide additional support in achieving the Council’s goals.

Family Economic Success

As a result of the Energy Career Pathway Initiative, a partnership between South Bay Center for Counseling, SPA 8 Family Support Collaborative, Conoco Phillips, Exxon-Mobil, BP and Valero to facilitate neighborhood based economic development, SPA 8 NACs have access to a career pathway to refinery jobs paying \$70,000 a year. In addition, several new career pathways are being developed by South Bay Center for Counseling that will result in employment opportunities in financial institutions such as Wells Fargo and other advanced manufacturing jobs in process plant technology such as Edison and Waste Management plants. In addition, as a result of a partnership between South Bay Center for Counseling and Loyola Marymount Small Business Development Center, opportunities to create small neighborhood based businesses will be available to all NACs. These small business development services are available to all residents including undocumented individuals.

SPA 8 has a broad-based coalition that includes Family Support Partners, cities, private employers, school districts, faith-based organizations, Head Start, community development corporations, universities, banks, and residents. Among its most significant partners are the South Bay Center for Counseling and the SPA 8 Family Support Collaborative without which this work would be more difficult to accomplish.

The vision and commitment of the SPA 8 Steering Committee composed of thirty residents and representatives from each County department is a huge factor in why the SPA 8 Council will achieve its goals for 2006-2007. The Steering Committee is dedicated to supporting the NACs and doing everything they can to move the SPA 8 Council’s community building agenda forward. The Steering Committee members dedicate time and resources to the conferences and attend SPA functions on weekends.

Child Abuse Prevention Initiative

A newly formed partnership between South Bay Center for Counseling Family Support Collaborative, SPA 8, South Bay Center for Counseling School Readiness Initiative, Casey Family Program, and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services is another strategic opportunity that SPA 8 will pursue in fiscal year 2006-2007. Working with the Casey Family Program, the Fries Elementary School NAC and the Torrance Office of the Department of Children and Family Services, will be implementing a prevention initiative that includes three strategic components: community organizing, economic development, and a service delivery system that will include both traditional and non-traditional family strengthening activities to be provided by the South Bay Center for Counseling Family Support Collaborative. The goal is to outreach and include families at risk in the Fries Elementary School NAC and to connect them to social supports that will reduce isolation, improve the parent/child bond, and provide family support.

What opportunities to provide capacity building (education and skills training) in arenas such as coalition work, field organizing, message development, political analysis, etc. will you provide?

SPA 8 organizers and Steering Committee have provided and will continue to provide opportunities for coalition work. All of the Council's community building work can be characterized as coalition building. The SPA 8 Council will continue to expand the coalitions that support its community building work. New partners include Broad Spectrum, a CDC (Community Development Corporation) as well as Loyola Marymount Small Business Development Center, and Casey Family Program Services. The Council is currently outreaching to a coalition of grassroots faith-based organizations, including churches such as the Faith Christina Center in Gardena, to invite them to join the Council's community building work. In addition, the Council is outreaching to the Asian American Drug and Alcohol Prevention (AADAP). The Council will augment its extensive capacity building through relationships with education and skills development trainings. The specific trainings that will be provided will be dictated by the needs of each NAC, based on their development and the projects they take on in the next year.

The Council will continue to develop new leadership by adding interested parents and youth to the SPA 8 Steering Committee. The Council currently has five NAC members on the Steering Committee and plans to add an additional four in the next year.

At each of the conferences convened in 2005-2006, many of the workshops were led by residents and hosted by the NACs. This activity has provided a unique leadership development opportunity for parents and youth in the SPA. The Council will continue this leadership development opportunity in 2006-2007. In addition, the November 4th, 2006 School Readiness Conference will provide a new opportunity for SPA 8 youth NACs to develop leadership and organizing skills. They will be planning and implementing their own conference to be held on conjunction with the 11th School Readiness Conference. In addition, at the November 4th, 2006 School Readiness Conference we will increase the number of NACs that lead afternoon workshops to three.

2. What Results Do You Want to Achieve by June 30, 2006?

Please describe the Long Term Organizing and Engagement Goal beyond 2006:

Continue to support the NACs engaged in relationship building, group development, skills development, and designing and implementing projects.

One long-term organizing and engagement goal is the implementation of a substantive FES initiative across the network of 23 NACs. There will be different elements of FES that each NAC will choose to implement. Since this conversation with the NACs was initiated at the 10th School Readiness Conference entitled "Opening the Doors...to Family and Neighborhood Economic Success" it is impossible to predict which strategy each NAC will choose. Some NACs will focus first on asset-building, some on workforce and economic development, some of financial literacy and tax credits, and some will focus on small business development. Many of the NACs are already focusing on neighborhood-based creative financial solutions to economic issues that affect them. Several NACs are talking about pooling their individual economic resources to create a fund from which they can borrow money. Some residents in the Long Beach NACs are talking about pooling resources to start neighborhood-based small businesses. Two NACs in Wilmington are exploring the possibility of a community garden so that they can grow some of their own food and perhaps sell the excess to a local grocer. All of the NACs are focusing on ideas and activities that will increase the safety and security of their own neighborhood. In the last quarter of 2005-2006, many NACs implemented projects designed to increase participation in the NACs and create an enhanced sense of community in the neighborhood. These projects included community fairs, community picnics, as well as community clean-ups. The long term goal of the NACs will be to build on the momentum that was created by these initial projects. In all of the Family Economic Success work that the NACs are doing, they are looking at the gifts, talents, and assets of people in the neighborhood as a starting point in their planning.

The SPA 8 Council believes that many individuals, families, communities, organizations, and institutions will be impacted by our results.

The SPA 8 Council believes that in order to demonstrate that its community building/organizing approach is actually making a positive impact in the lives of children and families, the Council must put in place a process to capture information on the Council's successes, strategies, processes, and outcomes that will tell a story about the kinds of changes made in local communities through our efforts. Moreover, because the Council wants to be accountable to the families, communities, and foundations that we partner with in these efforts, monitoring and evaluating this work using data is critical. Data on the work of the Council must be collected frequently to be useful and will require an investment of time, resources, and knowledge from Council Conveners and members in order to be successful. Therefore, the Council will use a Results Based Accountability (RBA) approach that will begin to collect primary data sources from the Council's activities and to look at data as a tool that measures the same observable fact, i.e. an indicator, a mobilization, a strategy, etc., over time. The Council will use the following approaches:

- Tracking the number of NAC meetings held
- Number of residents at NAC meetings
- Monthly organizer reports (including group progress, trainings and projects)
- Monthly Steering Committee minutes
- Regional Council Meeting minutes
- Conference data (to be turned in to CPC with our quarterly reports)

Please identify your quarterly benchmarks:

➤ **First Quarter: July - September**

- On-going Support of 23 NACs
- Each NAC (if ready) will complete one project
- Provide FES training to 25% of interested NACs
- Strengthen relationships between existing youth groups with a relationship building event planned by youth. Potential activities include a youth group picnic or a bonfire at the beach where they can all interact with each other and get to know one another better
- Assist all SPA 8 youth groups in planning a youth conference for November 4th, 2006
- Begin planning for the 11th School Readiness Conference
- Work with two banks to establish a small business fund for NAC members
- Provide YMCA Leadership Training to one NAC with the support of the Partnership for Families Program (PFF)
- Participate in the CPC Countywide Youth Conference
- The SPA 8 Child Care Providers Workgroup will meet with LAUP (First 5LA) to establish a mentorship program for family child care providers in a designated "hot zone" in Long Beach
- Skills development training for all NACs
- Outreach to and recruit NAC members for job placement through the SBCC/Family Support Job Placement Company, including providing vocational English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Convene a meeting of all the Long Beach NACs to see where their self interest intersects and if there are any additional opportunities for collaboration

➤ **Second Quarter: October - December**

- On-going Support of 23 NACs
- Provide FES Training to 25% of interested NACs
- Provide YMCA Leadership Training to one NAC with the support of the PFF Program
- Convene the 11th SPA 8 School Readiness Conference
- Convene the Youth Conference
- Skills development training for the NACs based on current goals
- Outreach to and recruit NAC members for job placement through SBCC/Family Support Job Placement Company, including providing vocational ESL

- **Third Quarter: January - March**
 - On-going Support of 23 NACs
 - Provide FES Training to 25% of interested NACs
 - Each NAC (if interested) will complete one project
 - Initiate planning for 12th SPA 8 School Readiness Conference
 - Provide YMCA Leadership Training to one NAC with the support of the PFF Program
 - Skills development training for all NACs based on current goals
 - Outreach to and recruit NAC members for job placement through SBCC/Family Support Job Placement Company, including providing vocational ESL to those who require it

- **Fourth Quarter: April - June**
 - On-going Support of 23 NACs
 - Provide FES Training to 25% of interested NACs
 - Each NAC (if interested) will complete one project
 - Implement the 12th SPA 8 School Readiness Conference
 - Implement SPA Youth Conference
 - By the end of the 2006-2007 at least five NAC members will have participated in Small Business Development Workshops
 - Skills development training for the NACs based on current goals
 - Outreach to and recruit NAC members for job placement through SBCC/Family Support Job Placement Company, including providing vocational ESL
 - Provide YMCA Leadership Training to one NAC with the support of the PFF Program