



UPGRADE FOR UPLIFT

A Capacity Building Project of

The Howard University Center for Urban Progress and
The Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers

February 12, 2010

Dear community-based service provider:

We are contacting you to let you know about a new program designed to help you to upgrade the capacity and effectiveness of your organization. The Howard University Center for Urban Progress (CUP) and Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers (WG) are pleased to announce the *UPGRADE FOR UPLIFT* project, providing training, technical assistance, and capacity-building grants to grassroots faith- and community-based organizations located in Washington, DC. Our hope is that these capacity-building services will help to increase your long-term sustainability, expand your services, and strengthen your organization's assets, infrastructure, leadership and management, and your community engagement and outreach.

These capacity-building resources are being targeted to organizations that provide a safety net for residents most vulnerable to conditions of economic downturn. An organization does not have to have 501(c)3 status to qualify. To take advantage of the *UPGRADE FOR UPLIFT* capacity building support activities, an organization must have conducted programs and provided services consistently for at least one year in Wards 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, or 8 for low-income clients, such as the unemployed, homeless, public housing residents, elders in need, at-risk youth, substance users, HIV positive clients and their families, immigrant groups, persons in transition from welfare to work or incarceration to work, and other residents adversely affected by poverty.

During 2010, we hope to partner with 25 faith- and community-based organizations to provide formal training and on-site technical assistance. Up to 10 participating organizations will be selected in a competitive process to receive capacity building grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000. In awarding the grants, priority will be given to organizations that currently do not, or have never received federal funding, and organizations with annual budgets of less than \$500,000.

UPGRADE FOR UPLIFT is made possible with funding provided by the Compassion Capital Fund of the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families. The Center for Urban Progress has 15 years experience supporting local partnerships and community development; increasing the availability of affordable housing; and providing research, monitoring and evaluation services, training opportunities for residents, and capacity building support for small businesses. The Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers partners with governments and nonprofits and builds relationships among grantmakers to support effective and efficient charitable investment in the local region. The organization also provides management and governance oversight to the Community Development Support Collaborative, and the Washington AIDS Partnership.

The application deadline for participation in the *UPGRADE FOR UPLIFT* project is 6pm, Monday, March 15, 2010. An orientation for interested organizations will be held March 8, 2010 at the Center for Urban Progress. You can get copies of the application materials by calling 202-865-8588; emailing our program coordinator at wheeler_winstead@hotmail.com; or at the HU Center for Urban Progress - 1840 - 7th Street, NW; DC 20001. The application can also be accessed and submitted online at www.coas.howard.edu/hucup/upgradeforuplift

We look forward to hearing from you and working together to increase your capacity to serve Washington, DC's neediest citizens.

Sincerely,

Sandra Rattley

Sandra Rattley, Project Director