

## **Application to Serve on the Oversight Committee**

**1. What is your organization's history working in City Heights?**

Horn of Africa is in the front lines when it comes to working with families in City Heights. Ever since its inception in 1994, Horn of Africa has provided services to East African refugees and immigrants in City Heights. During this period of time, Horn of Africa has developed a very good partnership over the years with other organizations that are having a significant impact on residents of City Heights. Horn of Africa has ever since its inception developed a working relationship that continues till today with agencies and entities such as SAY San Diego, International Rescue Committee, Price Charities, MidCity CAN, Community Housing Works, City Heights Community Development Corp and many other ethnic organizations that make City Heights the place that it is today. Horn of Africa has carried out over 60 programs successfully since its inception. Many of these programs have shown to considerably improve the livelihood of City Heights families through independent evaluations. It has carried out major pilot initiatives of national foundations such as The Annie E. Casey Foundation and The California Endowment who has supported the organizations for the past 10 years and indicated their continued support in the future.

**2. Does your organization have an established base of residents with whom it works? Please explain.**

Yes! Horn of Africa has several thousand Somali families who have used the agency's services for the past 14 years and rely on the Horn for a significant portion of their social services. Many of these families have come to regard Horn of Africa as a voice that advocates on their behalf. Throughout its existence, the overwhelming majority of families that use the agency's services are Somali families living in City Heights. Horn of Africa played a significant role in the development of the Multi-cultural Police Store Front and advocating for Somali community service officers to be stationed there. Horn of Africa therefore feels its track record in working with residents of City Heights is impressive.

**3. What role does your organization envision fulfilling during the 9-month planning process? What expertise and resources will your organization offer and on which outcome area(s) will you focus?**

Horn of Africa has over its 15 years of existence developed certain expertise when it comes to dealing with the Somali population of City Heights that no other entity has developed. Horn of Africa has carried out programs from foundations to Local governments to the Federal government with each having its own unique challenges. We hope to serve on the committee to provide expertise in working with population and therefore strengthening the confidence of the funder that the views and needs of the Somali population has not been overlooked. We hope to offer expertise on outcome 2, 3,5,7 and 8.

**4. How is your organization representative of the diverse communities of people who live in City Heights?**

Horn of Africa has always strived to serve a special niche so to develop expertise in this the area of working with East African or Somali families. We work closely with other organizations that serve the larger community through programs. We have worked with organizations such as SAY San Diego, The Union of Pan Asian Communities and others in the past and as of today in order to meet the needs of City Heights. Horn of Africa can indeed prove to be a valuable asset in this important process that will address the needs of City Heights resident.

If more information is needed, please contact

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