



Somali Family Service

Serving the Community in San Diego

April 21, 2009

Dear Resident Committee,

With a long history of working with Mid-City CAN, many other San Diego community organizations, and the City Heights population, we are excited about this California Endowment project. Somali Family Service (SFS) fully supports and wants to be involved in this planning process and beyond. Many of the "Building Healthy Communities" outcomes are relevant to the work we have been doing in the community for years. We understand the scope of work involved and out of our commitment to City Heights residents would be happy to commit to this process and share our experience in working with the underserved refugee population.

Access to quality health care and improving language barriers, especially among the most vulnerable senior population, are our top priorities. SFS has also been working with refugee youth for the past 10 years and we are currently looking for ways to improve youth health and diet.

As a grassroots organization that works closely with numerous other community stakeholders and residents, we have firsthand experience of the culturally diverse community in City Heights. SFS specializes in working with the East African refugee and immigrant population.

As a small office we are currently utilizing community residents as volunteers and staff. We have one office space that could be shared for this project. We are committed to the California Endowment's planning process and will share our knowledge and resources to reach a successful outcome that represents the wide range of community interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ahmed Sahid
Executive Director, Somali Family Service