

News Release

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W.K. Kellogg Foundation Awards the Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies Grant to Fund Community-Based Emotional Resiliency Work in New Orleans

New Orleans, LA-The W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan recently funded awarded the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies' (IWES) Collective for Healthy Community (CHC) Program in New Orleans, Louisiana. The program is designed to increase access to community-based emotional resiliency and collective efficacy activities for low-income children and their families.

“In the aftermath of a disaster such as Hurricane Katrina, affording the most vulnerable amongst us, socio-economically disadvantaged children and their families, the opportunity to address their cumulative trauma is key to restoring a vibrant and just New Orleans,” said Dr. Denese Shervington, IWES CEO and Program Director. “Unresolved traumas contribute to post traumatic stress disorder, depression, substance abuse and violence-conditions that are increasingly prevalent in New Orleans since Katrina.”

The CHC program efforts will focus on: 1) promoting wellness and mental health for school age children and their families; 2) collaborating with local community leaders in education and, health and community building to address multi-faceted approaches to support emotional healing; and 3) creating a field guide for community based organization, which will address emotional resiliency, racial healing and civic engagement.

“We intend to work collaboratively with the New Orleans Health Department and Metropolitan Human Services District to assure that necessary post-disaster and trauma-based mental health services are strategically planned and integrated into the public mental health system,” said Dr. Shervington, who is a board certified psychiatrist as well as a public health specialist.

Founded in 1993, IWES is a national nonprofit community-based public health organization headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana and is dedicated to improving the physical, mental, spiritual health and quality of life for women of color and their families. To learn more about the organization please visit www.iwesnola.org

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930, supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. The Foundation provides grants throughout the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa.

For further information on the foundation, please visit www.wkkf.org

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