



City of Lawrence

2015 Social Service Funding Application – Non-Alcohol Funds

SECTION 1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Legal Name of Agency: The Lawrence Alliance

Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: Festival of Cultures / Community Education & Outreach

Primary Contact Information (must be available by phone 5/23/14 and 5/30/14 from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Contact Name and Title: Baha Safadi, Chair or Cynthia Colbert, Treasurer

Address: P.O. Box 442069

Telephone: 785-550-3427 or 785-218-9248 Fax: _____

Email: alliance@lawrencealliance.org

SECTION 2. REQUEST INFORMATION

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2015: **\$_4,000_**
- B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities?) If so, please describe: **Equipment necessary to conduct the Festival of Cultures, and facilities for Community Dialogue Dinner.**
- C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds? If so, how: **N/A**
- D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2014? If so, list the amount and source for funding (i.e. General Fund, Alcohol Fund, etc.): **N/A**
1. How would any reduction in city funding in 2015 impact your agency? **Approximately more than 10 years ago, the Lawrence Alliance received funding by the city, the University of Kansas and USD497. The University of Kansas and USD 497 have not been active with the Alliance in years. The Lawrence Alliance has been subsisting on those funds for over the past years since. The operating funds for the Alliance are depleted to almost zero. In 2013 and 2014, the Alliance has been operating on a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission and other donations. Those funds are not guaranteed for the future and are not sufficient to cover the Lawrence Alliance's desire to grow the annual community celebration of diversity, The Festival of Cultures. Conducting and expanding the Festival of Cultures as well as the programs of the Lawrence Alliance would become increasingly difficult, if not impossible.**
- 90- 2. If you are requesting an increase in funding over 2014, please explain why and exactly how the additional funds will be used: **N/A**

SECTION 3. PROGRAM BUDGET INFORMATION

- A. Provide a detailed budget for the proposed program using the following categories: personnel (list each staff position individually and note if new or existing), fringe benefits, travel, office space, supplies, equipment, other.

PERSONNEL	NONE		
FRINGE BENEFITS	NONE		
TRAVEL	NONE		
OFFICE SPACE	NONE		
SUPPLIES			
	Festival Children's Arts/Crafts materials, tablecloths, booth and directional signs	Existing	\$300.00

	Training/Discussion/networking group refreshments	New	\$200.00
EQUIPMENT			
	DJ and sound system	Existing	\$600.00
	Festival of Cultures/Hospitality Tent and Banner	New	\$350.00
	Festival of Cultures / Truck Rental (including fuel)	Existing	\$100.00
	Festival of Cultures / Bounce House Rental	Existing	\$160.00
OTHER			
	Dialogue Dinner Facilities & supplies	New	\$500.00
	Event Flyers and Signs	New	\$400.00
	Festival of Cultures Portable Restrooms (3)	Existing	\$300.00
	Outreach for Festival of Cultures, including advertising and promotional materials	New	\$1,000.00
	P.O. Box Rental	Existing	\$90.00
	TOTAL		\$4,000.00

- B. What percent of 2015 program costs are being requested from the City? **99%**
- C. Provide a list of all anticipated sources of funding and funding amount for this program in 2015: **\$250 in table fees for the festival.**

SECTION 4. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM / NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY PROGRAM

- A. Provide a brief statement of the problem or need your agency proposes to address with the requested funding and/or the impact of not funding this program. The statement should include characteristics of the client population that will be served by this program. If possible, include statistical data to document this need.
- 1. Conduct the annual Festival of Cultures. In order to demonstrate that we are a united community that values diversity and in keeping with the City Commission goal of keeping Lawrence a great place to live by providing excellent services and programs for the community, the festival will feature exhibits, performances, and demonstrations by both new and established residents of various cultures. Music and dance performances are complemented by tables with native food, crafts and activities representing many cultures. The festival is in its 6th year and it is the goal of the Lawrence Alliance to grow this event as each year goes by. Funding this event will result in a 50% increase in attendees and participants in the festival.**
 - 2. Hold discussion/networking events to bring community, cultural and faith-based organizations and residents together to help resolve conflicts and promote unity.**
 - 3. Provide additional culture-specific diversity/sensitivity training to local and regional law enforcement agencies beyond what is provided by their corresponding agencies in order to better understand the behaviors, beliefs, and traditions of the various minority residents in Lawrence, such as residents from Native American tribes, Germany, England, Japan, China, Korea, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Panama, Paraguay, Brazil, Polynesian, Hispanic/Latino descent, African-American, Middle Eastern descent and many others.**

- B. How was the need for this program determined? **The Lawrence Alliance is an advisory board of the City of Lawrence and its purpose is to advocate for Lawrence citizens and work with the City Commission to create a discrimination-free environment in Lawrence. There is a continuing need for an organization that can work to bring various cultures, new and existing residents, and faith-based organizations together to promote unity and prevent discrimination.**
- C. Why should this problem/need be addressed by the City? **Lawrence is unlike any other Kansas city in the richness and diverse cultures represented in its population. We desire to highlight and celebrate this community strength to attract visitors, new residents, and even new businesses to our community. Showing our community pride in our cultural diversity will also help our current residents of various cultures know we value and support them. The Alliance can bring together residents of all cultures and aid them in obtaining the assistance they seek as well as providing a sense of belonging and community.**
- D. How does the program align with the Community Health Plan (see page one)? **The Festival of Cultures helps to unite the community, provides a learning experience for all citizens, and is a one stop shop for resident networking with the various cultures and community organizations represented. Residents that feel they are a part of the whole community are more likely to take pride in the community, making Lawrence more attractive to prospective residents, students, and businesses. The educational programs of The Lawrence Alliance provide a bridge between law enforcement and the community.**

SECTION 5. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM SERVICES

- A. Provide a brief description of the service you will provide and explain how it will respond to the need you identified in Section 4. The description should include how many clients will be served, and should describe as specifically as possible the interaction that will take place between the provider and the user of the service.

The Festival of Cultures is a celebration of the many diverse cultures in Lawrence, Kansas and their contributions to the community. Held annually every fall, it showcases the wide variety of cultures found in Lawrence, in a family friendly atmosphere. The target audience is all citizens of Lawrence, Kansas. Over 1,000 attendees are expected at the 2015 festival. Over 30 international and other University of Kansas students are provided an enriching and rewarding experience as festival volunteers.

Citizens visiting the Festival of Cultures enjoy an afternoon of ethnic and regional folk music and dance, a wide range of food, unique arts and crafts, children's crafts and many cultural booths and displays. In addition, there are informational displays by social service organizations. A video of a past festival performance can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPCc9pFFVMw>. Also see attached photos.

The Lawrence Alliance conducts networking/outreach events between cultural and faith-based organizations in an effort to strengthen the bonds of those organizations and aid them in better serving the Lawrence community. It is the goal of the Lawrence Alliance to provide networking/outreach to a minimum of 10 to 20 organizations and cultural groups.

The Lawrence Alliance provides diversity/cultural/sensitivity training to many law enforcement personnel from the Lawrence Kansas Police Department, the University of Kansas Police department and the Douglas County Sheriff's Department each year. Law Enforcement officers often face the challenges of understanding and interpreting the behaviors, attitudes and actions of culturally and linguistically diverse citizens. However, the more training that law enforcement officers receive, the greater the awareness and insight they will have into the unique cultural and customary practices of the citizens they encounter. This provides better communication with law enforcement and in turn helps foster strengthened community relations. Training is also provided to social service organizations in Lawrence by request. It is the goal of the Lawrence Alliance to expand its outreach to more local organizations by 10% each year.

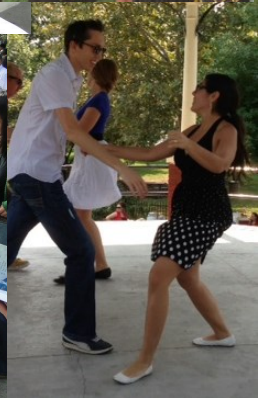
- A. What other agencies in the community are providing similar types of services. What efforts have you made to avoid duplication or coordinate services with those agencies? **There are no agencies within the community that provides the unique services of The Lawrence Alliance. The Lawrence Human Relations Division and Human Relations Commission is a civil rights enforcement agency that investigates and makes rulings on complaints of discrimination. The Lawrence Alliance works to prevent discrimination by bringing together all factions of the community and provide education through training, networking, and the annual festival.**

SECTION 6. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2015. Objectives should demonstrate the purpose of the program and measure the amount of service delivered or the effectiveness of the services delivered. A time frame and numerical goal should also be included. Examples include, "75% of clients receiving job training will retain their job one year after being hired," "increased fundraising efforts will result in a 15% increase in donations in 2015," "credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2015," etc. **Applicants will be expected to report their progress toward meeting these objectives in their six-month and annual reports to the City.**

- 1. Increase promotion of the Lawrence Alliance Festival of Cultures to increase participation and attendance, with a goal of over 1,000 attendees.**
- 2. Organize a "Dialogue Dinner" between the diverse communities and local law enforcement to promote dialogue and understanding while upholding Lawrence's values of community and collaboration.**
- 3. Provide diversity/cultural/sensitivity training to over 150 law enforcement personnel (Lawrence, Kansas Police Department, University of Kansas Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.**

The Lawrence Alliance Festival of Cultures



History

The Lawrence Alliance, a community-based non-profit organization, was formed in 1991. In July 1990, a Community Task Force on Racism, Discrimination and Human Diversity was set up by the Lawrence City Commission at the request of an ad hoc work group that included faculty and administrators from KU and Haskell Indian Junior College and representatives from the city's Human Relations Commission. The Task Force was formed to discuss possible discrimination in Lawrence and ease tensions surrounding the recent deaths of many Native Americans.

In 1991, the Task Force recommended the formation of the Lawrence Alliance Against Racism and Discrimination. Today, the alliance is referred to simply as the Lawrence Alliance. The City Commission officially created the Lawrence Alliance at its August 27, 1991 meeting. The Alliance is in partnership with the City of Lawrence, Kansas University, Haskell Indian Nations University, and the USD 497 school district. The Alliance coalitions with other groups to discourage discrimination and promote community and tolerance in Lawrence.

About

The Lawrence Alliance

- The Lawrence Alliance is a partnership of Unified School District 497, the City of Lawrence, Haskell Indian Nations University, and the University of Kansas.
- The Lawrence Alliance is community members and volunteers committed to action.
- The Lawrence Alliance is contributors of all types: everyone with something to share can be part of The Lawrence Alliance.

Mission Statement

That we may continually eliminate discrimination in our city, and that we may move with purpose toward the day when tolerance and justice flourish unhindered within and beyond our city limits.

The Lawrence Alliance will provide a listening ear in our community, making its presence known, gathering information, and providing information to the city's government and its citizens, advocating for the changes that must come.



April 29, 2014
Andi Witczak
1450 Jayhawk Blvd, Room 150
Center for Civic and Social Responsibility
University of Kansas

I write on behalf of the Center for Civic and Social Responsibility to support the Lawrence Alliance proposal to the City of Lawrence for Festival of Cultures funding. The Festival of Cultures increases multicultural awareness and appreciation for diversity among the Lawrence community. We strongly support this grant application and the outlet it provides members of the KU community to both represent and learn about the many cultures represented in Lawrence.

As an organization that works to foster student civic engagement and social responsibility, we feel that opportunities like the Festival of Cultures enhance student cultural awareness and support their engagement in a broader society. The Festival has become a staple of student involvement, and we look forward to promoting the Festival of Cultures to students so that they can participate as representatives of their own culture, as attendees learning about other cultures, and as volunteers supporting this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andi Witczak'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andi Witczak
Director, Center for Civic & Social Responsibility

Centro Hispano Resource Center

204 West 13th Street • Lawrence, KS 66044 • Phone 785-843-2039

Website: www.centrohispanolawrence.org • Email: centrohispanovolunteer@gmail.com

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Andrea Witczak

Director

Center for Service Learning

University of Kansas

Peter C Haney, Ph.D.

Assistant Director

Center for Latin American

Studies

University of Kansas

Aida Ramos Viera

Ph.D. Student, Geography

University of Kansas

Leah Wisdom

Specialist, Curriculum &

Instruction ESL & MTSS

AVID District Director

Lawrence Public Schools

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of the Lawrence Alliance's request for funding. Lawrence Alliance has been a great source of support for the Latino community in Lawrence, Kansas. The Alliance has served the Latino community by helping to connect Latinos to vital services in regards to discrimination complaints in the areas of housing, employment, and access to community services. Please support this important organization so that Latinos can continue to benefit from their organizational efforts.

Sincerely,

Sally Sanko

Case Manager



The Plymouth Language Program

925 Vermont St.
Lawrence, KS 66046

*Expand Your Mind
Expand Your World*

May 2, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the Lawrence Alliance and the Festival of Cultures. This event is led by hard working, devoted professionals who have consistently created a one of a kind event exhibiting the City of Lawrence's devotion to multiculturalism and inclusivity.

For many years the Plymouth Language Program has participated in the Festival of Cultures. Not only has it proven to be a valuable way for our non-profit to advertise to potential students and volunteers, but it has also fomented important relationships which have been invaluable to our program. This open and vitalizing environment is one of the things which makes the Festival of Cultures so important. The interrelationships between the many cultures of Lawrence is one of our greatest strengths, and the Lawrence Alliance has worked tirelessly to promote it.

As director of a cultural program, I have seen many attempts to encourage this type of interaction and environment. None of them, however, have proved to be as successful and long lasting as the City Alliance's Festival of Cultures. With financial support from our community I am certain that the Festival of Cultures will both continue and continue to grow and I highly recommend it for your support.

Sincerely,

Joshua Spain
Director, Plymouth Language Program

Festival showcases 'beauty' of cultures in Lawrence

September 25, 2011

The smell of ethnic food — Ethiopian samosas, Panamanian tamales, Navajo tacos — and music filled South Park on Sunday, marking the fourth annual Festival of Cultures.

Cultural representatives set up booths Sunday, offering residents a taste of their country's food, history and culture.

Baha Safadi, chairman of the Lawrence Alliance, which hosted the event, said food and music create the perfect way for residents to showcase their ethnic backgrounds.

"The whole point is togetherness and for the city of Lawrence to showcase its beauty," said Safadi, who moved to Lawrence from Jordan 35 years ago to study at Kansas University. He said he fell in love with the city's diversity and acceptance and decided to stay after graduating, a sentiment he said is shared by other international students.

Participants walked through the park to see each booth's offering: Almost all had food, and some featured jewelry and clothing. Music and dance acts performed on a pavilion throughout the day.

Latin America had a strong presence at the event, with representatives from Mexico, Panama, Bolivia and other nations. Haskell Indian Nations University Student Senate President Joel Hernandez cooked Navajo tacos — cheese, lettuce, beef and beans served on fried bread — with other Haskell student ambassadors. KU's African Student Association offered food from Nigeria and Ethiopia. Mahire Yakup and Gulnar Eziz, two Uighur women from northwestern China, showcased handmade scarves that they brought from their home country. Representatives from Ukraine and the Islamic Center of Lawrence also attended.

The festival turned out a diverse crowd, and multiple languages could be heard over the background music.

Runita Bell, of Lawrence, and her son Kyseer, 8, said they appreciated the unique experience.

"It's something Lawrence should do more often," Runita said. "It's good to educate people about different cultures."

Originally published at: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2011/sep/25/festival-showcases-beauty-cultures-lawrence/>