



VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Human Services Agency
4601 Telephone Road, Suite 117,
Ventura, CA 93003
Mailing Address: 4360 E. Main St. #460
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 658-4193
WWW.VCCW.NET/

Ventura County Supervisors

Steve Bennett
Linda Parks
Kathy Long
Peter C. Foy
John K. Flynn

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

DISTRICT I

Diana Goodrow
Janet Barron
Vacancy

DISTRICT II

Lee Riggan
Mary Pallant
Karen Peters

DISTRICT III

Sharon Hillbrant
Nancy Lee Phillips
Elvia Guizar

DISTRICT IV

Jan Lawrence
Shanté Morgan
-Durisseau
Vacancy

DISTRICT V

Ina Howard
Deborah De Vries
Carmen Hurd

June 17, 2008

Hugh Ralston
Ventura County Community Foundation
1317 Del Norte, Suite 150
Camarillo, CA 93010

Roz McGrath
President
The Women's Legacy Fund
1317 Del Norte, Suite 150
Camarillo, CA 93012

Dear Friends:

The Ventura County Commission for Women believes that now is the time to identify the status of women and girls in Ventura County. Toward that end they have appointed a committee to research formats and budgets and to identify partners in this effort. The committee has looked at studies that have been conducted by Marin County, Sonoma County, Montgomery, Maryland, Rock County, Wisconsin, San Diego, and San Francisco. They have talked to leaders in each of those areas as well as to The Institute for Women's Policy Research and the U.S. Census.

They have sought answers to questions that were important to conducting a study in Ventura County. These questions were: Did they do their own original research as opposed to secondary research; may we have a copy of their guidelines/framework for their research; who did the work (staff, volunteers, consultants, universities, etc.); how did they cover the cost; would they share their budget and survey questions; what did they learn about the process and what would they do and not do next time; how long did it take, what was their timeline; how did they organize and direct their work and work with others?

Sadly, the committee was not successful in obtaining a budget from any source however one person estimated their expenses at \$75,000. It is our belief that the budget should include the salary of a Project Coordinator for a period of one year which is our estimation of the time required to complete the study. (We learned that the timeline for two studies ranged between 10

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Human Services Agency
4601 Telephone Road, Suite 201, Ventura, CA 93003
Mailing Address: 4360 E. Main St. #460, Ventura 93003
(805) 658-4193
WWW.VCCW.NET/

months and 18 months.) It must also include funds for the different components or phases of the study such as the community forums. The committee also found that research was often a combination of both secondary research (statistical studies) and primary research through data collected by community based organizations from clients served, and field research conducted by the study groups through town hall meetings, community forums, focus groups and individual interviews. It seems that all the studies followed the guidelines provided by The Institute for Women's Policy Research, "The Status of Women in Your County: A Community Research Tool."

The VCCW Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County 2009 Report Committee recommends that these guidelines be followed for Ventura County's study, and that the "Models for Action: Making Research Work for Women" be included in order to draw attention to issues critical to the status of women rather than having the report gather dust on various shelves in Ventura County. It is the committee's belief that partners need to be recruited at this beginning who will gladly utilize the report to address the issues identified. The committee was relieved to learn from the U.S. Census that there is no need to wait for 2010 because annual analyses are found in the "American Community Survey."

In summary, VCCW has identified the following as necessary to be included in the project to complete the "Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County 2009 Report:"

- (1) Recruit universities, government, women's groups, and community based organizations as partners and sponsors
- (2) Hire a Project Coordinator and pay her approximately \$100/hour
- (3) Follow the guidelines from The Institute for Women's Policy Research, "The Status of Women in Your County: A Community Research Tool"
- (4) Develop Action Plans that include those in the Institute for Women's Policy Research – "Models for Action: Making Research Work for Women"
- (5) Conduct the Project in Phases and plan for a 1-year timeline
- (6) Produce fact sheets on key findings such as the Demographic Data Sheet
- (7) Establish independent statistical data
- (8) Conduct Community Forums to develop original research
- (9) Conduct a Five-year follow-up report to determine the accomplishments
- (10) Include in the budget funds for publication and distribution

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Human Services Agency
4601 Telephone Road, Suite 201, Ventura, CA 93003
Mailing Address: 4360 E. Main St. #460, Ventura 93003
(805) 658-4193
WWW.VCCW.NET/

The VCCW is honored to partner with VCCF and The Women's Legacy Fund to conduct the "Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County 2009 Report" following the guidelines provided by The Institute for Women's Policy Research and their Models for Action. VCCW stands ready as a partner to serve in each phase of the study, from recruiting partners, selecting a consultant, research, town hall meetings or community forums, expert comments, conclusions, goals, and recommendations and best practices, distribution, publicity, and action plans. VCCW would also like to have your assistance in tracking the progress and assuring in perhaps five years that this report and action plan have made a difference.

Sincerely,

VCCW Committee on Status of Women & Girls
in Ventura County 2009 Report:

Diana Goodrow, Lee Riggan, Janet Barron, Shanté Morgan-Durisseau,
Carmen S. Hurd, Janina J. Lawrence, Karen Peters, Deborah D. DeVries

Diana Goodrow
Co-Chair

Lee Riggan
Co-Chair