

I am a young woman of color. I am 22 years old and I have two young children. I have been receiving public assistance for four years and I've been on the "Welfare to Work" program for a year. This restaurant had me working in a fast food restaurant. I had to leave my job because my boyfriend was helping me take care of the kids, but he was very violent, so I left him. I don't have anyone who can take care of my kids on a regular basis, so I have to take care of them myself.

The only job I've had since I dropped out of high school has been as a mother and homemaker. I've managed to pay the rent until next month, but there's hardly any food left and social services is threatening to cut me off because I'm not working.

My friend gave me these flyers from five different organizations that she thought might be able to help me.

Instructions: Drawing from the information from the flyers and your own knowledge and experience about this type of organization, spend 20 minutes in your small groups to answer the following questions about the organization your group was assigned:

1. What SOLUTIONS does the group offer for the hunger problem?
2. What does the organization see as the ROOT CAUSE of the person's hunger?
3. What ROLE does the hungry person play in the organization?
4. What are the POWER RELATIONSHIPS that are reinforced or changed through the work of the organization?
5. What advantages does this strategy offer the person who is suffering from hunger?
6. What disadvantages does this strategy offer the person who is suffering from hunger?

Additional instructions:

- ❖ Be sure your group chooses a volunteer to write down the group's answers on butcher paper (using large letters and writing clearly) and is prepared to give a report to the large group.
- ❖ Be sure that everyone in the group participates.
- ❖ You have 20 minutes to complete the exercise.

Source: Center for Third World Organizing, Oakland, CA

LEND A HAND SOUP KITCHEN

SHARING FOOD WITH THE HUNGRY FOR 40 YEARS ONE MOUTH AT A TIME

Since 1963, Lend a Hand Soup Kitchen has served food to more than a million people in need in the Westside community. Our mission is to offer food assistance to the families and people who are most in need. We operate thanks to the generosity of businesses and individuals in our community that support us with donations. Volunteers are always welcome at our organization.



USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOUP KITCHEN

- ❖ We offer lunch daily from 12 noon until 2 p.m., and dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ❖ People can line up only 15 minutes before each meal.
- ❖ There is often a 30 minute wait to receive food, so we ask you to be patient.
- ❖ There are many children in the dining room. We ask everyone to behave respectfully at all times.
- ❖ Each person will receive one portion only. No food may be removed from the dining room.
- ❖ Everyone must leave the dining room at the conclusion of the meal.
- ❖ There are no exceptions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM A PROJECT OF WESTSIDE LEGAL SERVICES CENTER



The Public Assistance Program (PAP) helps families and low income individuals who are trying to obtain assistance from the state public benefits program. Our staff are professionals trained in this area and we assisted more than 3000 clients

last year. We operate thanks to the generosity of the government, businesses, foundations and individuals that support us economically.

When you use our services:

- ❖ A staff member will conduct an initial interview to evaluate your situation. He or she may ask you about the benefits you receive now and if you are having problems getting those benefits. He/she may also ask you details about your personal life: where and with whom you live, how much you earn, and if you have children, for example.*
- ❖ If you there's any benefit you are eligible, but are not receiving, our staff will call the Public Assistance Office, will make an appointment for you, and will accompany you at your appointment.*
- ❖ Often our staff is able to obtain immediate assistance from the Public Assistance Office in an emergency, such as childcare, food, housing, and utility vouchers.*

Please call us at 554-9940 to make an appointment.

Community Development Fund

Do you want to be your own boss and help your community at the same time?

...Then join CDF's Microenterprise Development Program



We can give you the tools to make your dream of owning your own business a reality. Whether its selling handcrafts our starting a diner, we can help you!

- ❖ We offer small workshops on developing a business plan.
- ❖ We offer up to \$3000 loans per business
- ❖ We offer phone, copier, computer and fax access to help you get started
- ❖ We offer advice and professional support at every stage of developing your business.

Since 1985, dozens of businesses and cooperatives have emerged in our community, because of the Community Development Fund's support. With our help, transform your wisdom and knowledge of the community in money for you and your family. Call us at 443-2310 to find out when our next orientation begins.

MARIA GARCIA



For State Senate

Good jobs, responsible families, and Public Assistance that really works!

MARIA GARCIA:

- Westside community member since 1975
- Understands the needs and priorities of our community
- Supports a living wage for all workers
- Will fight against hunger and homelessness in our community
- Will defend the rights of parents, children, and the family

ACT NOW:

- Register to vote (or register a friend or family member)
- Share your concerns at Maria's next neighborhood meeting
- Volunteer—visit or call your neighbors to tell them about Maria's campaign.
- Donate money to support Maria's campaign.

Paid for by Westsiders fo Maria, ID#98765

WESTSIDERS ORGANIZING FOR JUSTICE...



TAKING ACTION & BUILDING POWER

Since 1971 Westsiders Organizing for Justice (WOJ) has worked to empower the poor and working communities of Westside. We have accomplished very important things, such as expanded childcare services, and the establishment of two new health clinics in our neighborhoods. Join this multiracial organization of more than 700 families! The annual membership fee is only \$24.

JOIN THE FOOD NOW! CAMPAIGN

For many years, Westside neighbors have complained about the barriers they face when they apply for food assistance at the Public Assistance Office. These complaints include:

- Confusing applications that are up to 20 pages long
- Lack of interpretation services for those who don't speak English
- People not knowing about the benefits they could receive, because staff don't provide the necessary information.

But Westsiders Organizing for Justice is fighting for change:

- WOJ has shown publicly that the Public Assistance office is breaking the law by denying many people access to food stamps and other benefits
- WOJ is demanding a simplified program that allows automatic registration for food stamps.

**Come to our organizing meetings: WOJ offices- 439 State Street
Wednesday nights from 6:30-8 p.m.
Free food, childcare, and Spanish/English interpretation**