

CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

LOS ANGELES FACT FINDING CONVERSATION WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS MARCH 9, 2007

– ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT OVERVIEWS –

Name of Organization	LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN CHURCHES
Name(s) of Principal(s) and Complete Titles	Cheryl A. Branch, Executive Director and Ed Garrett, IT Director
Contact Information (complete)	Cheryl Branch 323-238-0445; cbranch@lametro.org
Name of Program or Project (if different from organization)	Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches
Geographic Location or Focus of Program or Project	Los Angeles County (South LA)
Demographic Overview of Focus Community or Population	Small to mid-size African American churches and low income minority families
Description of Program or Project named above	Faith-based organizing; civic engagement; intermediary organization To train pastors and lay leaders to revitalize their community.
o Goals	
o Objectives	Leadership Training; Capacity Building; Prevention Education; Voter Education; Civic Engagement; Parent Organizing
o Strategies	School-based programs; health education and access; re-entry management programs and prison ministries.
o Actions	??
o Outcomes	Trained Pastors; Trained Parents; Good Health and Wellness; Effective Public Policy; Social & Emotional Well Being; Safety & Survival; Education and Workforce Readiness
o Brief History (when was the organization founded or when was the program launched?)	Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches (LAM) is an association of small to mid-size African American churches that formed in the aftermath of the 1992 South Central Los Angeles riots. At that time, a group of concerned Los Angeles pastors attended a training in Philadelphia, sponsored by an organization called the Regional Congregations and Neighborhood Organizations (RCNO). This training seminar was conducted by the Reverend Eugene Williams, a Philadelphia pastor and community organizer. The Los Angeles pastors were deeply inspired by the combination of leadership training, community organizing, empowerment, and faith at the heart of the RCNO model. They then invited Reverend Williams to lead their churches in an organizing effort.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Size and Magnitude of Program or Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of People Served, Involved, Impacted 	<p>LAM deliberately works with smaller churches because the congregants are more likely to be in and of the community in which the church is located. The larger “mega” churches tend to attract congregants from a larger geographic area with people driving from miles away to attend. The larger churches are also more likely to have existing partnerships and infrastructure, which can create a slower and more bureaucratic process for decision-making. Finally, the smaller churches are in greater need of the capacity building and training that LAM provides. LAM has a total of 50 churches in its network; average church membership is 200 -300 members.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Budget, Percentage of Earned Income and Staff 	<p>\$600,000.00; 5 full time staff; 2 part time and 2 consultants</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding Sources and Partners 	<p>Various foundations such as Irvine Foundation; California Endowment; Washington Mutual; Packard Foundation; McKay Foundation; Crail Johnson Foundation</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results and Evidence of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrics for Evaluation Progress 	<p>LAM’s theory of change is simple. We believe that 1) culture, 2) epistemology and 3) historical analysis are the basis for effective community building in civil society. <i>A people’s values, customs and beliefs must be understood, appreciated and validated if they are to be successfully organized and involved in civic life.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in Outcomes or Metrics Over Time • How long does it take to secure results for the program above? 	<p>Since LAM uses the “Train the Trainer” model, an interesting challenge is we need to develop a methodology or tool for clergy and lay leaders to report back to LAM what’s working and what’s not working for them at 6 and 12 months and longer if possible. We know by observation and hearsay that pastors and leaders use a lot of what they learn in sermons and in counseling members of their churches and leadership teams—but we have not developed a way for them to quantify and consistently report back to LAM. We are challenged with developing a timeline for evaluation and analysis of leaders reporting back to us. We need a computerized tracking system and we need information on how to integrate technology in all phases of our work.</p>

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