

**From:** Damaso De Jesus Cadiz [<mailto:damaso.dejesus@upr.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2018 3:31 PM  
**To:** info CDBG <[infoCDBG@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:infoCDBG@vivienda.pr.gov)>  
**Subject:** Propuestas Vista Públicas UPR de Ponce

Saludos Cordiales:

Me dirijo a ustedes en esta ocasión, y a su vez adjunto dos propuesta presentadas por la UPR de Ponce. Las mismas son sometidas paa consideración, posetrior evaluación y acción correspondiente. Ambas propuesta no no pudieron ser presentadas en las vistas públicas de Ponce. Los proyectos que se presentan no son de construcción de viviendas, ni rehabilitación de un sector, pero si dirigidos a prestar un servicio público esencial y fundametal a los adultos y jóvenes que necesita y amerita ser atendido con caracter de urgencia post paso del huracán.

Entendemos en la UPR de Ponce que son servicios que van de la mano a la reconstrucción que ustedes buscan a través de estos fondos. Ambos proyectos se harian en acuerdo con el Municipio y ya ha sido previamente dialogado con su Alcaldesa. Nos encontramos en la mejor disposición de poder proveer toda la data necesaria y estadísticas que justifican la intención de los proyectos. La Academia juega un papel fundamental en estos dos proyectos y en la continuidad de los mismos.

Cualquier duda o pregunta no duden en comunicarse con este servidor o nuestra rectora la Prof. Carmen Bracero. Agradeceré que me puedan env iar la confirmación del recibo del mismo, ya que nos indicaron que se tomaria en cuenta en las próximas semanas y que enviaamos la información a esta dirección de correo electrónico.

Grac ias anticipadas,

Dámaso de Jesús Cádiz  
Ayudante Especial  
Relaciones Públicas y Comunicaciones  
Oficina de Rectoría  
UPR de Ponce  
787-844-8181,ext.2201,2202,2769  
Cel. 787-210-3349

### **Name of the Project**

“Conviviendo en la UPRP y en la Ciudad” (in English, Coexisting or Living together at the UPR-Ponce and in the City)

### **Estimated Cost**

\$600,000 for three years

### **Proposed Funding Source**

Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

### **Other Possible Funding Sources**

DHHS – ACL (SAMHSA) since October 1, 2019

### **Description**

The University of Puerto Rico in Ponce (UPRP) propose to submit a project proposal for a period of three years. The main goal of the Project named “Conviviendo en la UPRP y en la Ciudad” (in English, Coexisting or Living together at the UPRP and in the City) is to **promote quality of life and a new meaning of life in college students and in high school students after the devastated experience of the Hurricanes Irma and Maria**. Through a positive and supportive academic environment, it is expected to reduce suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts at our campus and in the eight high schools in the City of Ponce, which have worsened after those events. Our objectives are: 1) To realize at least 24 open annual activities (three per each high school) in order to prevent suicidal behavior and the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs with a participation of at least 50% of the high school student population. (2) To realize a series of workshops at each high school in order to prevent suicidal behavior and the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs with a participation of at least 25% of that student population. (3) To realize at least 10 annual activities at the UPRP campus in order to prevent suicidal behavior and the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs with a participation of at least 50% of the UPRP students, 25% of veteran students or veteran aid beneficiaries, 25% of the faculty, and 25% of the administrative personnel. (4) To realize at least 2 annual activities (Suicide Week Awareness Symposium and a Night Video Festival) in order to teach about the suicidal behavior, substance abuse and mental illnesses and to impact at least 600 people outside the campus, in the City of Ponce. (5) To collect data in order to create a profile of students at risk of suicide in the UPRP, from the second year a questionnaire will be developed to explore suicidal ideation and suicidal attempts, substance use and abuse and mental illnesses among students, in a sample of at least 600 students. Based on the results, this objective can be replicated with a sample of high school students.

### **Impact**

An ambitious, but attainable Comprehensive Approach designed with a variety of activities will use the model of the Suicide Prevention Resources Center Approach, which is approved by SAMHSA and is an evidence-based approach. This approach includes the following steps: (1)



Identify and Assist; (2) Increase Help-Seeking; (3) Effective Care/Treatment; (4) Care Transition; (5) Respond to crisis; (6) Postvention; (7) Reduce Access to means of suicide; (8) Enhance Life Skills and Resilience and; (9) Connectedness. During the three years project period, UPRP will be working together a variety of groups inside the institution like the students, the students' organizations and their leaders, the chancellor and deans, the faculty, the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services personnel, the Veterans Certifying Officer, among others, to reach the project goals. We will be working with a strong coordination with the Autonomous Municipality of Ponce, its Major and the Municipal School Director, as well as the Ponce Regional Director of the Department of Education, the Directors of the high schools that will be impacted and any other related school personnel to reach the project goals. Among the activities that will be developed are: (1) Awareness messages through the campus and high school websites, emails, bulletin boards, campus and high school cafeterias, bathrooms, etc.; (2) Faculty workshops about the Signs of the suicidal behavior, Suicide Protocol, Substance abuse and mental health illnesses; (3) Suicide Week awareness activity at the Campus and off-campus; (4) Mental Health Week Awareness Activity; (5) Suicide, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Annual Symposium; (6) Distribution of Suicide Prevention Hot lines and Directory of Services Agencies; (7) Workshops, conferences, movie presentations and film-forums directed to students about suicide prevention, self-esteem, emotional intelligence, emotional management, crisis intervention and management, problem solution skills, suicide protective and risk factors, and additional themes according to the needs and; (8) a contest named "En mi escuela hay ambiente" (In English, In my school there is a nice atmosphere) for the development of short videos (2-3 minutes of duration) on themes abovementioned. Each group of students of each high school will work in the development of the videos, following the instructions that will be given. The best three videos in each high school will be recognized.

### **Long-Term Benefit and Opportunities**

This project will **enhance quality of life and a new meaning of life in college students and in high school students of the city of Ponce after the devastated experience of the Hurricanes Irma and Maria**. Therefore, there will be a disaster recovery of a sane mental health of the students population, that will have a positive effect in their respective families and communities. It will also help to enhance the retention and graduation rates, which are parameters of excellence for both levels, i.e. high school level and college level.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

The first step to implement a successful evaluation plan is to establish an organizational assessment culture. The UPRP has demonstrated a strong organizational assessment culture. During the first three months of the project, an Evaluation Committee (EC) will be established. The EC will analyze the project's progress considering the activities in the timetable, the qualitative and quantitative evaluations for the activities performed and the issues affecting the progress of the project.

### **Location**

University of Puerto Rico in Ponce

Ponce High School

Manuel de la Pila High School

Jardines de Ponce High School

Lila Mayoral High School (includes students from Thomas Armstrong Specialized High School)

Juan Serralles High School

Bernardino Cordero Bernard Vocational High School

Betzaida Velazquez High School

## UPR PONCE LEARNING SKILL CENTER

Costo: \$2,000,000.00

La Universidad de Puerto Rico en Ponce (UPR-Ponce), en colaboración con el Municipio Autónomo de Ponce, aspira a desarrollar un *Learning Skill Center* con el propósito de promover el desarrollo económico del Municipio Ponceño a través del empoderamiento académico profesional de los jóvenes universitarios, estudiantes de escuela superior y de la población de sectores desventajados económicamente. Este proyecto contribuirá en el proceso de recuperación y reconstrucción de la Isla después del paso de Huracán María.

El UPR-Ponce *Learning Skill Center* tendrá como objetivo atender a la población estudiantil del Recinto de Ponce con una matrícula de 3,342 estudiantes y estudiantes de Escuela Superior del Departamento de Educación Pública pertenecientes a la Región de Ponce.

El Centro ofrecerá tutorías en las materias de español, matemáticas, inglés y ciencias (biología, química y física). Estas tutorías serán individuales o grupales. Se ofrecerán servicios de apoyo en la preparación de monografías, además de asistencia en los usos de aplicaciones tecnológicas necesarias en el desarrollo de un profesional competente para atender las demandas del mercado laboral. También, el Programa contará con un Salón de Educación a Distancia que permitirá el que se puedan ofrecer cursos de preparación profesional atendiendo las necesidades de la mujer y personas desplazadas.

El proyecto tomará tres (3) años desde su fase de inicio, implantación y etapa operacional.

