

BASICS OF PROGRAMMING FOR INTERNATIONAL SPOUSES/PARTNERS

I. WHAT ARE THE NEEDS?: What do you see as the 3 greatest needs of spouses/partners in your community or campus? (You might hold a focus group to ask the spouses in your area.)

II. IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS (Meeting these can be the basis for your programs.)

- Learning the Language,
- Loneliness, Isolation, Making New Friends
- Transportation
- Being a Wise Consumer (Shopping, Knowledge of Products, etc.)
- Finding Local Resources to Match Interests
- Continuing with Educational and Professional Goals
- Finding Employment (for J-2 visa holders)
- Raising Children Away from Extended Family and Home Culture
- Keeping House in a New Environment
- Cooking (first-time away from home)
- Career Continuity (especially for those whose visa precludes work)
- Identity Crisis (Past Accomplishments Seem Meaningless in New Setting)

III. IDENTIFYING LOCAL RESOURCES TO MEET THE NEEDS

What are the resources in YOUR community that can be mobilized to meet the major needs of spouses/partners of international students/scholars?

A. "People" resources

- Individuals within your organization
- Other international spouses familiar with the community
- Other community organizations (AAUW, YWCA, Rotary, Kiwanis, United Nations Association, World Affairs Council, service and professional groups, churches)
- Students on your campus (e.g. Americans, returned exchange students, etc.)
- Local alumni of the university, faculty spouses and others in the community.

B. Material resources

- Donations of a room for meeting space (church, school, etc.)
- Printed materials on your community and local points of interest
- Donations of food for refreshments, toys for child care program, etc

IV. DEFINING AND LAUNCHING A NEW PROGRAM:

What are your objectives? How will you publicize your new program?

V. DECIDING YOUR PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH

What will be your relationship with your target group? ("Doing for" or "doing with"?, a combination of both? other?)