



Government Grantmakers Case Study

Highlighted Results

*Effective, measureable
program implementation
consistent with
legislative guidelines and
protocols*

~~~~~

*Public/private coalition  
establishing local  
community leadership  
and platform for  
long-term sustainability*

~~~~~

*Validation of Health
and Human Service
Commission's
commitment to program
rationale and
implementation strategy*

~~~~~

*Accelerated public trust  
in government sponsored  
programs*

Client reference available upon request

### Featured Project

A state Department of Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is mandated to build capacity and ensure delivery of healthy marriage education workshops throughout the state.

### The Challenge

The state government studied the impact of divorce on families and discovered the negative financial consequences, both to families and many state funded agencies and community service organizations. New legislation allocated significant funds to promote and deliver healthy marriage education workshops. To encourage participation, marriage license fees were reduced for couples completing a workshop.

The state's HHSC faced many challenges. The workshops needed to be accessible to all state residents, delivered at no cost to the participants, and culturally appropriate and sensitive to the local community. In addition, the HHSC had to ensure public awareness of workshop availability, certify qualified educators, and coordinate protocols with local domestic violence service organizations. Implementing the revised marriage license fee structure with every county clerk and authenticating individual workshop graduates became a daunting additional challenge.

In order to meet the full scope of the legislative mandate, regional intermediaries would be needed to build community level capacity and manage workshop delivery. The Legacy Group, with its deep reservoir of experience in the national marriage movement, was selected as one of 12 regional intermediaries to deliver classes in 41 counties.

### The Legacy Group Execution

- **Strategic Plan:** Articulate program vision, identify key stakeholders, formulate a financial plan, establish prioritized goals.
- **Operational Strategy:** Identify infrastructure requirements, establish a business plan, recruit and empower a team to execute the plan.
- **Regional Development:** Evaluate and select curricula, conduct public awareness campaign, identify and recruit qualified educators, harness existing marriage education momentum within community and faith-based organizations.
- **Implementation:** Set the tone for new community-based partnerships, prioritize building healthy marriages among all couples, renew energy for volunteerism, raise awareness of the benefits of healthy marriages to businesses and community life.

### The Legacy Group Impact

- Hundreds of couples learn communication and healthy marriage skills, equipping them for relationship longevity and the formation of a positive family environment.
- Region-wide coordination, promotion, and implementation of healthy marriage workshops ensure awareness and access for all couples within the region.
- Business community embraces the quantified positive benefits of healthy marriages to their employees and families.
- Platform created to increase local capacity to sustain a marriage education movement, instilling the ideals of healthy marriage into the fabric of the local community.
- HHSC could report successful implementation of the program consistent with legislative mandate, positioning them to access increased funding for expanded program services.