

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
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Free seminar will help nonprofit agencies prosper

SAN BERNARDINO – More than 300 nonprofit agencies will learn strategies for sustaining their organizations on Friday, Feb. 26, during the 8th Annual Nonprofit Resource Seminar hosted by San Bernardino County supervisors Josie Gonzales and Paul Biane.

Nonprofit development and capacity building will be the focus of this year's free seminar, to be held in Fontana for local groups providing services to San Bernardino County residents. The goal is to promote nonprofit economic independence, enhance local capacity building efforts, and create long-term sustainability within local nonprofits.

This year's Nonprofit Resource Seminar will include a series of informative panels made up of various local and national funding agencies and training workshops targeted to nonprofit executives, board members, staff, and volunteers. It will seek to offer strategies on how to strengthen the roles that staff and board members can play in improving their organizations. The seminar will include concurrent break-out sessions.

"The workshop series provides more extensive, hands-on information," said Supervisor Gonzales, who serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors and represents the Fifth District. "Everything we offer enables organizations to become more viable, stronger, sustainable partners as they join us in delivering services to our residents."

The seminar will be broken down into four tracks, a panel track in the morning and a workshop track in the afternoon. Participants can choose from a list of classes for each session. Both Supervisor Gonzales and Supervisor Biane will deliver a special noon-time keynote address. The seminar, including lunch, is provided at no cost to participants.

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"Nonprofits play a critical role in our communities by providing free or low-cost programs and services to some of our most disadvantaged residents, and that's why helping local nonprofits grow and succeed is a key part of the county's mission," said Supervisor Biane, who represents the Second District and began hosting free nonprofit workshops in 2003.

The two morning tracks will feature panelists made up of representatives from local agencies that provide local funding, as well as national agencies that provide funding for the arts, community development, and health and human services. The morning session will also feature a funding forecast which will provide a basic rundown of the upcoming funding landscape expected for 2010.

In the afternoon attendees can choose from nine workshops covering the following categories: nonprofit development, grant writing, social media, marketing, and personnel. Professionals in fields such as nonprofit fund-raising, agency promotion, strategic planning, and grant writing will teach the workshops.

The free seminar, to be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with check-in beginning at 8 a.m., will take place at the Jessie Turner Community and Fitness Center in Fontana.

Nonprofits searching for funding in a depressed economy and the need to develop more successful grant proposals resulted in a record number of nonprofit organizations registering for this training.

Although registration is now closed, nonprofits may still sign up for the wait list until February 24, 2010. For additional information regarding this event, please go to the County Grants Office webpage at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/GrantsOffice/>.