

## **ATTACHMENT D - Plan for Three “Vision Councils”**

Three new Vision Councils (VC) will be established under the Resource Investment Cabinet (RIC) for the 2008-2010 grant cycle: *Helping Children Succeed (HCS)*, *Fostering Self-Sufficiency (FSS)*, and *Caring for Seniors and People with Disabilities (CSPD)*. Each VC will be comprised of community volunteers with a volunteer chairperson and vice-chair, as well as a RI department staff person. The chair and vice-chair will serve on the RIC and represent their VC’s interests and concerns.

Vision Councils will meet bi-monthly in the months in which RIC does not meet. Their main focus will be fourfold: to monitor currently funded programs and initiatives during the grant cycle, to advocate and educate the community on the non-funding issues identified in the RI Plan, to assess continuously the changing community needs under their VC and to recommend new or revised funding, and to manage a newly created VC “initiative fund” that will develop new initiatives in each VC area with funds carved out of the general grant pool.

This last focus will allow each VC the flexibility to manage a pool of funds over time and to work with new funding partners to create collaborations that leverage UWGMC funding more effectively and efficiently across more sectors in the community, especially business, corporations and foundations. One initiative, for example, the *Housing First Initiative*, has already been identified under *Fostering Self-Sufficiency* as a special demonstration project that leverages UWGMC resources with resources from the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness, the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), Mercer County, City of Trenton, several state agencies, foundations and corporations. This proposal, modeled after United Way of Rhode Island’s, will create permanent supportive housing for homeless people and wrap services around them in order to reduce the homeless population of Mercer County over time. Similar initiatives will be developed under *HCS* and *CSPD*.

This new structure will revitalize the resource investment process by giving volunteers a clearer role to play throughout the year and will also help UWGMC to create greater community impact and to demonstrate results that matter to all of our constituents. It will be a flexible and dynamic process that will respond to community need more effectively.

Any proposal for a new initiative by a Vision Council will be reviewed and approved by the RIC and presented to the Board for final approval. Funds granted under the regular grant process will continue to be monitored twice a year, and renewal funding will still be approved annually by the Board.