SECTION 1: Organization Information

Name of Organization: Adams Memorial Library

Type of Organization (please circle one): public (town, city, special district), private (citizen, non-profit), other
(please explain: Non-profit corporation receiving limited public funding )

Name of Contact Person: Joel Pettit

Address of Organization/Contact Person:

Joel Pettit, Director
Adams Memorial Library
205 Central Street
Central Falls, RI 02863

Phone: 401.727.7440       Fax: 401.727.7442

E-mail: joel@cflibrary.org

Description of Organization and Mission:

The Adams Memorial Library serves the low-income Central Falls community by providing access to print media, internet access, and engaging educational programs. After Central Falls went into receivership, the library was officially shut down, but thanks to the hard work of a few dedicated individuals, managed to keep its doors open to patrons. Currently the library is an independent non-profit corporation run by the recently formed Adams Library Board. The Adams Memorial library seeks to provide the best possible library experience to Central Falls residents on a very limited budget.

How did you hear about the CPC?

I heard about this wonderful opportunity through a direct mailing from CPC.
**SECTION 2: Project Description**

**Title of the Project:** Children’s Learning Area Renovation

**Project Location (Address, City, State, and Zip):**

205 Central Street
Central Falls, RI 02863

**General Project Description (you may attach a longer narrative if necessary):**

The children’s room of the Adams Memorial library is in desperate need of a thorough redesign. Currently, the room is wide open with bland colored walls, books pushed to the outside in an uninviting manner, and computers lined up militarily at the front. The CDC could help by designing a learning area that invites children to move freely and engage themselves intellectually. A physical overhaul is important, but it needs to be informed by a thorough understand of the cities patrons, a rather diverse population. An eye to innovative programs (perhaps designing these programs) will be fundamental to the design. The possibilities for innovation are numerous.

**Potential Scope of Work/Tasks for RWU CPC:**

- Surveying of possible patrons to understand how to meet Central Falls citizens needs better
- Devising methods to increase patronage
- Educational program design
- Selecting and implementing appropriate software for children
- Interior design of the physical space
- Liaise with local educators

**Proposed Project Schedule (when the tasks/project needs to be completed):**

Many of the facilities for children will still need to be available to children during the process of renovation and we will move the requisite children’s books to another room. This means that the project schedule is quite flexible. It would be nice to have the project completed before the winter holidays so that the city can have a nice Christmas present. The library will hold its second annual gala in the fall, and it would be nice to show the work gained on the children’s wing at that point.

**Other information to help us to better understand the project (we encourage feel free to include pictures, site documentation, maps etc.):**

I will try to provide further information as soon as possible
SECTION 3: Project Outcomes

Please describe how this project will benefit your organization:

The Adams Library is now operating on a vastly decreased budget and must rely heavily on grants, donations, and other outside funding. By working with the CPC and renovating the children’s wing of the library we may be able to raise our libraries profile and garner much more funding for further projects.

Please describe how this project might benefit the overall community, including who could benefit from this project (i.e. target groups, neighborhoods, the region/city/town as a whole, etc.).

As aforementioned, the city of Central Falls is in a desperate financial situation. And as the CDC is perhaps aware, the school district has also had its share of controversy in the recent past. It is my deeply held belief that making the Adams library an innovative hub of civic activity that Central Falls might be thrust forward past its current troubles. The most pressing way to do this is to reach out to children. By enhancing children’s educational services we may, by extension, garner further patronage by their parents and other family members, and gather support from local businesses and community organizations. Also by meeting the educational needs of local students we may be able to boost school performance, which will improve the profile of Central Falls schools and the city in general.

SECTION 4: Financial Information

What is your organization’s annual operating budget?
Currently, the Adams Memorial library as with the city of Central Falls itself is in a current state of flux. Thus our annual operating budget is nebulous at this point. If at a future point I have a hard number I will send it along to the CPC.

What are your major sources of funding?
Grants, city and state funding, fundraising, and personal donations.

How much funding from your annual operating budget is set aside for this project (if any)?
None at the current time.

SECTION 5: Private Sector Involvement

Have you or your organization discussed the project with practicing professionals (e.g. architect, engineer, planner, etc.)?
No

If no, please explain why: I am the new director of the library having started work the day before applying for the CPC’s assistance. When I saw this wonderful opportunity I took the initiative to act.