Mesquite Neighborhood Learning Center/Doña Ana Community College/New Mexico State University.

**Program Description**

The Mesquite Neighborhood Learning Center (MNLC) of Doña Ana Community College (DACC) through the HUD/HSIAC grant, is able to provide Workforce and Life Skills training, as well as social services, to low-income students to address the economic development of the community. Education and job training are the keys to successful employment opportunities. The need for education is great in this community as evidenced by the high annual enrollment of over 500 participants (90% Hispanic) from this low-income district.

MNLC is implementing an educational program that addresses unemployment issues by providing Workforce and Life Skills training. In addition, this program provides an educational pathway from the high school to the community college level.

The Workforce training includes educational and vocational training. Educational training is comprised of Job Readiness, Computer Classes, GED, ESL, and College Preparation. The Vocational Training includes: First Aid, CPR and Home Provider care, Child Care, Custodial Services, Home Repair, and Food Services Preparation. These services are in high demand in the local area. This training will prepare clients for employment and address barriers that prevent clients from obtaining and maintaining successful employment. Job placement is available for participants that successfully complete the vocational trainings as well as for the clients that transition to credit classes at DACC.

The Life Skills training includes: Health, Counseling Services, Financial Literacy, Sewing/Arts and Crafts, Home Ownership and Special Topics.

In collaboration with community partners, MNLC is positively affecting and impacting the residents of the Mesquite district from youth to senior citizens.

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