



International Association for Social Work with Groups

SPARC Program

November 2016 IASWG SPARC Report and Recommendations and IASWG Board Actions
SPARC Committee: *Carol S. Cohen, Barbara Muskat, Marcia B. Cohen and Zaneta Smith*
2016 Spring SPARC Review Committee: *Carol S. Cohen, Barbara Muskat and Marcia B. Cohen*

Overview

The purpose of the IASWG SPARC Program is to "spark" IASWG members' innovative group work practice, education, training and research projects through endorsement and/or small grants to advance the IASWG [mission](#). The program was developed by the IASWG Board and IASWG Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education from 2011-2012, and inaugurated in 2013. Only IASWG members can apply for SPARC endorsement and funding – funds are used to support projects, often in partnership with other organizations. According to its framing protocol, the SPARC Committee members were appointed by IASWG President and were charged with reviewing SPARC protocols and launching the Project. The IASWG Board reviews and votes on the Committee's recommendations, within 30-60 days of the closing date for applications in each cycle. There are two review cycles each year, corresponding with bi-annual Board Meetings in June and November. The SPARC Committee has continued to update, expand and circulate Project documents through multiple strategies and venues. IASWG SPARC Project Awardees have completed their final report or have submitted an interim report, or are in the process of doing so as required. Updates and final reports will continue to be posted at: <http://www.iaswg.org/sparc>

2016 is SPARC's 4th year of operation. We have had 8 funding cycles, we have endorsed 29 projects, 17 of them with funding totaling \$12,370.00. We continue to distribute info on SPARC widely, including through conferences, EBlasts and IASWG Group News. Third annual SPARC Workshop was held at the annual International Symposium in June, and we intend to continue this practice to share info on applying and hearing about awarded projects.

Working in collaboration with the IASWG Marketing Committee and other IASWG members, SPARC Project has had a presence at the US CSWE Conference, international conferences, and many other venues. Emily Wilk has been essential to all these activities. IASWG SPARC is promoted as a Member Benefit, and an opportunity to advance the IASWG mission and innovations in group work practice, training, research and education. With our rich history of SPARC Projects we are considering further dissemination, publication and utilization of material generated by SPARC Endorsed projects.

History of Endorsement and Funding

2013

June 2013/Cycle One: 4 Projects were Endorsed, 3 with Funding (\$2500.00 expended).

November 2013/Cycle Two: 5 Projects were Endorsed, 2 with Funding (\$700 expended - *One declined due to insufficient funds – not included in total funds expended).

Total 2013: \$3250.00 (9 Endorsed, 5 with Funding)

2014

June 2014/Cycle Three: 2 Projects were Endorsed, 1 with Funding (\$695.00 expended).

November 2014/Cycle Four: 3 Projects were Endorsed, 2 with Funding (\$2160.00 expended – **\$1160.00 not proceeding, funds returned – not included in total funds expended).

Total 2014: \$1695 (5 Endorsed, 3 with Funding)

2015

June 2015/Cycle Five: 2 Projects were Endorsed, 1 with Funding (\$1250.00 expended).

November 2015/Cycle Six: 8 Projects Endorsed, 5 with Funding \$3675.00 expended)

Total 2015: \$4925.00 (10 Projects Endorsed, 6 with Funding).

2016

June 2016/Cycle Seven: 4 Projects were Endorsed, 2 with Funding (\$1500.00 expended).

November 2016/Cycle Eight: 1 Project for Endorsement and Funding (\$1000.00 expended).

Total 2016: \$2500.00 (5 Projects Endorsed, 3 with Funding)

The IASWG SPARC Review Committee brought the following for IASWG Board Review and Vote It was approved for Endorsement and Funding.

For Endorsement and Funding of \$1000.00

Group Work in the Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing (SMASH)

Mary V. Lisbon, Miami, Florida.

This project is part of a larger initiative. The collaboration consisting of Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing (SMASH), Miami Workers Center (MWC) and The Center for Social Change (C4SC) has been dubbed the Liberty City Committee on Slum and Gentrification (LCCSG). In this collaboration SMASH and MWC take the role of community organizations who can bring the people of Liberty City together and gather qualified facilitators for group work. The C4SC will act as a clerical and logistical organization which will facilitate these aspects of the project.

The overall SMASH Program seeks to give the residents of Liberty City who are of extremely low income (ELI) the tools they need in order to empower themselves and escape slum, gentrification and poverty, the LCCSG has come together to train, inform and educate the residents to facilitate a solution. The leadership capacities and knowledge base of these residents will be developed until they feel they are capable of guiding the process that would create a Community Land Trust (CLT) and any associated cooperatives or community controlled endeavors that would exist in association with this trust.

The Group Work component (proposed SPARC Project) of the SMASH Program builds knowledge about group work skills along with communication skills for low income residents *to be able to discuss*, educate and advocate in and for their communities. The 2-hour group sessions, will build a social justice organization steeped in the knowledge of affordable housing and the empowerment of residents to advocate for their rights, with each other, their local government and private building owners. This program will recruit residents who currently live in slumlord owned buildings in the area of Liberty City and other low income communities of color, to empower them to build communities of knowledgeable and unite folks who will stand up for their human rights to make a change in their communities.

Interrelated Items for Discussion Proposed by the SPARC Committee

A. Growing the SPARC Program

1. Expansion of Dissemination of Program Availability and Outreach, Person to person, Web, Social Media, etc.
2. Ongoing Development of the Symposium Workshop on SPARC
3. New Methods for Outreach

B. Disseminating and Expanding Utilization of SPARC Experiences, Evaluations Findings, etc.

1. New Ideas on Highlighting Reports on the Website and Reformatting, etc.
2. Presentation and Publication Opportunities

C. Accomplishing SPARC Organizational Maintenance Tasks

1. Member Succession and Expansion
2. Follow up with SPARC Endorsed and Funded Programs (including keeping running status on who is completed, open, etc., and sending reminders of due dates and organizing reports from SPARC endorsed and funded programs (we now have quite a lot!).
3. Posting Reports and Other Content on our Webpage (and considering overall web presence, etc).
4. Leading Co-Facilitated Annual SPARC Presentation at IASWG Symposium (includes abstract submission - using existing template or other format)
5. Other Exciting New Tasks!



The International Association for
Social Work with Groups

SPARC Program

The IASWG launched the SPARC Program to "spark" our members' innovative projects through IASWG Endorsement and small grants.

Two Review Cycles Each Year

(See www.iaswg.org/sparc for exact deadlines)

October Deadline for November Decisions & May Deadline for June Decisions

IASWG members are welcome to submit proposals to the SPARC Program, for endorsement with financial or non-financial support for special group work projects (e.g., training, research, and practice) consistent with the mission of IASWG.

SPARC Projects include:

- Initiative to expand support group work services and training with media capabilities.
- Dissertation study of factors in the commitment to group work practice.
- Project to compile case studies for group work teaching and training.
- Research to study authors' trajectories following their group work related dissertations.
- Training to expand staff expertise in providing diverse group work programs.
- Innovation to expand knowledge and competency to more effectively serve an underserved population.
- Dissertation study of school social workers' perceptions of grief counseling groups for adolescents.
- Large scale research study to examine and work more effectively with diversity in group work throughout stages of development.
- Development of group work programs to better serve youth and young men of color.
- Large scale research study to examine and work more effectively with diversity in group work throughout stages of development.
- Implementation of an innovative book discussion group with members with multiple sclerosis.
- Evaluation of small group activities within online learning environments.
- Research and training in group work supervision.
- Advocacy for the use of group methods in social work and allied fields.
- Examination of the linkage of summer camp programs and the development of social group work.
- Establishment of a think tank & action network to challenge and eradicate the oppressive social structures threatening young Black males.
- Implementation of a stigma focused group program, collaboratively developed for and with parents living with HIV.

Please visit the IASWG SPARC webpage: <http://www.iaswg.org/sparc> for more information, to read about our SPARC Projects and their progress, and for instructions about submitting a proposal.



2014 SPARC Program

NEXT REVIEW CYCLE DEADLINE: MAY 10, 2014

The IASWG launched the SPARC Program to "spark" our members' innovative projects through IASWG Endorsement and small grants.

The IASWG is proud of the exciting array of approved proposals in Round One and Two (Spring and Fall 2013). Thus far, approved Projects came from members in Canada, South Africa and United States. Five Endorsed and Funded Projects ranged from \$700-\$1,000 and Four Projects were approved for Endorsement only.

IASWG members are welcome to submit proposals to the SPARC Program, requesting endorsement with financial or non-financial support for special projects (e.g., training, research, and practice) consistent with the mission of IASWG.

For more information on applying and current SPARC Projects: Visit the IASWG SPARC [webpage](http://www.iaswg.org/sparc) by clicking the following link: <http://www.iaswg.org/sparc> or by clicking [here](#) for [instructions](#) about submitting a proposal.

All proposals should be sent as an email attachment to cohen5@adelphi.edu by the deadline for this cycle, May 10, 2014. Please feel free to contact Carol S. Cohen at the above email address or by phone at +516.877.4427 to discuss the Program with a member of the SPARC Committee.

Please feel free to circulate the [SPARC flyer](#) among your IASWG colleagues and networks!

IASWG
www.iaswg.org | membership@iaswg.org
101 West 23rd Street, Suite 108, NY, NY, 10011



**Presenters at the June 2016 IASWG SPARC Workshop, IASWG Symposium, NYC, US
The 2016 IASWG SPARC Forum on Project Application, Acceptance & Implementation**

Barb Muskat, Carol Cohen, Shirley Simon, Sari Skolnik, Terry Kilbane, Brian Kelly, Marcia Cohen, Zaneta Smith, Lorrie Greenhouse Gardella

June 16, 2016, International Symposium of the International Association for
Social Work with Groups, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States

***The 2016 IASWG SPARC Forum on Project
Application, Acceptance & Implementation***

SPARC Committee Members:
Carol S. Cohen (cohen5@adelphi.edu)
Barbara Muskat (barbara.muskat@sickkids.ca)
Marcia B. Cohen (mcohen@une.edu)
Zaneta Smith (zanetajsmith@gmail.com)

SPARC Awardee Representatives:
Zaneta Smith (zanetajsmith@gmail.com)
Teresa Kilbane (tkilban@luc.edu)
Sari Skolnik (sarcent2@optonline.net)
Brian Kelly (bkelly6@luc.edu)



OCT 22, 2016 PEER SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAM EVAL TRAINING COURSE

2:00pm-5:00pm

Funding provided by the International Association of Social Work
with Groups

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
1 Smithfield St, Pittsburgh PA 15222

\$45 Stipend for attendees

Course outlines how to
effectively administer surveys
and basics for best practices in
program evaluation

Register with Simone Vecchio
by Oct. 14
(info below)

Informative 3 hour course

Refreshments provided

To RSVP please email
Simone Vecchio
svecchio@jfcspgh.org
or email Azadeh Block
block@calu.edu

