

WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund - Moving Forward Together RFI Grantees 9.16.20

RFI Project Name	Project Description	Lead Organization
Asbury Arts Center Cultural Incubator	Finding suitable yet affordable office and workspace space has historically posed a huge financial obstacle to arts organizations. To survive, smaller organizations must create alternate, sustainable solutions for workspaces based on community-centered shared resources. By abandoning the traditional go-at-it-alone lease model and embracing a shared and collaborative approach to office and workspace, where both smaller and emerging organizations, along with more established entities, can thrive in a culturally vibrant, nurturing environment that provides facilities and resources beyond the financial means of each individual participant. This grant will allow our group to explore the shared space and shared resources model and pilot an ideal solution for the Buffalo arts community.	Buffalo Chamber Players
Race Matters - Systems Change to Improve Health Outcomes	The Community Health Center of Buffalo will address healthcare racial equity and equity for vulnerable populations. The focus is on Erie and Niagara County residents of color who are disproportionately impacted by institutional and systemic factors contributing to poor health outcomes. Activities will be grounded in the cross-sector collaboration needed to affect systems change. There is currently no regional approach to identify barriers, measure biases, or to develop solutions, including public policy changes to address institutional and systemic racism.	Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc.
Freedom Schools Buffalo	Freedom Schools Buffalo (FSB) is centered on supporting children, youth and families in a trauma-informed, culturally-responsive and intergenerational approach to education, healing and empowerment. This initiative is being designed and led by those “of and from” the targeted community, with deep relationships in those communities; and leaders who have diverse knowledge, skills and experience on a policy, practice and programmatic level in education/schools, social determinants of health, community organizing, policy and advocacy, and trauma-informed approaches to racial healing and empowerment. FSB will use this grant to advance systemic change through having parents and students engaged in learning that will bring about a mobilization around policies and education reforms in the City of Buffalo.	CoNECT (Community Network for Engagement, Connection and Transformation)
Repairing Connections to SUD Services	The Appalachia Recovery Coalition, a network of eight substance abuse disorder, behavioral health and public health agencies in Allegany and Cattaraugus County, is planning a project entitled Repairing Connections to SUD Services. The Coalition has identified substance use disorder (SUD) services delivery challenges which have been exacerbated during the COVID 19 pandemic, compromising rural residents’ access to care. The Coalition will use a planning grant to design and conduct an assessment, drawing critical input from SUD clients, SUD services providers, major referral sources, and community organizations. Guided by a human-centered philosophy of care, an analysis of results will lead to proposed solutions, feasibility studies, and formulation of a pilot project.	Council on Addiction Recovery Services
Planning for Mobility Justice	The ability to fully participate in society and benefit from opportunities in Western New York is fundamental to improving outcomes for individuals, neighborhoods and the city of Buffalo. This planning grant seeks to address significant systemic challenges that have limited mobility freedom and justice for large portions of the population, most specifically residents living in low-income communities of color on the east side of Buffalo. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these systemic inequities through discouragement of transit use, cuts in transit routes and frequency, and looming budgetary impacts on future transit operations. Essential workers’ already unpredictable schedules have been compounded by economic disruptions, and uncertainty regarding schools and child care implications.	Green Options Buffalo

<p>Connecting for a Strong Start: Chautauqua SART Data Sharing Solution</p>	<p>Healthy Community Alliance seeks to plan for an integrated technology solution that enables Chautauqua County to address challenges in abating and treating a maternal substance abuse crisis intensified by COVID-19. Essential to the Chautauqua's Screening, Assessment, Referral and Treatment (SART) system is the ability of social care, early care and education and health care organizations to collect and share data in ways that advance health equity and improve support for vulnerable women and children. Successful customization will create data-sharing linkages and interoperability between SART partners that enable them to efficiently collaborate and effectively care for women, children, and families affected by maternal substance use. Funding will help plan the solution to overcoming SART's data-sharing and interoperability challenges.</p>	<p>Healthy Community Alliance, Inc.</p>
<p>WNY Resiliency through a WellConnected 211</p>	<p>Healthy Community Alliance and collaborating partners are seeking to improve access to services and resources across the eight counties of Western New York. The challenge we seek to address is two-fold. The first challenge is the increased difficulty community members, community-based organizations, governments, and businesses have in seeking, accessing and connecting to critical resources and services that address needs further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These needs include housing, food security, employment, workforce redeployment and other social determinants of health. The second challenge is that without integrated data on how, when, why, and by whom services are sought and received, it is difficult for stakeholders and funders to understand gaps in services and advocate and plan for unmet community needs.</p>	<p>Healthy Community Alliance, Inc.</p>
<p>Live Well Erie Housing Taskforce's Stability Program</p>	<p>The Live Well Erie Housing Taskforce is looking to create a comprehensive, full-service housing stability set of reforms in Erie County. This program seeks to address the long-standing, systemic issue of housing instability in Erie County and redress the structural barriers within our community to equal access to stable housing. The taskforce is comprised of leading experts from the nonprofit, public, and private sectors that are working collaboratively to address the critical issues of housing inequity, housing instability, and the availability of quality affordable housing in our region. Our coalition believes that addressing housing instability in Erie County requires race conscious interventions that focus on the needs of individuals, while seeking to effect larger policy change.</p>	<p>Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc.</p>
<p>WNY Refugee and Asylee Consortium Strategic Plan</p>	<p>The five local agencies that primarily serve the foreign born (who operate under the name WNY Refugee and Asylee Consortium- WNYRAC) want to look at service duplication, individual agency strengths, the creation of lead roles in specific programming, and agency sustainability. The planning process will include the Buffalo Office of New Americans and will include a needs assessment in the immigrant and refugee communities, and identify a mechanism for sustained relationships between service providers and client communities. The outcome of the process will create more sustainable individual organizations, a clearer and more sustainable set of services for the foreign born, a mechanism for working to attract the foreign born to WNY, and a way for WNYRAC to continue to be strategic and sustainable going forward.</p>	<p>International Institute of Buffalo</p>
<p>Affordable Housing Production Systems Change</p>	<p>The lack of available healthy, affordable housing has contributed directly to racial, health, and wealth gaps in Western New York - dramatically exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant will convene and develop consensus among a diverse group of Erie and Niagara County stakeholders around a scalable, modular +/- or panelized, affordable housing production system capable of solving the region's housing crises. Planning grant support will allow the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to work with a multidisciplinary team of affordable housing renters and purchasers, designers, developers, funders, and construction professionals to plan for the design, construction, testing, and refinement of up to four "open source" affordable housing designs that could be locally produced and deployed at scale to help close the housing gap for low income individuals.</p>	<p>Local Initiatives Support Corporation</p>

<p>Evaluate the Police Mental Health Co-Responder Model for Replication Across WNY</p>	<p>This grant will help continue to develop the Police Mental Health Co-Responder Model, a private/public initiative the Mid-Erie Mental Health Services Inc. started with the Cheektowaga Police Department in August 2019. While there has been substantial research on the effectiveness of the co-responder model, we will develop a standard framework, which would include consistent staffing, hours of operation, policies and procedures, education and training curriculum, workflows, data analysis and reporting, and a program evaluation component. This fully evaluated and refined model could then be replicated in communities across WNY.</p>	<p>Mid-Erie Mental Health Services Inc dba Endeavor Health Services</p>
<p>Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents in Buffalo/WNY</p>	<p>The Osborne Association, a nonprofit that provides services to children and families with incarcerated loved ones through programs including FamilyWorks Buffalo, will support the Buffalo Police Department (BPD) and community stakeholders in developing police protocols, training and resource networks to safeguard children of arrested parents. We aim to address the effect of a parent's arrest on children and families from highly policed, low-income communities in Buffalo. We believe this work can lead to a push for the implementation of similar policies across WNY.</p>	<p>The Osborne Association, Inc.</p>
<p>Community and Technology-Based Advocacy to Enhance Healthcare Access</p>	<p>The University at Buffalo will engage stakeholders across the community to assess and address broadband network access (digital divide) and increase healthcare system access for low-income Black, Indigenous and People of Color (inclusive of new Americans and hereafter referred to as BIPOC) living in Buffalo. We seek to engage BIPOC stakeholders in the community to design a human-centered technology engagement program that leverages community assets and utilizes a community health worker model to address the social determinants of health. The long-term goal of our collaborative effort is to increase healthcare system access for low income populations, who are disproportionately BIPOC, in the City of Buffalo.</p>	<p>The Research Foundation for the State University of New York (SUNY RF) on behalf of the University at Buffalo (UB)</p>
<p>Orleans Digital Literacy Educational Initiative</p>	<p>The Orleans United Way is leading a collaborative of county stakeholders that will plan a county-wide solution to bridge the digital divide, increase resident's digital literacy skills, and increase access to employment opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the importance of digital skills for workers in all sectors. Our goal for this initiative is to support individuals to become digitally literate and obtain the skills and resources needed to bridge the digital divide. It will support employers identifying and training candidates by providing them skills and technological support to work remotely. Developing and implementing this initiative facilitates efforts to promote our rural community as a desirable place to live with strong digital resources. We feel this model could expand or be replicated throughout the counties of the GLOW (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Wyoming) region.</p>	<p>United Funds for Western Orleans</p>