

**WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund - Moving Forward Together Planning Grantees as of 2.11.21**

RFI Project Name	Project Description	Lead Organization
<b>Asbury Arts Center Cultural Incubator</b>	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
<b>Race Matters - Systems Change to Improve Health Outcomes</b>	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.
<b>Freedom Schools Buffalo</b>	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)
<b>Repairing Connections to SUD Services</b>	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. The pilot project was funded in early 2021.	Council on Addiction Recovery Services
<b>Connecting for a Strong Start: Chautauque SART Data Sharing Solution</b>	Healthy Community Alliance seeks to plan for an integrated technology solution that enables Chautauque County to address challenges in abating and treating a maternal substance abuse crisis intensified by COVID-19. Essential to the Chautauque'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. The pilot project was funded in early 2021.	Healthy Community Alliance, Inc.
<b>WNY Refugee and Asylee Consortium Strategic Plan</b>	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.	International Institute of Buffalo

<p><b>Evaluate the Police Mental Health Co-Responder Model for Replication Across WNY</b></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><b>Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents in Buffalo/WNY</b></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. The pilot project was funded in early 2021.</p>	<p>The Osborne Association, Inc.</p>