

**Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI)
Family Peer Mentorship Data Platform Pilot
2018-2019 Request for Proposal
Attachment B**

Through the enclosed Request for Proposal (RFP), the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI) will provide funding to high-quality human service programs that align with priorities outlined herein under the impact area of peer mentorship data. Applicants may request a maximum amount of \$50,000.

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Request for Proposal Released	December 18 th , 2017
Questions & Answers	Please submit questions to Rae Leiner (rleiner@uwdor.org) by January 5th, 2018: Responses will be issued within 48 business hours
Application Due Date	January 12 th , 2018 at 5PM
Award Notifications	January 31 st , 2018 at 5PM

Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed by members of the ESPRI Steering Committee. Applications will be scored based on the set criteria outlined in the Request for Proposal document. The Steering Committee reserves the right to request additional information during this process.

I. Welcome

Thank you for submitting your proposal to the ESPRI fund. The effort to reduce poverty in impoverished communities throughout New York State was launched in 2016, and a dedicated \$25m was put towards this effort through the Governor's office.

ESPRI is the coordinated efforts of residents, community-based agencies, and city, county and state government offices. The effort was spear-headed by United Way of Greater Rochester, who began deep conversations about poverty. This model of community conversations took course over two years and resulted in a model that New York State replicated in other communities such as Newburgh.

Poverty reduction is a complex problem to solve; a multi-pronged strategy is the only way to truly address the many variables that factor into what keeps families in an intergenerational cycle of poverty. As our community's needs evolve, so too must our strategies to effect change. As a community, it is our time to combine efforts and develop a unified vision for systematic change. We have committed to a collaborative model focused on community solutions and systems change and alignment.

II. History

The Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI) launched in 2016 by Governor Andrew Cuomo; his administration allocated \$25m in funding to sixteen locations throughout New York State with a mission

to make an impact on New Yorkers experiencing intergenerational poverty. Out of the \$25m awarded, Newburgh received \$1m. Phase 1 required Newburgh to spend \$200,000 to engage residents, convene partners and develop a plan for the prioritization and allocation of funding moving into Phase 2. ESPRI received \$800,000 to make investments that will address the intergenerational cycle of poverty faced by over 1/3 of Newburgh residents.

The goal outlined in this RFP represents the start of a coordinated effort to reduce poverty. This initiative has been developed in partnership with the City of Newburgh residents, local municipalities and nonprofit partners. Newburgh ESPRI will use the resulting impact to seek additional funding to support ongoing efforts.

ESPRI inherited its mantle from the Community Opportunity Reinvestment initiative (COrE) launched in the City of Newburgh in 2014. The platform has been bringing agencies and community stakeholders together for the past three years. The COrE Initiative utilized data points as indicators of progress through coordinated work with local partners.

III. Investing in our Community

The ESPRI fund issues this RFP as part of a long-term commitment to achieve the goal of reducing poverty through peer mentorship, a strategy to change the systems that deliver services and engage our residents with the ultimate goal of breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty with 50 families. We target our investment on strategies that drive our families toward success, securing employment, education, transportation, healthy food, childcare and skills.

During this RFP process, ESPRI seeks partnerships with nonprofit organizations during the time period of **February 2018 to March 2019**. Our intention is to invest sufficient funding to achieve significant results.

IV. Our Community's Challenge

The US Census reports that approximately 10% of individuals in our region are living below the poverty level and are struggling to survive each day. In some cities, this number nearly triples: Newburgh (28%), Poughkeepsie (26%) and Middletown (18%). Similarly, the number of children receiving free or reduced lunch has steadily increased since 2005; today, one in three children across our region qualifies for free or reduced lunch. Again, in some districts, this number nearly triples: City of Poughkeepsie (96%), Middletown (74%) and Newburgh (68%).

Low-to-moderate income individuals and families face multiple economic and societal barriers that prevent them from achieving financial stability and economic independence. To make ends meet, families are struggling to cover many of their daily living expenses or going without basic necessities. Living paycheck to paycheck, these families are more vulnerable to crisis, and in the long-term, they have a limited ability to save for an emergency situation, advance their education, purchase a home, or even secure reliable transportation.

These challenges impact not only individual potential but also place constraints on entire families and feed a growing financial dependency on local government and human service organizations.

V. Our Community's Opportunity

As there is no single contributor to poverty, there is no single solution. In partnership with our community, ESPRI has identified four broad categories to address the obstacles of breaking the poverty cycle: systems alignment and change, peer mentorship, the data tracking tool and resident engagement.

Through a multi-tiered approach, it is our goal to create a strong network of service providers that use data to coordinate interventions, deliver services and provide resources to residents. This will make an impact in combating the cycle of poverty. Residents and organizations will have access to national models that will act as containers to support systems change and alignment and provide professional development. The organizations selected for funding will mentor families towards data-driven, self-determined interventions. Additionally, we aim to foster relationships between organizations and residents through the support of resident-led projects that raise the profile of organizational work and resources.

The ESPRI is allocating funds to invest in the following:

- ❖ Investing in a data tracking tool that will allow the ESPRI Task Force to engage residents and service providers in data analysis. This is the key to supporting strategies out of poverty and opportunities for improvements in systems delivering services.

The organization selected for funding under this category will be required to partner with the organizations funded under the family peer mentorship priority area.

Goal: Design a data tracking tool that will allow residents easy entry of data (qualitative and quantitative) and also allow service providers to coordinate activities and track barriers (ex. service delivery, completion of tasks, track meetings, journal on families, etc.).

Indicators:

- Family engagement in pilot
- Progress being reported by families
- Progress being reported by mentors
- Data being collected and shared about barriers

The organization that is selected will need to work with the awardees of the Family Peer Mentorship contract to develop the following tool. The tool should meet the following criteria:

Resident Interface:

- Dashboard that provides a visual snapshot of family based data and progress
- Ability to capture baseline family information
 - Financial
 - Educational
 - Workforce
 - Housing
 - Health
- Ability to report changes in areas specified above
- Ability to capture qualitative data
 - Journal entry component
- Ability to capture quantitative data
 - Financial updates
 - Attendance of appointments and events
- Ability to aggregate and disaggregate family data
 - Creation of personalized family dashboard

- Creation of collective family dashboard
- Ability to capture family work plans
 - Established goal(s)
 - Established objectives
 - Capture accomplishments and barriers towards goals

Peer Mentorship Interface:

- Ability to access family data
 - Dashboard to establish baseline data
 - Dashboard that shows results of interventions
- Ability to track milestones
 - Event or appointment attendance
 - Journal entry of interactions
 - Work plan development
- Ability for platform to be accessible to multiple agencies
 - Cloud-based
 - Secure
 - Protecting clients' privacy

VI. Core Funding Criteria

This RFP is a first step toward establishing a cohesive strategy, in partnership with our community, to address resident needs in the City of Newburgh. This strategy will also work to develop a strong continuum of effective community supports that will advance the opportunities for residents to develop their leadership and disrupt a poverty cycle.

This RFP is designed to establish a foundation, which addresses a strategy of intervention for broad issues that comprise poverty through systems change and coordination, family peer mentorship, and resident leadership. ESPRI is looking for partners who share our commitment to the following:

1. Community and population level outcomes focused in the City of Newburgh with the greatest need as defined by local data;
2. Work collaboratively with the ESPRI Task Force and other initiative partners in developing effective, cohesive strategies;
3. Strategies that demonstrate long-term success using evidence-based or informed models or those identified as promising practices;
4. Cross-agency and cross-sector collaboration.

VII. Collaboration

ESPRI believes that strong collaboration among nonprofits, businesses and government partners is necessary for our community to realize outcomes that will effect change. Nonprofit partners are strongly encouraged to demonstrate their commitment to community change by incorporating collaborative opportunities into their requested program proposal.

Programs that rely on outside organizations (i.e. school districts) to accomplish stated program goals are required to provide letters of commitment from the outside organization.

One application should be submitted by the lead agency, clearly outlining each respective partner and the structure in which they will operate to achieve collective goals.

VIII. Core Criteria for Request For Proposals

For this granting cycle, RFP should be between three and five pages and should include the following:

- Qualifying criteria for your organization (all collaborating organizations please submit)
 - Track record of accomplishments
 - Additional materials that would make your application stronger
 - 501(c)3 status
 - United Way Anti-Terrorism form
 - List of Board of Directors
- Budget
 - Program Budget
 - Organizational Budget

IX. Questions

Any questions related to the RFP should be submitted in writing with “RFP Questions” in the subject line to rleiner@uwdor.org. Questions will be answered within 24-48 hours upon receipt.

The proposal and supplemental documents should be submitted in writing with “RFP” in the subject line no later than 5PM on January 12, 2018.