

Making Connections . . . to Build Strong Communities

INTRODUCTION

★ Background:

Demographics--

Dramatic changes are occurring in New York's demographic and social profile, and these changes will have a significant impact on individuals, families, and communities:

Aging:

1. ***Boomers***: The oldest Baby Boomers will turn 60 next year. This will begin the movement of 76 million Boomers into the elder cohort, which will have two major effects on our communities:
 - A dramatic increase in the number of older persons;
 - A growing shift in the proportional balance between the generations -- greater proportion of older people and smaller proportion of people under the age of 60.
2. ***Longevity***: Increasing longevity continues to make the 85+ population the most rapidly growing segment of our communities, a population that is the most vulnerable to impairment and frailty.

Diversity:

Various aspects contribute to the diverse character of our communities. Trends concerning these aspects will heighten the already increasing diversity of our population:

1. ***Disabilities***: Increasing longevity among people with physical, mental, developmental, and chronic disabilities;
2. ***Ethnicity***: Dramatic growth in the numbers and types of ethnic groups and the number of people who are not proficient in English;
3. ***Immigration***: Continued strong influx of foreign immigration;
4. ***Migration***: Robust migration patterns, including:
 - Out-migration:
 - Young and mid-career workforce ... educated; productive;
 - Young-elderly persons ... couples, healthy, financially stable;
 - In-migration:
 - Oldest-elderly persons ... typically widows, frail, poorer.
5. ***Family Structure***: Continuing growth in the types and numbers of non-traditional family and household structures, such as singles, never-married, married with no children, blended families, single-parent families, four-generation families, grandparents with custodial care of grandchildren, same-sex couples, unrelated persons forming a household unit, etc.

Conventional Approaches to Planning and Programming--

- Traditionally, social programs, and the financial resources that fund them, are targeted or restricted to discrete segments of the population. Competition for decreasing resources is very strong among the agencies and advocates serving individual population groups.
- Funding and programming efforts are tied to distinct, disconnected networks. As a result, collaboration among networks or sectors in planning for community needs and in designing programs is a challenge or not considered. Planning and programming rarely cross community sectors.
- Too often, addressing the well-being of individual resident groups is not integrated within the context of addressing the overall well-being of the wider community.
- Social programs traditionally address the needs and deficits of individuals, with little effort devoted to utilizing the strengths and assets of individuals as a component of programming.

Doing Business Differently to Build Your Community's Social Capital--

To sustain our communities as dynamic and attractive places to live . . . in the face of significant demographic and social change . . . communities must use innovative planning processes and programming that:

- Are future-oriented, reflecting anticipated changes in our community profiles;
- Use an inclusive, global planning and programming methodology, bringing nontraditional partners to the table;
- Capitalize upon the creative ***opportunities*** inherent in demographic and social change.
- Recognize and use the assets and strengths residing in the community's various age groups and population segments to address the ***challenges*** inherent in demographic and social change.

★ Public-private collaborative:

Against this background, the Grantmakers Alliance of Northeastern New York and the New York State Office for the Aging have joined forces in a public/private collaborative to attract and engage other community sectors in *acting together* to create dynamic, desirable communities that are vibrant places for *all* residents to grow, work, live, and age. Relevant sectors include education, business, economic development, residents, service providers, the faith community, the arts community, public officials, the media, law enforcement, and others.

★ Objectives of the planning grants:

Grants will cover the costs of planning activities for a six-month period of time. Grants will be made to Community Teams whose members are committed to actively engaging together throughout the six-month period of time. The objectives of this grant initiative are:

1. Communities will establish an innovative, inclusive community-building planning process.
2. A project, program, or activity will be designed that . . .
 - (a) maximizes connections among residents and among community sectors;
 - (b) is feasible for funding and for implementation following the six-month planning period.
3. Communities will reconsider and reassess existing community resources as they relate to serving the diverse needs and taking advantage of the valuable opportunities inherent in our changing communities.

★ Proposals are solicited that reflect the following principles:

The proposed six-month planning process and resulting project or activity . . .

Are future-focused, based upon the implications of anticipated demographic and social changes.

Reflect an understanding of the community as a “system”-- recognizing and building upon the interconnectivity of our institutions (schools, faith-based organizations, business sector, etc.);

View the community as a group of individuals and families with common interests, common needs, and a common investment in the future.

Use collaboration as the foundation for planning, designing and implementation.

Use an inclusive, cross-community, cross-age planning, design, and implementation methodology.

Include substantial, meaningful engagement by community residents.

Aim to achieve an outcome of global community well-being, rather than an outcome targeted to and measured by the well-being of a discrete population group.

Use a strengths-based, in place of a deficits-based, approach to the planning process and the resulting project or activity.

Consider nontraditional, imaginative, inventive actions, methodologies, collaborations, and solutions.

★ Examples of topic areas that can provide the subject or sphere for the planning process include, but are not limited to:

- Creating a community focal point
- Education
- Housing
- Civic Engagement
- Transportation
- Community Master Plan

★ Eligible use of grant funds:

All expenses must be directly related to the planning process and must be justifiable and reasonable.

★ Rights reserved by the grant sponsors:

To reject any or all applications received in response to this Request For Applications.

To select an awardee(s), with funding contingent upon revisions required to the proposal, awarding the grant only upon the applicant's satisfying the contingencies within a stated time period.

★ Non-Discrimination Requirements:

Activities performed by a grantee, or contractors or subcontractors of a grantee, under *Making Connections ... to Build Strong Communities*, and any program, project, or activity designed under this grant which is to be implemented following completion of the funded planning process, must be in compliance with Article 15 of the New York State Human Rights Law and all other State and Federal statutory and constitutional non-discrimination provisions to ensure that any applicant or recipient of services is not discriminated against on the basis of religion, creed, race, color, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or marital status; must assure equal access for participation, services, activities, or employment; and shall not use funds for any partisan political activity, or for activities that may influence legislation or the election or defeat of any candidate for public office.

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Application Form

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SUBMISSION CHECK LIST	
Please check each item that is completed and submitted with this application	
	Lead Applicant Information
	List of Team Partners
	Proposal Title and Abstract
	Proposal Narrative
	Work Plan
	Project Management Information
	_____ # Letters of Commitment
	Budget Information
	An original and ten copies of completed application
	Copy of organization's 501(C)(3) certification
	Resume of person who will manage the planning process

★ List the names and addresses of *all* team partner organizations:

1.	_____

2.	_____

3.	_____

4.	_____

5.	_____

6.	_____

7.	_____

8.	_____

9.	_____

10.	_____

11.	_____

12.	_____

★ Proposal title & abstract/summary (use only the space provided):

[Empty rectangular box for proposal title and abstract/summary]

★ Proposal Narrative (for each section, limit your answers to the space provided):

What issue or topic will be addressed during the grant's planning time period?

Describe the specific need that has led you to choose this issue or topic. Do not provide global statistics indicating need among the general population, but provide evidence of need for the specific subject area, geographic area, or population to be addressed during the planning process.

Describe the composition and roles of the Community Collaborative Team member organizations that designed this proposal and that will be engaging in the six-month planning process.

Describe how the planning process will be organized and managed in order to ensure active engagement and meaningful involvement by all Team members.

Describe how substantial involvement by a broad spectrum of residents will be achieved.

Describe specifically how the planning process will reflect the principles outlined on page 3 in the Background section of the Request for Applications.

List, in bulleted format, the innovative, nontraditional aspects of your planning process and community collaboration team.

Describe how the intended planning process is expected to lead to the development of a stronger, more inclusive and cohesive community.

★ **Work Plan:**

Using a table or matrix format, provide a six-month time line of tasks and assigned roles and responsibilities of staff and team member organizations.

Please note: It is expected that the Community Team will make a progress/status presentation to the GANNY/NYSOFA sponsors mid-way through the planning process.

★ Project Management:

List the name and contact information for the person who will manage the planning process:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Qualifications: Please submit a resume for the person who will manage the planning process.

★ Letters of commitment from Community Team member organizations (maximum of three paragraphs per letter):

Letters should include:

- (a) a brief description of the organization's mission and services;
- (b) the organization's specific commitment of time and tasks as a member of the Community Team; and
- (c) identification of the organization's representative(s) on the Community Team.

★ Budget:

On the following page, submit a detailed budget, including annotation where appropriate, and include the total amount requested.

Budget: _____
Program Name

