**United Way of Buffalo & Erie County**

**Investment Process 2019-2021**

**Program Summaries**

**The African American Cultural Center (AACC): Educational Cultural Enrichment Program**- provides to its participants a myriad of quality educational and arts services to improve, develop, and enhance their learning skills and their capacity to learn. The target populations are students who attend the Buffalo Public Schools performing below New York State assessments in Reading and Math and live below poverty level. Eligible participants come from Schools in need of improvement or low performing schools, parents or guardians must agree to be a part of the program. The AACC believes that its unique Arts services provide supports and opportunities to acquire skills critical for learning. This blend of art enrichment with academic has yielded positive outcomes. The key program that provides the frame-work for assisting skill building for academic achievement include one-on-one mentoring, group discussions, artistic workshops which focus on individual performances and behavior modifications. The benefit fall into three major categories: improved academic performance and test scores; improved basic skills such as reading and mathematical skills and the capacity for creative thinking and improved attitudes and skills that promote the learning process itself particularly the ability to learn how to learn. Artistic workshops have proven to have cognitive benefits which focus on the development of learning skills and academic performance. The design of this program, the agency annually reviews the National Best Practices/Model found in the ENA Center for Best Practices (www.nga.org/portal/site//menuitem) Evaluations of some recent Best Practices supports the agency's rational for Center's approach.

**Algonquin Sports Inc.: Soccer for Success**- Algonquin Sports for Kids currently serves approximately 2,250 children annually through our Soccer for Success programming. During the 2018-2020 school years, we will work with approximately 5,000 children in the program and intend to expand the program in Lackawanna and Niagara Falls. This program is designed and provided to underserved communities to allow our participants’ access to quality, structured physical activities, and nutrition education that would not otherwise be afforded. The Buffalo Soccer for Success program is part of a national Soccer for Success program that is run nation-wide. The program uses soccer as a tool to teach K-8th grade students about healthy habits through its Stanford University approved curriculum. In addition, it provides youth with 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity three to four times a week, provides caring well-trained adult coach-mentors, and engages families in the program. The program is run for two 10-12 week sessions at each location, allowing participants 72 opportunities to participate a year.

**Baker Victory Services: School-Based Mobile Dental Program**- Baker Victory Healthcare Center, with the support of our funding sources, operates the School-Based Mobile Dental Program. This program provides critical patient screening, evidenced based prevention strategies, and restorative dentistry, along with dental health education, to some of WNY’s most vulnerable children. During the 2016-2017 school year alone, 746 school-age children across 31 sites concentrated in the highest areas of poverty in Western New York received these services. Dental health education was also provided to the families and the staff within the 31 sites. Of the children we served, 95% have no insurance or receive Medicaid. In 2017, the primary funding source for this program shifted strategic goals to focus on a more specific age range of students, leaving the program with a financial shortcoming. The School-Based Mobile Dental Program is requesting funding to maintain the program and continue bringing services into schools to reach children in need, including a majority with no insurance or Medicaid, that would otherwise not receive necessary care and services.

**Baker Victory Services: Work Appreciation for Youth**- Baker Victory Services operates the Work Appreciation for Youth (WAY) Program to help youth realize the value of education and work while developing individual strengths to achieve academic & personal success. WAY provides individualized plans that include career exploration, skills assessment, job readiness & job placement, independent living skills training, and academic enrichment. WAY operates several worksites and partners with community businesses throughout the region to help students to develop skills for a successful school-to-adult transition. WAY provides unique transition services, including hands-on-work experience at multiple community sites, situational assessments & evaluations, job shadows/internships, individual vocational planning, and on-site job coaching. WAY staff specializes in working with students with trauma histories, behavioral concerns, mental-health diagnoses, and developmental disabilities; staff has extensive experience in vocational skills training and is committed to a client centered approach, while still involving the students’ family and school. Our staff work 1:1 with students and assist them with attaining the goals that they established upon enrollment, focusing on educational enhancement, vocational development, and independent living skills. WAY offers many group activities and projects to expand social experiences, increase independent living skills & work related skills, and explore career fields & educational options. WAY utilizes a person-centered approach to its mission of building the proficiency necessary for community employment through assessment and skills development. Services are designed to assist individuals in realizing their highest potential and to support them in meeting their educational & vocational goals.

**Belmont Housing Resources for WNY: Family Self-Sufficiency Program**- Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc. is dedicated to providing and expanding affordable housing opportunities and delivering services that help low to moderate income households develop knowledge, skills, and assets which create economically stable homeowners and renters. We accomplish this through housing development and rehabilitation, property management, Housing Choice Voucher administration, and housing counseling and financial education services. Our services promote neighborhood stabilization and help the wider community flourish. Economically stable families with affordable housing improve families health and well-being, supports their ability to maintain employment, and helps the academic performance and school attendance of their children. Through the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV), Belmont offers the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. FSS is a voluntary economic independence program that was legislated by Congress in 1990 to help HCV families reduce the need for public assistance and rental subsidies. Established at Belmont in 1994, it is currently one of nearly 900 FSS programs nationwide. Adult family members can voluntarily sign up for FSS, entering into a personalized education, training, and career goal plan with a program coordinator. FSS Coordinators provide participants with referrals for child care, employment opportunities, child support issues, civil litigation, and food pantries. The target population for this program is HCV holders with young children, including families who are asset-limited, income-constrained, living in areas of concentrated poverty, veterans, and new or long-term unemployed. At Belmont we believe that lives are changed when families have a safe, healthy and affordable place to live and grow.

**Belmont Housing Resources for WNY: Housing Counseling and Financial Education-** Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc. is dedicated to providing and expanding affordable housing opportunities and delivering services that help low-to-moderate income families develop knowledge, skills, and assets which creates economically stable homeowners and renters. We accomplish this through housing development and rehabilitation, property management, Housing Choice Voucher administration and housing counseling and financial education services. These services promote neighborhood stabilization and help the wider community flourish. Having economically stable families with affordable housing improves families’ health and well-being, supports their ability to maintain employment, and helps the academic performance and school attendance of children in the household. At Belmont, we believe that lives are changed when families and individuals have a safe, healthy and affordable place to live and grow. Belmont is the Buffalo/Niagara region’s largest HUD-Certified Housing and Financial Counseling agency. The agency’s experienced and NCHEC Certified counseling staff of 14, advise over 2,000 low-to-moderate income families annually on finding affordable rental opportunities, buying a home, building financial capabilities, foreclosure prevention, reverse mortgages, home maintenance, energy efficiency, and green and healthy behaviors.

**Belmont Housing Resources for WNY: Individual Development Account Program**- Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc. is dedicated to providing and expanding affordable housing opportunities and delivering services that help low-to-moderate-income households develop knowledge, skills, and assets which creates economically stable homeowners and renters. We accomplish this through housing development and rehabilitation, property management, Section 8 administration and housing counseling and financial education services. These services promote neighborhood stabilization and help the wider community flourish. Having economically stable families with affordable housing improves a family’s health and well-being, supports their ability to maintain employment, and helps the academic performance and school attendance of children in the household. Belmont’s economic and housing stability programming include matched savings programs (IDA) which we have administered since 2005. IDAs enable community-based nonprofits to implement and demonstrate an asset-based approach for empowering low-income families. IDA projects, such as Belmont’s, help participants save earned income in special-purpose savings accounts. Every dollar deposited into an IDA by participants is matched by $4 (maximum match of $4,000), promoting savings and enabling participants to acquire a lasting asset. Families use their IDA savings, including the matching funds, to achieve any of four objectives: acquiring a first home, capitalizing a small business, car ownership as a means of obtaining or maintaining employment, or enrolling in post-secondary education or vocational training. The IDA target families include female heads of household receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit, TANF, participating in CASH supported programs or have income under 200% of the poverty level.

**Belmont Housing Resources for WNY: Siemer Family Stabilization Program**- Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc. is dedicated to providing and expanding affordable housing opportunities and delivering services that help low-to-moderate income households develop knowledge, skills, and assets which creates economically stable homeowners and renters. We accomplish this through housing development and rehabilitation, property management, Section 8 administration and housing counseling and financial education services. These services promote neighborhood stabilization and help the wider community flourish. Having economically stable families with affordable housing improves a family’s health and well-being, supports their ability to maintain employment, and helps the academic performance and school attendance of children in the household. The Siemer Family Stability Program provides full-time case management, coaching, and temporary financial assistance to low income families with children in Buffalo Public Schools #30, #93, and #94 who are experiencing housing instability. Belmont staff address the family’s reasons for housing instability; provide rental counseling and housing search assistance; benefit screening to secure income supports; financial coaching to develop financial capabilities; employment readiness and soft skill development; temporary financial assistance to secure housing and needed household items; and along with the Siemer Institute, take a holistic approach to address the family’s needs by partnering with family support specialists, parent advocates, and other service providers located within the schools. This two-generation approach addresses the family’s overall stability in an effort to limit student mobility and the potential negative impacts of disruptive school transfers for school aged children.

**BestSelf Behavioral Health: Building Brighter Futures- Early Childhood/School Age-** BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc. (BBH) was created when Child and Adolescent Treatment Services and Lake Shore Behavioral Health merged in June, 2017. BBH is the largest community-based behavioral health organization serving children and adults of all ages in Western New York. We provide residents of Western New York with easy access to a full continuum of person-centered, trauma-informed behavioral health treatment, recovery and educational services. BBH programs utilize more than 20 evidence-based treatments/ practices, & has school-based clinics and expanded learning programs in over 30 schools. The mission of Building Brighter Futures program is to enhance Students’ academic achievement, social emotional development, health/wellness and to foster lifelong interests in the arts, recreation, and other areas by providing high quality Expanded Learning Programs (ELP) that keep youth safe, help them thrive and that meaningfully engage and support adult family members in helping their youth and families succeed. The program serves at-risk students and their families in grades K-8 who enroll in BestSelf's Building Brighter Futures school age programs at various sites. Services include academic supports, financial literacy, mentoring, STEM, life- skills, health and wellness, socio-emotional supports, family literacy, family engagement and high school preparation. The program has three overall goals. The first is to enhance the academic achievement of students participating in the program. The second is increasing their ability to make pro-social choices in their behavior at home, school, & in the community. The third concentrates on developing strong life skills including positive relationships with family, school and community.

**BestSelf Behavioral Health: Building Brighter Futures- High School -** BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc. (BBH) was created when Child and Adolescent Treatment Services and Lake Shore Behavioral Health merged in June, 2017. BBH is the largest community-based behavioral health organization serving children and adults of all ages in Western New York. We provide residents of Western New York with easy access to a full continuum of person-centered, trauma-informed behavioral health treatment, recovery and educational services. BBH programs utilize more than 20 evidence-based treatments and practices and has school-based clinics and expanded learning programs in over 30 schools. The mission of Building Brighter Futures program is to enhance High School Students’ academic achievement, social emotional development, college readiness and to foster lifelong interests in the arts, recreation, and other areas by providing high quality out of school opportunities that keep youth safe, help them thrive and that meaningfully engage and support adult family members in helping their youth and families succeed. The program serves at-risk students and their families in grades 9-12 who attend East and South Park High Schools. Services include academic supports, financial literacy mentoring, teen parenting supports, life- skills, health and wellness, employment readiness and employment seeking services, socio-emotional supports and precollege academic skills building and preparation. The program has three overall goals. The first is to enhance the academic achievement and college and career readiness of students participating in the program. The second is increasing their ability to make pro-social choices in their behavior in home, school, on the job & in the community. The third concentrates on developing strong life skills.

**BestSelf Behavioral Health: Child Advocacy Center-** The Lee Gross Anthone Child Advocacy Center, (CAC), is a program of BestSelf Behavioral Health (BBH). BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc. provides effective, accessible, and family focused behavioral health services to promote health, hope, recovery, and an enhanced quality of life. The mission of the CAC is to integrate and coordinate services to meet the needs of child victims of sexual and serious physical abuse and their caregivers at a single, child friendly facility. Such response is intended to reduce trauma, promote accountability and facilitate healing. The population served consists of children who are victims of sexual abuse and/or serious physical abuse and their non-offending caregivers who live in Erie County. The CAC is the host of Erie County’s Multi-Disciplinary Team, (MDT). The MDT has representation from professionals in the fields of law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, medical, mental health and victim advocacy. Key MDT services provided at the CAC are MDT child forensic interviews, forensically competent medical examinations, clinical therapy including trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, Victim Advocacy, in which Victim Advocates provide services to the child and caregiver, such as supportive counseling, information and referrals to community resources, as well as working with the MDT on creation of a safety plan, and acting as liaisons with MDT partners. This funding will be used to support the operations and staffing of the CAC, including the vital support staff who manage the day to day operations, scheduling and assist in maintaining a trauma informed environment.

**BestSelf Behavioral Health: Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)** - BBH’s Dialectical Behavior Therapy Program for Adolescents (DBT-A) is an evidence-based treatment deriving from cognitive behavioral therapy. DBT helps clients identify thoughts, beliefs, and assumptions that make their lives challenging, and provides them with tools to learn different ways of thinking and responding. DBT has been found effective for individuals with suicidal and other severely dysfunctional behaviors. DBT aims to keep clients alive, committed to treatment, and help them build an improved quality of life. Our DBT program operates on an outpatient basis and serves to keep teens out of the hospital and in the care of their families by providing skills and support to assist them with emotional health challenges they face. The following modalities are implemented to keep our program adherent to the DBT model, support its mission of preventing inpatient hospitalization, and help clients build a life worth living. Individual therapy sessions allow clients to share thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that are potentially life threatening, interfering with progress in treatment, and/or impacting quality of life. Special techniques are used to help clients gain awareness and motivation for change. In group sessions, skills are taught to clients and their parent/guardian that assist them in meeting their treatment goals, including those related to personal health and safety. Phone consultation is available to clients/families to help them apply learned skills when dealing with urges to harm themselves, and in times of high stress and at risk for hospitalization. The therapist provides skills coaching, assesses risks, and develops safety plans. Therapist team consultations are held weekly to prevent therapist burn out and ensure adherence to the model.

**BestSelf Behavioral Health: Incredible Years Parenting Support** - Best Self Behavioral Health has operated The Lighthouse since 2000. This program is entirely unique in its ability to serve women with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) together with their children in a residential setting. The annual budget for The Lighthouse is approximately $1,700,000, and they have a staff of 35 to 40. The average age of the women at The Lighthouse is 23, and approximately 40% to 50% are pregnant when they enter the treatment program. Length of stay is 6-9 months. The proposed United Way program will support improved family engagement, parenting skills and parenting development. The Incredible Years will provide these young mothers the tools they need to become better parents and make healthier choices for both themselves and their children. This evidenced-based curriculum gives them the opportunity to learn good parenting skills and provide a safe family environment for their children. Effective parenting skills will not only help mothers to cope with their children’s behavioral problems, it will also give them confidence as a parent which can aid their own continued recovery. Most of the women treated at The Lighthouse have a history of trauma in addition to their SUD. They do not have healthy family role models and lack good parenting skills, and many either have lost or are at risk of losing custody of their children. While in treatment they work to reestablish relationships, regain or maintain custody, and develop parenting skills. They frequently are also coping with their children’s behavioral problems, which can increase stress on their own recovery efforts. Best Self was able to identify funding to pilot Incredible Years from the Community Health Foundation and is requesting funding to continue this successful initiative.

**BestSelf Behavioral Health: Individualized Placement Support at the Lighthouse** - Best Self Behavioral Health (BBH) has operated The Lighthouse since 2000. This program is entirely unique in its ability to serve women with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) together with their children in a residential setting. The annual budget for The Lighthouse is approximately $1,700,000, and they have a staff of 35 to 40. The average age of the women at The Lighthouse is 23, and approximately 40% to 50% are pregnant when they enter the treatment program; the rest have small children. Average length of stay is 6-9 months. The proposed United Way program will support employment skills and credentials, promote job placement, coaching and retention to families with young children. BestSelf Individual Placement and Support Services (IPS) will provide assistance and support for Lighthouse residents, all of whom are mothers recovering from Substance Use Disorders and have been unemployed for a period of time. BBH IPS Services will assist Lighthouse residents with improving employment skills and credentials, promoting job placement, coaching and retention. BBH will work with these individuals to help them build skills and explore strengths to match employment opportunities. Once an individual obtains employment, BBH will work closely with the individual and employer to provide continued support.

**BestSelf Behavioral Health: Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)** - BestSelf Behavioral Health (BBH)’s Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) program is an evidence-based treatment program working with at-risk children ages 2-7 and their parent/guardian. PCIT is designed for children who exhibit disruptive behaviors, including oppositional/defiant behaviors, aggression, and hyperactivity. PCIT is also effective for young children with anxiety, problems regulating emotions, and who have experienced trauma. PCIT is a family-focused, strength-based, assessment driven, and short-term approach, distinguished by working with the parent and child together, using live, direct coaching. The therapist provides coaching from behind a one way mirror via a wireless ear bud, guiding the parent/guardian in using effective skills to increase their child’s positive behavior, decrease negative behavior, and improve compliance and emotion regulation. Families are seen weekly for approximately 14-18 sessions until the parent/guardian reaches mastery of the skills and the child’s behavior has improved to a level typical for their age. Research has shown that improvements in the child’s behavior from PCIT carry over to school. PCIT helps children gain the social, emotional and behavioral skills necessary for success both at home and in school.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara, and the Southern Tier - Be A Friend Program, Inc.: Community Based Mentoring Program** - Be-A-Friend Program, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier (BBBS) seeks funding to support its Community Based Mentoring (CBM) Program, including Transforming Buffalo Through Mentoring & Education (TBTME). For 47 years, the mission of BBBS has been to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Over 60% of children enrolled in BBBS mentoring programs are in the CBM Program, including TBTME, an integrated program at Buffalo Public Schools where there is an increased focus on keeping children matched with a caring adult mentor until they graduate high school. The CBM Program has a focus on providing mentoring to children in specific areas of high need, as well as in communities that partner with the organization by providing resources to implement the program. The CBM Program provides: (1) an opportunity for the child to build social, emotional, interpersonal and educational skills; (2) an opportunity for a child to establish a friendship with an adult who cares about him or her; and (3) individualized adult attention focused on the child’s area(s) of need. Children enrolled in our program dramatically out-perform their peers that are not in our program. Recent assessments of children enrolled in the CBM Program show that 93.4% had a positive attitude towards school, 98.4% had greater self-confidence and 99.5% were promoted to the next grade level. With UWBEC funding, the CBM Program will positively impact the lives of 285 children facing adversity, including 200 children who attend Buffalo Public Schools.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara, and the Southern Tier - Be A Friend Program, Inc.: Group Mentoring Program** - Be-A-Friend Program, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier (BBBS) seeks funding to support our Group Mentoring Program (GMP) and impact the lives of 90 young males and females who have a high-risk profile, including being at a high-risk of dropping out of school or becoming involved in the juvenile justice system; or are currently involved in the juvenile justice system to help them succeed academically and vocationally. The GMP provides opportunities for young adults to improve the life skills required for employment, college, and independent living. For 47 years, the mission of BBBS has been to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. The GMP is designed to meet the needs of youth who would benefit not only from the attention and friendship of an adult role model, but also the social interaction provided through small group activities. This service option combines the critical elements of one-to-one mentoring with the unique benefits provided by the social group setting. With over 17 years of experience providing the GMP to at-risk youth, this collaborative project initially started in partnership with Erie County and Catholic Charities. The GMP utilizes a paid Mentor Advocate to provide mentoring services to young adults, ages 13-18, who are considered to be high-risk. The placement of high-risk youth in this age range into mentoring relationships with a paid agency staff person, instead of with volunteers, is necessary due to the particular difficulties this population presents in building relationships with adults. BBBS has seen great success in engaging this population in this program model.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara, and the Southern Tier - Be A Friend Program, Inc: Site Based Mentoring Program** - Be-A-Friend Program, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier (BBBS) is seeking funding for our Site Based Mentoring (SBM) Program to impact the lives of 90 children facing adversity residing in low-income households in the city of Buffalo and surrounding suburbs. For 47 years, BBBS’ mission has been to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. The SBM Program matches children (ages 5-14) one-to-one with carefully screened and well-trained volunteer mentors that meet year round, 2-4 times per month for 1-2 hours (depending on the site location). A BBBS Site Coordinator prepares and delivers a carefully developed curriculum that has a positive and measurable impact on children’s social skills and academic achievement. A portion of the time is spent on schoolwork, strengthening academics and building life skills, in addition to engaging activities. The SBM Program recently expanded to increase the pool of volunteer mentors to not only include the community at large but also more targeted groups. BBBS now offers a High School Bigs Mentoring Program that offers a unique opportunity to provide elementary/intermediate students structured one-to-one mentoring relationships with High School students in their school district; as well as a Bigs in Blue Program that utilizes officers from the Buffalo Police Department as volunteer mentors and matches them one-to-one with a child in the school. Current locations include: Enterprise Charter School in Downtown Buffalo and Kenmore Youth Center; High School Bigs sites - Cleveland Hill, Lackawanna City and Maryvale School Districts; and Bigs in Blue site - BPS #74 Hamlin Park.

**Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora: BGCEA Project Learn** - The Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora (BGCEA) offers life-changing programs that help youth advance in three key areas: academics, character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. While these three pillars are important to children of every age, they are critical to young children; when instilled early, they form the foundation for healthy childhood development and productive adulthood. We offer the Project Learn Educational Enhancement Strategy to provide academic enrichment and strengthen school engagement, decision making and social development of young people during time spent at the Club. The strategy is based on research demonstrating that students perform much better in school when spending non-school hours engaged in fun, but academically beneficial, activities. Through Project Learn, Club staff inject creative opportunities to engage in high yield learning activities (HYLAs) which include leisure reading, writing activities, discussions with adults, helping others, homework help, tutoring, leisure reading, and educational games that develop cognitive skills. Project Learn also emphasizes parental involvement and collaboration between Club and school professionals as critical factors in creating the best after-school learning environment for Club members. Our target population is youth, ages 5-13, with a special emphasis on low-income students ages 5-8 who are underachieving at school, making poor decisions, and socially immature. Performance measures to be attained include: # of children exhibiting developmentally appropriate language, literacy and mathematical skills # of children exhibiting developmentally appropriate social-emotional and behavioral skills

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo: Bridging the Gap** - Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo (BGCB) will deliver Bridging the Gap (BTG), an academic-focused enrichment program, to 1,100 youth ages 5-18. BTG supports academic success for low-income youth in our community who are most at-risk for academic failure. Club staff, working with community based partners and volunteer mentors, will engage youth in educational programs focused on improving their performance in reading, math, and science so that they increase achievement on NYS Learning Standard assessments and graduate from high school. Fun, engaging activities in a safe and supportive environment cultivate both academic and social-emotional growth in the youth that we serve. All of our programming promotes leadership, teamwork, and character development. We focus on promoting on-time grade progression and high school graduation, ultimately leading to post-secondary education.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northtowns: College and Career** - The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northtowns (BGCNT) is committed to helping youth develop the skills they need to become self-sufficient and successful adults. The Clubs, located in Buffalo and northern Erie County, actively strives to enrich the lives of girls and boys, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. BGCNT offers programs designed to help youth realize their potential in all areas of their lives and promotes development of protective factors that help to prevent risk-taking behaviors. To assure that youth served by our Clubs graduate and are prepared for higher education or employment, programming at all our Clubs has evolved to include a strong academic component. For older youth, this is supplemented with College and Careers, which presents programs that enable youth to regain credits needed to complete high school, explore colleges and the requirements for enrollment, develop employment related skills, and secure employment. Ongoing assessments of these programs indicate that they have a positive impact on student behavior, academic achievement, college enrollment, and employment opportunities. Our program measures include: Number of youth receiving life skills training; Number of individuals receiving career enrichment, exploration or professional development services; Number of youth with defined career interests. BGCNT’s Erie County Clubs serve an average of 4,000 youth annually and over 500 youth daily, approximately 65% of whom come from economically disadvantaged homes. The service area includes four public housing facilities. More than 200 teens are anticipated to participate in the teen College and Career program in the coming year.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northtowns: Youth Asset Development Program (YADP)** - Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northtowns (BGCNT) is committed to helping youth develop the skills they need to become self-sufficient and successful adults. The Clubs, located in Buffalo and northern Erie County, actively strive to enrich the lives of girls and boys, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. BGCNT offers programs designed to help youth realize their potential in all areas of their lives and promotes development of protective factors. To assure that children served by our Clubs graduate and are prepared for higher education or employment, programming at all our Clubs has evolved to include a strong academic component. As part of this change, BGCNT created the Youth Asset Development Program (YADP), a comprehensive youth development program comprised of five core programs: Character & Leadership, Health & Life Skills, The Arts, Sports, Fitness & Recreation and Education & Career Development. These five programs, developed by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, utilize Best Practices to assure attainment of program goals. Ongoing assessments indicate that they have a positive impact on student behavior and academic achievement. Performance measures include: # of students promoted to the next grade; # of children receiving academic enrichment, tutoring or mentoring services; # of children receiving life skills training, mentoring or career services. BGCNT’s Erie County Clubs serve an average of 4,000 youth annually and over 500 youth daily, most of whom come from economically disadvantaged homes. The service area includes four public housing facilities. More than 1,200 youth, of whom approximately 36% are ages 8 and younger, will participate in YADP in the coming year with approximately 600 attending regularly (at least 30 school days).

**Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology: Buffalo Arts and Technology Center** - The Buffalo Arts and Technology Center (Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology, or BCAT) has a twofold mission: to assist unemployed/underemployed adults in obtaining and retaining jobs that provide family-sustaining wages and to keep youth in school through graduation. Both programs are based on Bill Strickland’s Manchester Bidwell model and as an affiliate of the National Centers for Arts and Technology, BCAT’s programs focus on combating the legacy of generational poverty. BCAT’s philosophy and evidence-based practices are deeply rooted in developing trusting relationships, demonstrating respect to all, and providing a creative, encouraging environment that lead to success for the individual. BCAT’s Adult Workforce Development Program (AWP) offers to City of Buffalo and Erie County residents two nine-month training courses (Pharmacy Technician and Medical Coding classes) approved by New York State Education Department and the Buffalo Employment Training Center leading to careers in these areas. Each program includes classroom instruction at BCAT from 9am-3pm Monday through Friday and a 6-week internship. For students, the cost of attendance is free: the program provides scholarships covering the tuition, books and national exam fees. Students accepted into the program must pass a GAIN assessment test, be at least 21 years old, and have a high school diploma, GED, or high school equivalency diploma.

**Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers: BFNC Hope Center & Free Tax Preparation Network** - Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, Inc. would like to expand economic impact programs and services facilitated by the BFNC Hope Center. It encompasses the Free Tax Preparation Network (FTPN) program in collaboration with the United Way CASH Coalition. The BFNC Hope Center empowers families with young children to better plan for and address their economic needs. BFNC delivers comprehensive, coordinated, family-focused, multi-generational human services to low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods throughout Buffalo and Erie County. BFNC services reach 16,000 individuals per year, primarily those in minority populations. The requested United Way investment will afford the BFNC Hope Center to build capacity, increase volunteer recruitment efforts and extend retention of individuals and families receiving financial coaching, consumer legal services, and benefits assistance from the tax preparation cycle. Overall, the Hope Center served 8,799 individuals in 2017 between all programs. The Free Tax Preparation Network (1) experiences incredible participant volume and (2) mobilizes to 5 remote sites across the city. The network assisted 7100 individuals in 2018 with integrated economic empowerment and free tax services. The BFNC Hope Center’s successful tax preparation services present an opportunity to further benefits of the Center’s core services to an estimated 7800 households who will utilize tax preparation services annually in 2019-2021.

**Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center: Language to Literacy Program** - In 2004, Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center developed the Language to Literacy Program (LLP), a program that utilizes a research-based curriculum to build critical foundational skills for language and reading success. Since then, the Center has provided Phases I/II/III instruction to over 1,800 students through its clinic/school programs. Requested funding will be utilized to provide 100 K to grade 4 students at West Buffalo Charter School with LLP programming, per year, that specifically focuses on their individual literacy needs. This is a critical time in a child’s education, as the skills they do, or do not, develop, will impact their long-term academic and professional success. Students will be identified based on teacher input, academic performance, and internal literacy assessments. Key program elements include: (1) Specialized content that will provide the most at-risk K-4 students with literacy skills that will prepare them for middle and high school; (2) Coordination between classroom teachers, Speech Language Pathologists and school staff; and, (3) Assessment of student data to demonstrate effectiveness. Data collected from regular assessments and parent/teacher surveys will be utilized to continuously inform instruction and improve academic achievement. A minimum of 100 students will demonstrate an increase in performance on the internally developed benchmark assessments that specifically reflect performance abilities on language and literacy skills that are directly targeted in the Program. This improvement will significantly impact student performance across content areas, as well as increase self-esteem and academic engagement.

**Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network: MICHC Community Health Worker Program** - The Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network’s (BPPN) Maternal Infant Child Health Collaborative (MICHC) Community Health Worker Program (CHWP) proposal will provide a home based model that provides education & case management to women, infants & families & will incorporate strategic goals to Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health. The program proposed will consist of staff, who are culturally diverse & bilingual engaging program participants (PP) by possessing the language skills & cultural competency needed to service the target program population. This consists of identifying & servicing clients in 12 zip codes (14201, 14204, 14207, 14208, 14209, 14210, 14211, 14212, 14213, 14214, 14215 and 14216). CHWP will target African American & Hispanic women before, during & after their pregnancy, to reduce racial disparities in infant mortality & adverse perinatal outcomes. These targeted ethnic groups chosen for this project have historically been the victims of poor maternal infant health outcome indicators, including infant mortality, premature births, low birth-weight births, poor compliance with activating early entry into prenatal care, poor utilization of preventive health care practices, low breastfeeding rates, etc. Community Health Workers (CHW) will conduct door to door outreach to identify & recruit program participants (PP), provide a full assessment to pinpoint their needs & assist with securing services. CHWs will be trained Certified Lactation Consultants (CLC) & will facilitate breastfeeding groups. CHW efforts will also increase prenatal access; increase medical care; increase attendance at prenatal appointments; & increase health awareness through education (e.g., nutrition, obesity, smoking cessation, addressing chronic illness, etc.)

**Buffalo Promise Neighborhood: Two Generation Program** - Founded in 1993 by M&T Bank, Buffalo Promise Neighborhood (BPN), one of the most successful public/private partnerships in Buffalo, supports neighborhood transformation through coordinated cradle-to-college and career services. To maximize grant funding, the Westminster Foundation, a 501c3 entity, was established in 2010 to seek a federal designation and US Department of Education funding award to formally establish the BPN as a multi-stakeholder organization to improve performance at the Westminster Community Charter School; Highgate Heights Elementary; and BPN Children’s Academy. Leveraging this momentum, BPN was one of three in the United States to receive 2012 funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to integrate a Two-Generation approach into the schools that encompasses simultaneous support services for young children, their parents, and other caregivers within the same household. In addition to the continuum of services offered, this program has led to both improved educational/economic outcomes for children and adults in one of Buffalo’s most impoverished communities through financial coaching; employment, skills training and education services; the provision of quality childcare; and support for parents as their child’s first teacher. BPN is again at the forefront of innovative early childhood education and is building a second Children’s Academy in partnership with Gerard Place, a local supportive services agency that provides housing and family support for homeless parents with a mental or physical disability. UWBEC funds will support the expansion of this critical Two-Generation program that will further meet the needs of hundreds of parents/caregivers of K-3 students who are already actively engaged with BPN.

**Buffalo Urban League: Employment Transition Services** - The Buffalo Urban League offers a comprehensive, holistic, culturally sensitive and innovative cadre of employment & training transitional services. The elements of the program include employment readiness skills/soft skills demanded by employers; educational competency in reading and math, as well as assisting people with obtaining a high school equivalency diploma; assisting with skill training to navigate career pathways resulting in employment opportunities in demand sectors with livable wages; and wrap around support services including transportation, child care, resources for clothing and tools necessary for job acquisition and retention. The program will increase labor force participation rates and decrease unemployment rates for African Americans, Latinos and disadvantaged persons living in low income zip codes where poverty, economic decline and social issues are disproportionate. The program is targeted towards individuals who do not have the education, behaviors and income to gain financial stability for themselves and their children. Specifically, this includes families with children living on public assistance or some sort of income support program to meet basic needs, such as food stamps, childcare supplements, or rental assistance.

**Buffalo Urban League: Financial Security (Housing Counseling)**  - The Buffalo Urban League (BUL) Financial Security Program provides financial counseling and educational services for low to moderate income residents in Erie County, targeting zip codes with high poverty rates. We will provide counseling and educational services targeted to families with young children to secure and/or maintain financial stability and growth through: homeownership, vehicle purchase, business start-ups and savings. Our program allows us to: \*educate and counsel consumers on financial literacy, to include: budgeting, saving, debt management and credit repair \*prepare individuals and families for first time homeownership \*educate and counsel individuals and families to avoid or reduce foreclosures \*provide counseling and legal referrals to those homeowners who are facing foreclosure and/or bankruptcy; and/ or have been taken advantage of by abusive and unethical lenders, educate and counsel consumers about predatory (high cost) lending scams, sub-prime / predatory mortgages, and refinancing. We take a holistic comprehensive customer-centered approach, by offering individuals and families our internal and community resources and linkages with organizations providing social and economic resources. These community collaborations allow us to be a continuing resource for residents increasing self-sufficiency and economic empowerment. Our model integrates financial capacity services for all of those we serve throughout our programs in family preservation, preventive services, workforce, education, housing and business assistance programs to improve their financial security. The model is effective in assisting in low income families to begin rebuilding their financial lives, increasing their financial capability, and starting to build wealth.

**Buffalo Urban League: Senior Multi-Service Center** - The Senior Multi-Service Center, (SMSC) a program of the Buffalo Urban League (BUL) provides supportive services to seniors age 55 and over, (including those with a disability) with healthy life style education, poverty reduction strategies and increased opportunity for continued independent living. Important to the program's participants and a focus of the program is preventing premature nursing home placement by ensuring seniors have access to preventative health care, and they receive vital information that promote ways of staying healthy mentally and physically. Our service strategy also assists seniors to form emotional support by developing caring relationships that can grow and improve their lives. This keeps their minds active and stimulates continued learning that can lead to improved health. We achieve these goals through: Congregate dining- daily nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snacks; Food Pantry provides bi-weekly food packages to cover 4-days of nutrition; Transportation to and from program services, medical and business appointments, shopping and field trips; Telephone Assurance Program( TAP) regular telephone contact with Seniors who are homebound and/or who do not come to the Center to ensure their safety and well-being; Forms Completion Assistance which gives individual assistance to seniors in completing applications for resources they are eligible to receive; Health related workshops and seminars to provide up to date information and access to services. A new planned initiative for 2018 is the Early Memory Loss program (EML) and Care Giver support groups will be designed to assist seniors with sustaining cognitive abilities and enhance well-being in persons with dementia. All services are free of charge based upon eligibility.

**Center for Employment Opportunities: Comprehensive Employment Reentry Services** - The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) is dedicated to providing immediate, effective, and comprehensive employment services to men and women (ages 18+) with recent criminal convictions. Our highly structured and tightly supervised program help participants regain the skills and confidence needed for a successful transition to a stable, productive life. CEO’s Comprehensive Employment Reentry Services program combines four key elements: job readiness training, paid transitional work, job placement assistance, and post-placement job retention support.

**Child & Family Services of Erie County: Family Mental Health Program -** Child & Family Services’ Family Mental Health Program is requesting funding from the United Way to support the continuation of educational support and counseling services to children in Erie County. Licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Health, the outpatient mental health clinic provides counseling and psychiatric services in a confidential and supportive environment. Therapists offer outpatient assessment, treatment and counseling services for a comprehensive range of emotional and behavioral problems including, but not limited to, mood disorders, childhood/adolescent disorders, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, and adjustment disorders. Counselors and clients work together to address students’ mental health issues in a process that can last as briefly as one session or last for multiple years. Appropriate services are determined on an individual basis by the client and counselor. Over the course of the past several years, we have found an ever-increasing need and demand for children’s mental health services, particularly as it relates to their success in school. Through the Family Mental Health Program, we offer unique interventions to address specific needs of children and subsequently support their academic success; among these interventions are: Anger Management therapy, Youth Sexual Abuse Prevention, Play therapy, Progressive Counting and Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing therapy. Since 2015, our relationship with Say Yes to Education allowed us to provide mental health services to students within the Buffalo Public Schools. We are also in discussion with the Grand Island School District and Buffalo Prep to provide services to their students.

**Child & Family Services of Erie County: Haven House** - Haven House offers a comprehensive, broad-based continuum of care for survivors of domestic violence. Services are offered 24-hours a day/7 days a week, featuring both residential and innovative, non-residential community-based programming. United Way funding for non-residential services is being sought to support programs offered through the Counseling and Advocacy Program (CAP). CAP helps families enhance their interpersonal safety through counseling, crisis intervention, support groups, legal advocacy, and criminal justice navigation in locations throughout Erie County, NY, that include police departments, court settings, and numerous confidential satellite locations. From a trauma-informed perspective, CAP assists victims and survivors to understand the dynamics of domestic violence, understand their rights and options, access protective measures, and develop safety plans to escape from the abuse. Advocacy is provided with police and the criminal justice system to obtain orders of protection and/or participate in the successful prosecution of the violent intimate partner or family member. Parenting can be adversely impacted by domestic violence; specialized parenting services are also available to assist parents and children with healing from traumatic effects often associated with interpersonal violence. In addition, Erie County’s High Risk Team Coordinator is based out of Haven House’s CAP Program. The High Risk Team is an interdisciplinary team composed of law enforcement, the Erie County District Attorney's office, members of Erie County Department of Social Services, and three of the providers of domestic violence services in Erie County. This team manages cases of domestic violence with the potential to end in homicide.

**Child & Family Services of Erie County: Preventive Services -** The Preventive Services Program of Child & Family Services of Erie County works with children and families where there is an identified risk of a child being placed outside the home due to issues of abuse, neglect and/or maltreatment. All families served must live within Erie County. Children in the home are identified as youth between the ages of birth through 18 years of age. Risk of placement is determined by Child Protective Services of Erie County. While some of the families identified for services are being monitored by Erie County Family Court (and are court ordered for services), other families agree to services on a voluntary basis. The design of the service is a case management program which assists a family in identifying their needs, making linkages to community resources and from there receiving the necessary support to maintain involvement with referred services until successful completion of the program. The goal is to eradicate, or minimally mitigate the risk factors that place the child(ren) in jeopardy of placement away from their parents.

**Child Care Resource Network: Child Development Associate (CDA) -**Child Care Resource Network (CCRN) is a child care resource & referral agency whose mission is to promote quality, affordable, accessible care and learning for all children by supporting and empowering families, caregivers, education professionals, and employers. The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential program at CCRN offers early childhood educators a comprehensive approach to complete the first step of the early childhood career ladder. The CDA is the most widely recognized, national credential in the early care and education field. It is based on a core set of competency standards to develop qualified teachers of young children. The credential is awarded to candidates who demonstrate skill in working with young children and families by successfully completing the CDA process. CDA candidates have the knowledge to put the CDA competency standards into practice and understand why and how the standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another. Simply put, CDA candidates know how to nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of young children. Candidates participating in CCRN”s CDA Credential program receive 120 hours of classroom instruction. The course, which runs cyclically, is divided into four modules. The four modules span 12 months across two calendar years. In addition to classroom instruction, CDA candidates are also assigned an education specialist who supports them with the development of the required portfolio and provide mentoring in their programs with a focus on increasing the quality of care provided to children. CCRN uses the nationally recognized Harms & Clifford Environmental Rating Scales to assess program quality and track candidate progress throughout the credentialing process.

**Child Care Resource Network: Parent and Employer Child Care Services -** Child Care Resource Network (CCRN) is a child care resource and referral agency that works to match working parents with high-quality child care. Our mission is to promote quality, affordable, accessible care and learning for all children by supporting and empowering families, caregivers, education professionals, and employers. The Parent and Employer Child Care Services program at CCRN helps families navigate child care options by providing information about high-quality child care and referrals for regulated child care programs in Erie County. Parents can access the program over the phone, online, and in person at our office or in the community. A Child Care Navigator, trained in child development, case management, and trauma informed practices, will work with each family to create an individualized child care plan. This plan is created based on the needs of each family from the type of child care desired, to cost, location, and the special needs of each child, as well as cultural and linguistic considerations. Without access to quality and affordable child care, many families would not be able to successfully keep their jobs, having a serious and negative effect on the productivity of thousands of local businesses. The Parent and Employer Child Care Services program works with local employers to ensure that businesses have the resources needed to support employees with work-life issues related to child care. From training employees on topics related to choosing high-quality child care to conducting feasibility studies that explore opening or expanding child care slots in the community, Child Care Resource Network is available to help businesses develop the necessary supportive child care services to ensure employee success and retention.

**Community Action Organization of Erie County: Center Service and Community Engagement** - The Community Action Organization was established as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1965. CAO was designated as the official anti-poverty agency for Erie County. The CAO addresses the needs of the Western New York low income population by focusing on housing, employment, family development, chemical dependency, minor home repair, youth services, senior services and childcare. CAO is one of largest nonprofit agencies in New York State and serve more than 15 thousand people per year. Our mission is to promote opportunities for low-income families and individuals to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through advocacy, partnerships and services within the community. CAO's Center Service and Community Engagement Department is dedicated to increasing financial stability for individuals who are low income. The Financial Wellness program assist low-income working families make ends meet by providing financial education on an ongoing basis. Our goal is to assist Individuals and families who are struggling to cover basic expenses to achieve financial stability by bridging the gap between their job, income, debt, credit and expenses. Our Financial Wellness Program specifically guides our organization through planning and implementing work support services to low-wage, front line employees and by collaborating with CAO's Employment and Training Department we believe we can create a quality wrap around program that will fit the needs of every individual that walks through the door.

**Community Action Organization of Erie County: Employment and Training S.T.E.P.S -** The Community Action Organization was established as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1965. CAO was designated as the official anti-poverty agency for Erie County. The CAO addresses the needs of the Western New York low income population by focusing on housing, employment, family development, chemical dependency, minor home repair, youth services, senior services and childcare. CAO is one of largest nonprofit agencies in New York State and serve more than 15 thousand people per year. Our mission is to promote opportunities for low-income families and individuals to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through advocacy, partnerships and services within the community. Our S.T.E.P.S (Strategies To Empower Personal Success) Program objectives include ensuring that a minimum of 120 unemployed and under employed individuals are stabilized with employment and financial wellness for consecutive 3 months; increasing by 50% the number of individuals who will receive access to our services for the first time within the grant period; engaging a minimum of 60 individuals who are low income in our financial wellness class; and increasing our referrals to partnering nonprofit organizations specifically serving the individuals who are low income by 50% within the grant period. We believe that this project will introduce our organization and services to an extremely underserved population. As a result, we anticipate a rise in self-management, self -sufficiency and a decrease in unemployment and family debt. CAO is focused on improving the quality of life for those individuals.

**Compass House: Compass House** - Compass House provides safe shelter and services for runaway and homeless youth with a 46-year track record of advocacy in Erie County, remaining WNY’s only shelter for adolescents of all gender identities. Open 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, Compass House’s thirteen-bed Emergency Shelter for youth ages 12-17 (located at 370 Linwood Avenue) provides short-term shelter, food and personal care items; counseling; linkage and referrals; a 24-hour Crisis Helpline; and aftercare. Beyond immediate shelter, the agency provides longer-term, non-residential services through the Resource Center (located at 1451 Main Street), and a comprehensive case management program for youth ages 14-24 and their families. All clients have access to stabilizing resources, including crisis, individual, family and group counseling, as well as advocacy, independent living instruction, laundry facilities and daily meals. All services are voluntary, confidential, free, and easy to access through the agency’s 24-Hour Helpline at (716) 886-0935 and the Safe Place Program, which links youth with site partners (like Tops Friendly Markets and the NFTA) and volunteer-staffed transportation to Compass House. Our trained and dedicated staff team provides individualized case management services to reduce the likelihood of chronic homelessness into adulthood. We also run a Rapid-Rehousing program where we provide immediate access to shelter and crisis services without barriers to entry. In a context where youth and their families live in unsafe homes, or on the edge of homelessness, with few options and serious consequences to their health, safety and well-being, our mission is to stabilize these individuals in housing and with comprehensive services to meet all of their needs.

**Compeer of Greater Buffalo: Compeer CORPS (also known as Vet2Vet) -** Compeer is a 35-year-old nationally recognized organization with an evidenced based program that matches individuals with mental health challenges in 1:1 volunteer driven relationships. Compeer CORPS is an extension of the traditional Compeer Model that is designed to serve veterans in our community who are in mental health recovery. Based on the 2016 United States census bureau data, there were nearly 57,719 veterans residing in Erie County. According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, 225 veterans in Erie County died by suicide in 2014. The purpose of Compeer CORPS is to create a network of military veterans to provide peer and group mentoring to support veterans in need. The program works to assist veterans in their reintegration journeys by filling a void in the many services that are offered to veterans. Veteran volunteers are matched in one-to-one supportive friendships with veterans in Erie County who are living with mental illness. Compeer staff screen volunteers, provide in-depth training, and then help to select and create a support connection. The matched individuals are then supported by Compeer staff. Compeer CORPS volunteers and their veteran matches spend at least four hours monthly, participating in activities they both enjoy. Compeer offers monthly social activities to all program participants, whether they are matched with a volunteer, or waiting for a match. Through friendship and mentoring, they share personal recovery stories, showing that recovery from mental health challenges is possible. As role models, peers exhibit their own wellness. Peers teach goal setting, problem solving, and a variety of recovery tools. This program benefits the entire family by also providing services to the children in the family in our youth program.

**Compeer of Greater Buffalo: Compeer for Older Adults** - Compeer of Greater Buffalo is a unique agency in Erie County that uses the healing power of relationships to help change lives. In 1994, due to identified community need, Compeer began a program for the aged, matching volunteers in 1-1 friendships with seniors, age 60+ who are striving for good mental health. They are at risk for out of home placement, meeting the criteria of mental health challenges and physical/medical issues, loneliness, isolation, and poverty. The Compeer for Seniors Program recruits, screens, trains, matches, and monitors volunteers who are actively helping seniors with their mental health challenges. Through these relationships, the gap between community isolation and social integration is closed. Compeer is currently the largest provider of best practice and evidence-based relationship services to elders with a mental health diagnosis in Erie County. In 2012, the Compeer Model was reviewed and approved for listing on the SAMHSA National Registry for Evidence-based Programs and Practices. As of 2017, Compeer for Seniors serves nearly 100+ clients annually. Key features include nationally recognized best practices for mentoring such as outreach, screening, training, monitoring, and evaluation; unpaid volunteers serve as advocates and provide linkages and transportation to community services and activities. Volunteers provide advice and guidance when problems arise and help the senior understand confusing communication from medical and other professionals. Performance measures showed 93% of older adults served by Compeer were now socializing with friends and seeking advice or assistance from their friends when needed; 100% of the seniors were connecting regularly with their volunteers and 77% now actively participate in a variety of activities.

**Compeer of Greater Buffalo: Youth Services (Compeer Mentoring)** - At Compeer, we believe that the healing power of friendship can be life changing for an individual coping with mental health challenges. With United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, Compeer of Greater Buffalo’s Youth Mentoring Program will provide support for parents with young children (Education Priority Platform Area #3) by creating and sustaining strength-based, structured and trusting one-to-one formal mentoring relationships for children- living in virtually every community across Erie County- who want and need another positive role model. Compeer’s Youth Mentoring Program both follows evidence-based policies and procedures, and is nationally recognized as a best practice for mentoring. In 2017, we provided high quality, long-term, one-on-one mentoring to 103 youths (3-17) and engaged another almost 200 youth with letters, phone calls, monthly newsletters, and monthly group mentoring and socializing activities. We also initiated a group mentoring program at Lackawanna Middle School, entitled Lackawanna Leaders, utilizing two full-time AmeriCorps Members to facilitate the Positive Action curriculum with 32 at-risk middle school students. Adult volunteer mentors who model positive, responsible behavior are recruited, screened, trained and matched by Compeer’s professional program staff. Devoting a minimum of 4 hours per month for a year, mentors listen, educate, coach and share experiences. Youth learn and practice how to communicate effectively and make informed choices. For 35 years, Compeer’s high quality mentoring has proven to be a powerful tool to help at-risk youth achieve their true potential. Our data shows that 100% of Compeer youth report that their mentor understands them, helps them reach their goals and helps them feel good about themselves.

**Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Buffalo: Creditor Repayment Planning (Individualized & Assisted Money)** - Poor credit is a fixable problem remedied by good financial coaching and enhanced money management skills. Our program will enroll 700 families in Creditor Repayment Plans (CRP), designed to help low income families regain control over their finances. A CRP is a structured repayment of unsecured debts. It lowers payment amounts and interest rates, stops late/over-limit fees, and requires payoff within 5 years. The families we help are faced with high interest rates--20-30%--and struggle to make monthly payments. Very often, their financial instability and/or damaged credit is the result of a layoff, divorce or a catastrophic illness. When a family comes to CCCS for help, certified Financial Counselors review their budget, debt situation, factors creating the situation, and discuss options for resolving any debt crisis. We recommend CRP for many families, helping over 73% of our clients locate options for debt resolution without bankruptcy. In 2016, the typical family enrolling in a CRP had $20,593 in debt; in 2017 average debt was $23,490. The average individual seeking a CRP was 48 years old, female, unmarried/divorced, Caucasian, with 1 child. 59% of individuals owned/mortgaged their home, 32% rented, and 9% had another housing status (typically living with family). CCCS programming promotes financial capability and asset building. The CRP specifically assists families to become debt free, enabling them to save, buy homes, advance their careers with education and become larger financial participants of our region. Enhanced financial health spurs multiple positive outcomes including the acquisition of assets, better mental and physical health, superior opportunities for employment and enriched quality of life. Our program will help 700 families/1275 children.

**Cradle Beach: Living Classrooms** - Established in 1888, Cradle Beach provides hope, opportunities, and life changing experiences for children with special needs and children who are economically disadvantaged. Cradle Beach serves more than 1,200 children annually to meet the social, emotional, educational, and physical needs of each child so that each may achieve his or her full potential in life. Cradle Beach’s Living Classrooms program provides informal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) focused programming that engages children and adolescents to build upon existing STEM knowledge, develop creativity, and gain interpersonal and critical thinking skills. Through reviewing existing STEM knowledge, participants are able to connect real-world applications while collaboratively working together to critically think about topics. The majority of our service population are children living within Erie County who face significant life challenges and who are often stereotyped as being unable to pursue a STEM profession such as those with disabilities, children who reside in economically disadvantaged homes, racial minorities, females, and adolescents who face various life adversities. The Cradle Beach Living Classrooms program focuses on inspiring interest in STEM disciplines as well as career knowledge and exploration. Our objectives include the following: 1. Participants will demonstrate an increased interest in STEM-related activities. 2. Participants will develop positive social connections with peers while engaged in STEM activities. 3. Participants will persist in projects and tasks, using problem-solving techniques to overcome obstacles. 4. Participants will be motivated toward pursuing STEM careers.

**Cradle Beach: PROJECT S.O.A.R.** - Cradle Beach, Inc. has served youth from disadvantaged backgrounds & children with disabilities for over 130 years. Beginning in 2009, Project S.O.A.R. (Success, Opportunity, Achievement and Responsibility), has helped disadvantaged students in the Buffalo Public Schools reach their greatest potential. The program assists students with attendance, behavior and social-emotional needs by matching each student with a mentor. The mentor supports students & families in a full year wrap around program. The Project S.O.A.R. program has demonstrated a positive impact on attendance, academics, behavior & emotional intelligence. School-Based Mentoring includes in-class academic assistance, character education, attendance support & linkage of services to families. Weekend Retreats include experiential learning, skill building and additional opportunities for social-emotional development. Along with weekend retreats, students participate in college & career days at Cradle Beach and local colleges/universities. Extended Supports include monthly family engagement nights and attendance incentive field trips. Participants also have access to the Cradle Beach Camp Program, a 7-10 day residential summer experience that serves students with disabilities alongside students who are economically disadvantaged. This innovative approach greatly benefits the social-emotional development of all campers & has a lasting impact. Summer in the City provides students the opportunity to reduce the summer learning gap by engaging in educational programming by exposing youth to businesses, industries, arts, culture, colleges, universities and careers for 8 weeks in the summer. Project S.O.A.R. provides all programming free of charge.

**Cradle Beach: SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM** - Cradle Beach has been providing hope, opportunities, and life changing experiences for children with disadvantages and children with disabilities since 1888. Our SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM has been refined over many decades of service to thousands of WNY’s most vulnerable children. There are only a handful of organizations in the entire country that do what Cradle Beach does. Children with disadvantages and children with disabilities participate in a wide range of educational and recreational activities. The children eat together, bunk together, and overcome challenges together. They develop respect for and acceptance of their differences, and their identities as poor or disabled dissolve. They help each other, they learn from each other, and they form special bonds that provide lifelong benefits. It is this unique and emotional experience that gives Cradle Beach children confidence, courage, and special skills to achieve their highest potential. There are approximately 32,000 children with developmental disabilities in Western New York, rates of autism diagnosis are rising, and the negative effects of poverty on school-age children is increasing dramatically. Consequently, the need for our SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM is immense and growing. Children, ages 8 to 16, live, learn and play together for 7 to 10 days. As the children build peer support and socialization skills, they enjoy a wheelchair-accessible tree house, a heated wheelchair-accessible swimming pool, a sensory building specially designed for children with autism, the Jim Kelly House, Hunter’s Lodge, an arts-and-crafts center, athletic fields, playgrounds, a mile of paved nature trails and 1,200 feet of beachfront.

**Create A Mini-Book Inc.: Create A Mini-Book** - Since 2014, Create A Mini-Book, Inc. has been presented regularly at schools, libraries, community centers and cultural organizations in under-served urban and rural areas of Erie and Niagara Counties. The program has been offered at neighborhood library branches and other agencies for families who are unable to afford fee-based programming. Create A Mini-Book's programming is designed to foster curiosity, creativity, risk-taking and imagination as children are encouraged to decorate, design, and write their own short stories. We employ an eco-friendly, blank book structure in our make and take program that produces an orderly learning environment where students of all ages can engage in a meaningful activity that supports learning and literacy. In its five-year existence, Create a Mini-Book, Inc. has offered a fun and trusted educational program to address the literacy and creative needs of children/families living in high needs areas. We offer a free, inventive and engaging program, providing opportunities that are otherwise unavailable to them. We, as an organization and an expression of care, offer participants the opportunity to engage in a fun program that builds community through socialization and the sharing of ideas, thoughts and stories. Create a Mini-Book aims to increase literacy whilst boosting self-esteem and self-efficacy. This is accomplished through the use of the positive themes of wellness, nutrition, and mindfulness. Our approach is flexible and works within STEAM requirements. We provide teachers the needed artifacts within the infrastructure of the common core to submit at year's end. We provide for all levels of English language learners as well as culturally responsive programs to meet the needs of our refugee population as a sub-set.

**Deaf Access Services: DAS Career Pathways Program -** Deaf Access Services (DAS) was established in 1992 by a group of committed Deaf volunteers and continues to be the only agency of its kind serving the 8 counties of WNY. DAS responds to the interests of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and families by promoting communication access, awareness, and opportunities in the greater community. Between 9 to 22 out of every 1,000 people have a severe hearing disability or are deaf. The DAS Career Pathways Program has been offering clients personalized career services that are linguistically and culturally accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community since 2006. This includes educational and vocational goal setting, strategies to reduce barriers to those goals, job placement as well as systems advocacy for accessing mainstream programs.

**EPIC - Every Person Influences Children, Inc.: Early Care Engagement** - EPIC - Every Person Influences Children’s Early Care Engagement (ECE) program was designed to align with the Early Head Start Program and Performance Standards, through skill building for families and staff, capacity building for parents and staff development for providers. EPIC is currently providing ECE to Community Action Organization (CAO) to build family and staff engagement at 12 child development centers in Buffalo. This program was designed to engage parents at a critical time before their children start school. The program works on connecting the parents and staff and building a relationship that will promote their child’s academic success. The workshops and activities EPIC provides focus on Parent Skill Development, which includes Ready, Set, Read! and Storytime, a literacy program for children; Parent Capacity with topics from EPIC’s Ready, Set, Parent curriculum; and Family Engagement, with workshops such as Parents as Advocates, that prepare parents to be actively involved in their child’s education. Professional development for the child center staff includes information on the benefits and use of research-based best practice/strategies for family engagement, as well attendance at EPIC’s annual Family Engagement Conference. This comprehensive approach, working with the parents and staff, focuses on engaging parents in their child’s learning and development; promoting positive parent-child interactions; developing relationships between parents and child care staff; and enhancing knowledge and skills in social/emotional growth of children, family literacy, advocacy, parent rights and nutrition. EPIC would like to expand the Early Care Engagement program to the families and child development staff at Holy Cross Head Start (HCHS).

**EPIC - Every Person Influences Children, Inc.: Families in Transition -** Families in Transition (FiT) is a research-based parenting education program serving high-risk/high-need parents in Erie County, NY with the goal of reducing family conflict. FiT participants are at-risk for a variety of personal and familial challenges including substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, child abuse, neglect and endangerment, often resulting in loss of custody of their children. Some participants are referred by the domestic violence and family court system, preventive services and other agencies, while others seek support on their own to help them overcome personal challenges that interfere with being effective parents. FiT serves nearly 400 parents a year with a waiting list for services over 3 months. In 2018, EPIC purchased STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting), an evidence-based program for at-risk parents. EPIC is incorporating STEP into FIT as an enhancement to the program. Since its inception in 2001, FiT has consistently yielded results demonstrating a decrease in family conflict, modification of negative behavior toward their children, and parents reporting improved relationships with their children. This intensive parenting program is based on EPIC's highly effective Active Learning Delivery Model, offered as a 6 to 10-week series, all starting with an orientation. Each session includes discussion on a variety of topics related to parenting, emotional growth, non-violent solutions, communication and literacy. The topics are complemented with a supportive group work structure that includes an emotional check in to begin each session, and stress reduction activities to end each session. FiT offers curriculum for parents of infant and toddlers, young children and young adolescents.

**EPIC - Every Person Influences Children, Inc.: Family Engagement -** Engaging Families to Support the Early Academic Success of Their Children is a multi-service program to be implemented by EPIC - Every Person Influences Children, Inc. in the Buffalo Public School District and will continue to serve parents of children in PreK-grade 2 in PS 6 (Buffalo Elementary School of Technology). EPIC would also like to replicate its work with PS 6 at another Priority School in Buffalo, potentially PS 61 (Arthur O. Eve School of Distinction). EPIC will work to build a school culture conducive to family engagement by building the capacity of parents and teachers to engage with each other. This purposeful and systemic approach will support and enhance the academic success of their children, as suggested in 40 years of research regarding the outcomes of engaging families. Services will be provided to effect this change through on and offsite workshops and trainings for parents on how to effectively engage teachers; and through distribution of information so parents can support their child’s academics at home, build literacy and manage behavior. Professional development will be provided to teachers to share the benefits of and to create a supportive and engaging environment for families. Additionally, teachers will be provided with ELA activities that will be sent home with students, to be completed by parents and the child and returned.

**EPIC - Every Person Influences Children, Inc.: Just for Teens - Incredible Years -** EPIC’s Just for Teens Incredible Years programs provide guidance, support and resources to the youngest and most vulnerable parents in our community. In 2003, EPIC started the Just for Teens (JFT), a comprehensive program for pregnant and parenting teens (ages 14-19) held in a supportive, non-judgmental environment (in the schools during lunch break) and is focused on enhancing their skills and confidence as individuals and as parents. This program incorporates the fields of psychology, sociology, education and social work to provide teens with the skills and resources they need to be effective and confident parents, as well as create a positive change in their abilities to impact their children’s development. JFT helps teen parents find balance between parenthood and personhood in an effort to influence and encourage academic success and high school completion. Additionally, participants are connected to community resources specific to their needs. In 2015, EPIC added an additional curriculum and delivery method to its traditional Just for Teens program with Incredible Years (IY), Parents and Babies. IY is an evidence-based program, which meets the requirements of NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, from whom EPIC receives a majority of this program’s funding. IY is a series of interconnected workshops for parents and their baby. IY is designed to teach valuable parenting skills (for young parents, 15-26, of children 0-12 months old) and promote children’s optimal social, emotional, physical and academic development. It will also strengthen the bond between parents and their baby. By utilizing both programs, JFT and IY, EPIC has been able to increase its reach and connect and assist more young parents in the community.

**Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse: Fetal Alcohol Drug Effects (FADE) Program** - In 2015, as a result of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation, ECCPASA began implementing Project CHOICES, an evidence-based intervention for non-pregnant women ages 18-44, that increases motivation and commitment to reduce or stop drinking &/or use contraception effectively to prevent having an alcohol-exposed birth. CHOICES along with FADE education provides the opportunity to offer both brief and extended intervention options to reproductive aged women and to address risky alcohol use within the broader context of women’s health. The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ECCPASA) has responded to the need for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) related services by creating its Fetal Alcohol and Drug Effects (FADE) Program in 2000, the only program of its kind in Erie County. FADE educators provide a variety of services for youth, women of childbearing age, caregivers, and professionals. Classes are presented to high school and college students, informing them of the potential risks of alcohol consumption during pregnancy in order to prevent future FASD births. Prevention and intervention services are provided to high-risk women in the community at treatment and transitional facilities to both prevent future alcohol-affected births and to empower mothers with needed skills to advocate for their children who may have been alcohol and other drug exposed. Monthly support group meetings, advocacy and support services with school and health care for individuals with FASD and their families are provided. Educators, healthcare and human service providers attend in-service trainings to acquire skills to better meet the needs of those with FASD.

**Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse: Strengthening Families Program** - The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ECCPASA) has implemented the nationally and internationally recognized Strengthening Families Program (SFP) for 20 years. SFP is an evidence-based family skills training program that improves parenting skills and family relationships. It is also designed to reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, alcohol/drug use, improve social competencies and school performance. Strengthening Families is a 14-session program for parents and their children ages three to 15. The curriculum’s foundation was researched and designed to build five protective factors: parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need and social emotional competence of children. The result of program implementation is strengthened families; optimal child development and reduced child abuse and neglect to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors. The SFP is a multi-component, family focused program that provides prevention, intervention and skill-building. The core components of the curriculum address positive interactions, communication and effective discipline. The parenting component focuses on promoting positive interactions with children, recognition and praise for positive behavior and utilizes family meetings to family improve order and organization. Meanwhile, the children’s curriculum promotes positive and healthy relationships with parents, peers and teachers utilizing effective communication skills while teaching resistance and coping skills, anger management and identification of feelings. The family component is designed for parents and children to practice the exercises they have learned during their individual groups.

**Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse: Student Assistance Prevention Counseling (SAPC) -** The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ECCPASA) has worked for over twenty-five years conducting The Student Assistance Prevention Counseling Program (SAPC) throughout Erie County. SAPC provides comprehensive prevention and early-intervention services for high-risk youth in grades K to 12. This selected/indicated program places experienced counselors in school settings to work one-on-one with students who have been identified as being at high risk for abusing substances and/or those who have a family history of addiction. Eligible students receive SAPC services for education, support and referrals for problems associated to alcohol and other drugs. SAPC addresses a variety of social, emotional and/or maladaptive behaviors that interfere with academic success. SAPC provides an umbrella of comprehensive prevention and early intervention programs. It is a client centered multi-disciplined program incorporating evidenced based strategies and research to increase protective factors, reduce risk factors, promote resilience, and incorporate the 40 Developmental Assets. SAPC professionals develop ongoing, year-round relationships with students, parents/guardians, and schools. SAPC provides support for students who have completed or are currently enrolled in ECCPASA’s Strengthening Families Program (SFP) which targets students who are living with a parent/guardian who is in recovery or in active addiction to substances. The SAPC Program also serves youth coming out of treatment for relapse prevention, those referred from the court system, and referrals from concerned parents or family members. In an effort to improve student success, family members, school personnel and other persons important in the student’s life are involved.

**Family Help Center: Children's Center for Success -** The Children’s Center for Success (CCS) at the Family Help Center (FHC) Child Care Center is the first United Way lead five way partnership implementing an evidenced-based, trauma informed model of classroom and family interventions. CCS partners include; BestSelf Behavioral Health (BSBH), Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) and Childcare Resource Network (CRN). CCS is high quality early learning and development program via participating in and being a QualitystarsNY and NYS Pyramid Model site. CCS develops a strong foundation in at- risk children who exhibit extremely challenging behaviors (ECB). CCS specializes in teachers who are trained in the evidenced based Teacher-Child Interaction Training (TCIT) model. TCIT is implemented in the classrooms resulting in successful change in children showing extremely challenging behaviors to engaging in positive, cooperative behaviors with positive social attachments to teachers and peers. TCIT supports children’s developmental, social emotional and behavioral needs to ensure that children are academically and social-emotionally supported. Social, emotional and mental health are essential aspects of a child’s development and TCIT provides a foundation for a child to recognize and regulate emotions, build relationships and learn how to later succeed in school. CCS provides a unique resource for at-risk Erie County families who are overrepresented in Black, Latino and other minority populations. On average, most of the children in our center live near or below the Federal poverty level and receive subsidies. CCS also provides home visits and helps families work though complex systems such as health care, school systems, social systems and other human service programs.

**Family Help Center: Core Services** - Family Help Center (FHC) is a cornerstone agency of Erie County serving marginalized families and children with multiple social and behavioral health needs which increases their risk for family destabilization, poor health outcomes, and traumatic stress. FHC focuses programming on decreasing impact of negative social and behavioral health conditions and improving family engagement by addressing basic needs, providing support and education to parents, offering multiple early childhood interventions, and reducing child abuse and neglect. Core Services is a primary prevention program aimed to serve as a safety net for at risk families due to lack of financial resources, limited natural or community supports, adverse health conditions, poor housing, and/or parental skill deficit. Core Services operates a 24-hour Family Helpline offering immediate response to parents, caregivers, and community providers. Families in need of emergency items can call the Helpline and receive food, formula, diapers, cribs, car seats, clothing, bedding, or breast pumps. Core offers supportive counseling, parent education and skill building, short-term case management, referrals and linkages to community services. Core Services provides home visiting to families conducting needs assessments, Adverse Childhood Exposure and Resiliency Surveys, Protective Factors screenings and Ages and Stages Questionnaires to gain a comprehensive understanding of families' needs to target services. In addition, Core Services facilitates Parent Cafes at FHC and throughout the City of Buffalo. Parent Cafes provide parents the opportunity to both learn from and teach other parents to improve outcomes for their children, increase their knowledge and skills, and build outside supports.

**Family Help Center: Full Service Schools (Closing the Gap) -** Family Help Center (FHC) is a multi-service agency in Erie County serving marginalized families and children with multiple social and behavioral health needs which increases their risk for family destabilization, poor health outcomes, and traumatic stress. FHC focuses programming on decreasing the impact of negative social and behavioral health conditions and improving family engagement by addressing basic needs, providing support and education to parents, offering multiple early childhood interventions, and reducing child abuse and neglect. FHC collaborates with Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) through the Closing the Gap (CTG) program to provide school based services to children and their families. CTG focuses on improving social-emotional skills, school engagement, academic performance, and life skills. CTG's integration into the schools is an intervention to address poor academic success, developmental delays, and an increase in diagnosis of ADHD, PTSD, and anxiety. These conditions are often the result of early exposures to trauma, poverty and lack of basic needs in early childhood. Closing the Gap's Family Support Workers (FSW) provide individual and group services to students in grades K-8th at Southside Elementary, BPS#93 and Lorraine Elementary, BPS #72. FSW work with students to reduce disciplinary referrals, build social-emotional and life skills, and prepare for grade level advancement. In addition to offering school-based services to children CTG also focuses on parent engagement and education, home visiting with parents and caregivers. These visits address risk factors like lack of food, clothing, income, or access to medical care, offer advocacy with IEP updates or school compliance, and accompaniment to CSE meetings or evaluations/screenings.

**Family Justice Center of Erie County: Family Justice Center of Erie County -** The Family Justice Center of Erie County (FJC) is a collaboration of various community agencies working together to create a "one stop shop" for victims of domestic/intimate partner violence and their children. The FJC provides a coordinated, efficient and user-friendly service delivery model that decreases barriers, improves the delivery of services to victims, enhances victim safety, addresses the needs of the children living in the abusive households, and increases offender accountability. Along with 12 on-site/on-call partner agencies and over 20 off-site partners, the FJC provides one safe and secure location for victims to access the multitude of services they will need to safely escape the abuse. A victim walking through the FJC’s doors can speak with a domestic violence advocate for counseling and to create a safety plan, meet with a representative to address any civil legal concerns, talk with a police officer regarding filing criminal charges, meet with a nurse to document injuries, video conference with family court to obtain an order of protection, get linked with emergency housing, and more. In addition, the FJC provides transportation and language assistance, maintains an essential needs pantry, provides pre-made frozen meals for clients, and even has pet therapy available. With past funding from United Way, the FJC has been able to reach over 19,000 victims since opening our doors.

**Field & Fork Network: Double Up Food Bucks -** Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) is Field & Fork Network's (F&FN) signature nutrition incentive program that matches SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program formerly known as food stamps) purchases at participating farmers markets and mobile markets. The DUFB incentive is a way to increase the access to and the affordability of fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income individuals and families. The cheapest food choices are the most accessible to those at risk of diet-related diseases, such as obesity and type II diabetes. A diet that includes fruits and vegetables is important to health but is not affordable to all. If healthy food is affordable, however, accessibility improves and people are able to secure more nutrient-rich food options. For chronically ill people, food is medicine but the healthiest options come at a steep price. Double Up provides a $1 for $1 match on any SNAP purchase and can only be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables thereby promoting healthier eating habits among the participants and redirecting federal food assistance dollars into the local food and agriculture economy. Since the DUFB program incentive piloted in 2014, over 7,000 new DUFB customers have opted to stretch their food dollars and improve healthy eating as a result of program participation. Of those 7,000, 3,082 represent Erie County DUFB new customers. More than $750,000 in sales of healthy food in SNAP and DUFB have transpired since 2014; these sales continue to support NY farmers and area businesses. In 2017, 13,369 DUFB transactions were made across WNY and 4,804 of them occurred in Erie County. The wins are three-fold: low-income consumers eat more healthy foods, local farmers gain new customers and make more money & and more food dollars stay in the local economy.

**Gerard Place HDFC, Inc.: Parent Education -** Established in 2000, Gerard Place offers permanent supportive housing, educational and employment preparation services, and comprehensive support services to homeless mothers and their children, and an array of services to parents of young children in the community, including parent education, HSE and pre-HSE preparation, employment services, family support services, financial literacy, and other skills needed to effectively support their families. On a weekly basis, 30 mothers, 10 fathers and 40 children are receiving direct services from Gerard Place related to parent education and employment development. Part of Gerard Place’s mission is to connect residents and people in our community with access to skills and services that help them to develop self-sufficiency and move their families toward stability. The goal of the Parent Education program is to prepare parents of young children to support their families, both financially and emotionally. Parent education includes parenting skills, household management, life skills (budgeting, meal preparation, housekeeping, managing finances and linkage to other needed services to assure that the parent is well prepared to nurture the child’s development. The program also includes partnerships with other agencies (Catholic Charities, EPIC- Every Person Influences Children) and offers education and training to families in residence at the transitional housing facility and in the neighborhood surrounding Gerard Place.

**Girl Scouts of Western New York: K-3 Girl Scouts After School -** Girl Scouts of Western New York Inc. (GSWNY) is a non-profit agency dedicated to building girls of courage, confidence, & character who make the world a better place. We partner with Buffalo Public Schools, Matt Urban Human Services, Community Action Organization of Western NY, Best Self Behavioral Health, & others to provide Girl Scout programs for low-income girls in grades K-3 (ages 5-8) at nine program sites in Erie County. Girl Scouts helps girls develop a strong sense of self, positive values, & healthy relationships. Our program model & processes support development in four of five essential domains of school readiness identified in the Child Development & Early Learning Framework: social & emotional development; language & literacy; physical development & health; & approaches to learning. We provide engaging programs for young girls using research-based curricula to optimize girls' choice, cooperative learning, & hands-on experiential learning. GSWNY staff uses an array of best practices to establish an inclusive, challenging & supportive environment for young girls’ learning in out of school (OST) time. Our curricular materials are designed for each stage of a child’s development, focus on skill-building, & address key components of New York State learning standards. We are passionate about providing exceptional hands-on OST learning for young girls because we know it helps them establish a strong foundation for success in school & in life including academic achievement, career aspirations, & hope for the future. References: Girl Scout Research Institute {GSRI}, 2017 The Girl Scout Impact Study. GSRI, 2014 How Girl Scouting Benefits Girls. Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, 2018 Making the Link Between Health & School Readiness.

**Goodwill Industries of WNY, Inc.: Employment & Training Services -** Goodwill delivers comprehensive job training/employment programs to adults/young families with income constraints and combinations of disabling/disadvantaging conditions. This is accomplished with vocational/work evaluations, employment skills training, job development/placement services and coaching. Plus, there is provision of real work experience in Goodwill’s warehouse, contract manufacturing division and retail stores. These opportunities empower/assist participants in obtaining/maintaining/advancing in employment while earning a family-sustaining wage. Individuals with physical/developmental/mental disabilities, public assistance recipients, veterans, and former alcohol/substance abusers are included. Each participant is assigned a Case Manager to ensure required services are provided, based on person’s strengths/abilities/needs/preferences. Soft skills training, focusing on employer needs, is provided. A holistic/collaborative approach ensures participants receive resources that address non-vocational issues that influence employability and family stability. Key to success for the individual is a Plan for Employment (PFE). The PFE identifies/matches choices of hands-on training programs in retail, industrial production or warehouse operations, E-commerce or environmental services. Goodwill has a strong track record of collaborating with employers. Once identified, a Job Developer helps individuals prepare for work, learn job seeking skills, and assists with resume/interview preparation. They also become an advocate/liaison with individuals/employers. Long-term support is provided for up to three years. This request covers a portion of salaries and benefits for staff not fully funded by revenue from Goodwill’s employment and training programs.

**Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo, Inc.: Community & School Garden Education Series -** Grassroots Gardens (GGWNY) seeks to continue its highly successful Community & School Garden Education Series through 2021. For 24 years, GGWNY has been providing education and technical assistance to neighborhood leaders who have established community gardens in Buffalo and Niagara Falls to mitigate environmental risks, change the landscape of property abandonment, increase physical activity, and address food insecurity. Our education series provides these change-makers with the necessary information and tools to improve quality of life through their sustainably-managed community and school gardens. 40 workshops, open to the public but targeted to low-income families and youth, are held yearly in locations throughout affected communities in the City of Buffalo. Specifically, classroom style workshops are held at various community partner sites and the GGWNY office, and hands-on workshops are held on-site in community and school gardens. Workshops include a Growing series focused on growing practices to maximize sustainability and efficiency; a Fitness series which takes place in the gardens and utilizes them as an active space for engaging in physical activity; a Healthy Harvest series focused on food production and preservation, and new for 2019-2021, a "Nutrition" series and a Healing Hearts. Additionally, 20 school-based workshops will be held, demonstrating to low-income, Buffalo Public School youth the benefits of urban greenspace. Several hands-on exercises will be provided to start them on their food-producing journey. Workshops are offered at various times in the year, but concentrated in the spring and fall.

**Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action Hearts and Hands** - Hearts and Hands-Faith in Action, Inc. (HHFIA) is a neighbor helping neighbor volunteer organization supporting the independence of older and disabled adults and their care givers since 2003. We strive to uphold our care receivers’ dignity, improve their quality of life and enhance their ability to stay in their homes by linking them with trained volunteers who provide non-medical support services. These services include escorted volunteer transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores and other errands along with minor home repair, wellness checks, friendly visits and caregiver respite. All services are free. Our program delays or eliminates the need for expensive institutional healthcare while helping to keep our seniors engaged with the community and supporting their health and independence. Our 340 carefully screened and trained volunteers serve over 700 care receivers. In 2017 our volunteers selflessly donated 8,275 hours of service and drove over 86,000 miles on behalf of our care receivers. Hearts and Hands collaborates with 49 community partners including faith-based organizations, municipalities where services are provided, agencies that serve the aged, and private and public funders. Services are currently offered to residents of Amherst, Akron/Newstead, Alden, Clarence, Holland, Marilla, Wales, the Tonawanda Indian Reservation and the surrounding communities. Demand for our services has been growing exponentially as awareness of our program grows and as the population ages. Every day our staff sees, hears and feels the tremendous call for help.

**Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection – Buffalo: Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection - Buffalo Region** - Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) is a nationally recognized youth development organization proven to increase graduation rates for at-risk youth. HW-SC is a school-home-work partnership providing long-term mentorship through Youth Advocates working in the school with students in grades 9-12 as well as those two years post-graduation. HW-SC identifies and targets students capable of success but due to adverse circumstances need assistance focusing on their education and /or staying in school. Students are eligible if they demonstrate two or more risk factors for high school dropout. HW-SC began as a community-owned model in 1987, and now serves over 4,000 students in Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse New York, and Prince George’s County, Maryland. In 2003, HW-SC was recognized by the US Department of Labor and the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) in Washington, D.C. for demonstrating best practices in youth development and employment. In 2009, the American Youth Policy Forum recognized HW-SC among 23 of the nation’s most effective youth development programs that Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond. We request funding to help support our Core Model program which provides a variety of services including 24/7 mentoring, academic support services, job training and part-time employment, post-secondary preparation, and other critical services for over 455 at-risk high school youth in Buffalo.

**Horizon Health Services: Career Opportunity Center -** Horizon Health Services (HHS) is seeking support for the delivery of vocational and educational training, placement, and post-placement support for adults primarily residing in the Buffalo inner-city who have mental health and chemical dependency disabilities. Horizon is the largest and most comprehensive provider of mental health and chemical dependency services in WNY - providing treatment services since 1975 and educational/ vocational services since 1986. Our clients face extraordinary challenges in seeking, securing and retaining employment, including: limited education/job experience due to the onset of the disorders during their school years; their lack of world of work functioning skills; psychiatric symptoms that interfere with their functioning; co-occurring physical disabilities associated with the side effects of their medications; and poor nutritional habits, dysfunctional lifestyles, and high risk behaviors. Our vocational services are based on a nationally recognized evidence-based model that emphasizes client choice, the integration of vocational and treatment services, the rapid onset of job searching, and ongoing pre and post-placement supports. We propose to provide: employment skill training to prepare clients to access and retain competitive employment through developing key employment skills and behaviors; skills training and peer support to address the challenges of job searching; job placement in meaningful employment based on their skills and interests, and ongoing job support services to ensure retention through the period of work adjustment and beyond. The program has historically been supported through contracts with the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and ACCES-VR.

**International Institute of Buffalo: Domestic Violence Victim Services** - The International Institute of Buffalo’s (IIB) Domestic Violence Victim Services Program provides an enhanced response for foreign born victims of domestic violence, forced marriage, family violence and their children who face cultural and linguistic impediments to safety and self-sufficiency. In 2017, IIB Domestic Violence Advocates provided culturally competent, linguistically appropriate emergency and long-term services to 274 victims from 47 countries of origin, a notable 48% increase from previous years. This increase is due, in large part, to additional advocates hired through New York State funds; increased capacity has resulted in increased identification and demand for services. Also of note, 70% of survivors who seek IIB services have children under the age of 8 residing with them while domestic violence is occurring in their home. Current United Way funding enhances IIB’s ability to tailor services aimed at decreasing common impediments faced by immigrant victims, while advocating to create centralized access, regardless of language or culture. Over the last several years, IIB has implemented individual and group educational curriculum that focuses on the overall health of survivors and their children as they escape and heal from violence, resulting in increased safety and improved health outcomes for survivors and their children. This work has also increased referrals from current and past survivors, revealing a previously unidentified sub-set of survivors experiencing extreme exploitation, abuse, and isolation. In addition, nationally there has been increased fear of reporting domestic violence due to anti-immigrant sentiment, further highlighting the need to reach the most vulnerable and isolated.

**International Institute of Buffalo: HELLO -** The HELLO (Home English Language Learner outreach) program was developed in 2012 with the help of a VISTA member placed at IIB. The program was designed to meet the needs of home bound refugee women who were not able to attend main stream English as a second language classes because of the barrier of not having childcare for their young children. HELLO is a volunteer based English language training program that offers 12 weeks of 2 hour per week classes in the home of the client. Volunteers receive training and are equipped with a pictionary (including many Buffalo specific photos- NFTA buses, Buffalo police, etc.), and a 12 week curriculum including lesson plans. Each participant also receives a tablet pre-loaded with ESL and citizenship related information that the volunteer can use. As many of the clients have little or no education, the curriculum focuses on basic life skill English to facilitate communication with Drs. schools, neighbors, etc. IIB staff, the volunteer (often female as our clients are more comfortable with same sex tutors) the client and an interpreter meet together for a first time to discuss expectations. Many times the volunteer takes on more of a mentor role and takes the client into the community to apply lessons. The program also includes elderly and infirm clients and has been expanded to include clients who work Full time jobs and those who are trying to gain citizenship and need to reinforce their reading and writing skills in order to pass the naturalization test. This program is vital to help women and other at risk, vulnerable individuals integrate better into their communities, their new lives, and in particular, the lives of their children as they can become a participant in the education and of their children.

**International Institute of Buffalo: Successful Refugee & Immigrant Workforce Integration -** The International Institute of Buffalo has been working with refugees and immigrants for 100 years and has successfully run federal, state, and local employment programs that have addressed employment in this specialized population with positive outcomes. NY is the 4th highest recipient of refugees in the US, and Erie County receives the largest number of refugees in NY State. Our REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT WORKFORCE INTEGRATION program offers individualized, client centered, culturally & linguistically appropriate employment services to the refugee and immigrant population. These services include assessment, identification & remediation of barriers to employment, employment preparation (including soft skills through our successful job club course), placement and retention services. We also offer a unique program to address the needs of clients with higher education, English, and skill levels by providing career pathing and focus on skilled labor positions, filling gaps in the current labor market and "upskilling" clients with previous work experience. Each client is assigned staff to prepare them for work, follow them through their journey to self-sufficiency and provide personalized financial literacy and budgeting with a financial literacy staff. Our employment program offers complementary introductory assessment and cultural competency training to new employers to assist them in identifying and meeting the needs of their newly hired employees and diverse workforce to ensure successful retention and integration. Our program has grown to include a large number of individuals who do not qualify for traditional employment programs and who we currently serve pro-bono. We have seen a dramatic increase in employer requests for our services.

**Jericho Road Community Health Center: Financial Education Program –** JRCHC’s Financial Education Program (also called Financial Fit) is designed to foster financial literacy among our limited English proficiency, low-literacy refugee and low-income clients. The goal of our financial literacy education programming is to improve participant money management skills and to provide them with the knowledge and confidence to secure and maintain assets. Financially Fit provides eight-week basic financial literacy courses, which teaches families in their own language about the principles of banking, budgeting, paying bills on time, proper credit use, and saving for the future. We also help refugee participants identify if a home purchase makes sound financial sense at this time for each family and then helps families plan accordingly. Classes are offered in Burmese, Karen and Nepali and are expanding to include additional language groups. With a history of more than 14 years of serving the refugee population of Buffalo, we have a foundation of creating services that are culturally matched to the population being served. With the support of United Way from 2009 to present, Financially Fit has graduated more than 680 participants that continue moving toward economic self-sufficiency with improved financial literacy and graduated more than 90 families in the classes. Jericho Road is requesting support of this financial literacy programming. Long-term, by creating financial stability for Buffalo’s most vulnerable populations, we are creating a healthier community for us all.

**Jericho Road Community Health Center: Hope Refugee Drop-In Center (Financial Stability) -** The Hope Refugee Drop-In Center (HRDC) is an integral part of the integrative, holistic care provided to refugee families at Jericho Road Community Health Center (JRCHC). The HRDC assists post-resettlement and secondary migrant refugees to overcome linguistic, cultural, and transportation barriers to accessing income supports through culturally and linguistically appropriate safety-net services and advocacy. Using community-based participatory development, the HRDC provides client-driven services. Approximately 40% of service requests are connected with the Department of Social Services, including SNAP eligibility, Medicaid eligibility, TANF eligibility, recertification of benefits, forms, reading correspondence, and communicating with caseworkers. With a client base of approximately 7,272 individuals, the HRDC serves as a bridge connecting refugees with public benefits and community services, and ensuring that barriers to securing benefits or services are overcome. JRCHC is requesting support of the HRDC services that improve access to income supports and stability for post-resettlement and secondary migrant refugees’ families.

**Jericho Road Community Health Center: Hope Refugee Drop-In Center (Health & Wellness) -** The Hope Refugee Drop-In Center (HRDC) is an integral part of the integrative, holistic care provided to refugee patients at

Jericho Road Community Health Center (JRCHC), as well as an essential one-stop center for the refugee community. HRDC assists post-resettlement and secondary migrant refugees to overcome linguistic, cultural, and transportation barriers to accessing healthcare through culturally and linguistically appropriate safety-net services and advocacy. Using community-based participatory development, the HRDC provides client-driven services. Approximately 25% of service requests are medical in nature, including requests to schedule appointments, provide translation or transportation to medical appointments, or for assistance filling out medical paperwork, applying for health insurance, or with medical advocacy. With a client base of 7,272 individuals/families, HRDC serves as a bridge connecting refugees with medical & community services, ensuring that barriers to accessing care are overcome. JRCHC is requesting support of the services provided through the HRDC that improve access to healthcare and address the social conditions that serve as barriers to access.

**Jericho Road Community Health Center: Jericho Road Parent-Child Home Program -** The Jericho Road Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), an initiative of Jericho Road Community Health Center, is in its tenth year serving low-income and refugee families with children at risk of academic failure. Our target population is children, aged 18 months to 4 years, whose families are low-income, have limited education, and face language and literacy barriers on the East and West Sides of Buffalo. We are a certified replicate site of the National PCHP (www.parent-child.org), which is a 50-year old international, evidence-based model created to address rising high school dropout rates, which is a root cause of poverty, crime, and other factors of a low standard of living. Jericho's PCHP prepares young children for school success by stimulating positive parent-child verbal interaction and activities that develop critical language, early literacy and early math skills. At-risk children and families are paired with a trained Home Visitor who spends 30 minutes with a child and his or her primary caregiver twice a week in their home. Home Visitors gift program families with developmentally appropriate toys and books, used to model early-emergent literacy skills, dialogic reading and language-based play. Participants receive home visits for a minimum of 23 weeks each program year, over the course of two program years. Past performance on UWBEC-identified performance measures over the past three years include 100%program families receiving an in-home parent support program with a language and literacy focus, 97% program children exhibiting developmentally appropriate language, literacy or mathematical skills, and 97% children exhibiting developmentally appropriate social-emotional and behavioral skills.

**Jericho Road Community Health Center: Priscilla Project of Buffalo -** The Priscilla Project of Buffalo (PPB) is a pregnancy mentoring program for refugee and low-income, at-risk women- an integral part of the holistic care provided to our patients through Jericho Road Community Health Center (JRCHC). PPB used to target refugee women experiencing pregnancy for the first time in the US, now we have expanded to include refugee and low-income, at-risk expectant mothers on Buffalo's West and East Sides. PPB matches women with the support of a volunteer mentor during pregnancy, and a linguistically matched doula to provide any necessary interpretation or other support during childbirth. PPB encourages a healthy lifestyle through utilization of Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) and the practice of breastfeeding. In the past three years, we have assisted nearly 1,000 pregnant women. In the past year, PPB staff have served a total of 413 women from over 19 countries, double the number of women from the previous year. In addition, PPB has assisted 124 women to initiate breastfeeding in the past year.

**Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo: Holland Family Building Early Childhood Center -** The mission of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc. (JCC) is to build and strengthen the Jewish and Western New York Communities by providing recreational, educational, cultural and social programs and services that are consistent with Jewish values. The JCC’s vision is Building Community and Enriching Lives. The JCC’s Early Childhood Center provides excellence in early care and education for children 6 weeks through 5 years old. The Early Childhood Center holds NAEYC Accreditation, the national standard for high quality as defined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Our program is also one of the first 400 to participate in Quality Stars New York, a new quality rating system. The Early Childhood Center curriculum is designed to enhance the social, physical, emotional and cognitive growth of the children. We create a nurturing world where children are given opportunities to develop positive self-image, self-reliance, social awareness and interaction, cooperation, concentration, imagination, and resourcefulness. In addition to providing a developmentally appropriate and challenging curriculum for young children, enrichment activities are incorporated throughout the week. These include specialists to teach gym, music, dance/creative movement, and swimming, a storyteller, field trips and special visitors. The JCC’s Early Childhood Center is committed to meeting the needs of Buffalo families. In recent years we have expanded to accommodate more than 190 children in 12 classrooms. Two additional classrooms will open in September 2018. We value our partnerships with several agencies in Buffalo. Community is our middle name.

**Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County: Incredible Years Parenting Program -** Jewish Family Services’ (JFS) Parent Support Program provides 12-to-14-week, Incredible Years evidence-based parenting education program for low-income parents of children aged 0-6. United Way funding allows JFS to expand the program to include support services and education for (1) low-income parents of any background (not just refugees and immigrants, as the project was originally designed) and (2) for parents of children aged 0 to 12 years. The parent education program, delivered by trained, bilingual/bicultural instructors, is a Blueprint for Violence Prevention Model Program, an Exemplary program in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Model Programs Guide, and rates 3.6 - 3.7 on SAMHSA’s 4.0-point National Registry of Evidence-based Programs. United Way funding supports a part-time parent educator to run classes and provide individualized home instruction. United Way funding also supports a part-time parent support specialist who assess families for additional services and ensure linkages with appropriate community providers.

**Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County: Project Integration -** Project Integration is a program of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County. Project Integration assists refugees, immigrants, and other low-income, vulnerable households in greater Buffalo to achieve financial stability. Project Integration provides integrated intake, assessment, service planning, and economic stabilization services (benefits enrollment, job placement, and wraparound case management) for any JFS program participant experiencing economic hardship. Project Integration leverages JFS's multicultural/multilingual staff to assist community members most isolated by limited English proficiency and unfamiliarity with American workforce expectations and benefits program requirements. Project Integration is a gap-filling project: the initiative identifies and addresses the income stabilization needs of families enrolled in other JFS programs, which have strict, sometimes-exclusionary participant eligibility or service length requirements (e.g., resettlement services, outpatient psychiatric services, Health Home care management, survivors of torture program, ACCES-VR, gambling recovery, etc.). Similarly, Project Integration facilitates warm hand-offs between JFS programs, thereby eliminating program-specific appointment waits when an individual is in crisis.

**Junior Achievement of WNY: JA Financial Literacy for Youth (Career & College Readiness) -** Since 1958, Junior Achievement of Western New York (JAWNY) has worked to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. Junior Achievement’s unique delivery, using community volunteers to deliver financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship related educational skills to children and youth, from kindergarten through high school, enabled us to reach 13,928 students in 2016-2017. Students learn about themselves, the basics about finances, an understanding of economic concepts and the relationship between the level of education attained and earnings potential that can then raise individuals and families out of poverty and become contributing members of the economy. These skills provide the foundation for more complex financial management and work readiness instruction in middle and high school. As important as these things are, they are typically not taught sequentially in schools. Junior Achievement fills a critical gap, by helping children and youth understand the relationship between education, work, money, how to manage finances, and how to prepare for an economically healthy future. Junior Achievement’s sweet spot is in the intersection of youth, education and area economic development.

**Junior Achievement of WNY: Junior Achievement Financial Literacy for K-3 -** Since 1958, Junior Achievement of Western New York (JAWNY) has worked to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. Junior Achievement’s unique delivery, using community volunteers to deliver financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship related educational skills to children and youth, from kindergarten through high school, enabled us to reach 13,928 students in 2016-2017. Students learn about themselves, the basics about finances, an understanding of economic concepts and the relationship between the level of education attained and earnings potential that can then raise individuals and families out of poverty and become contributing members of the economy. These skills provide the foundation for more complex financial management and work readiness instruction in middle and high school. As important as these things are, they are typically not taught sequentially in schools. Junior Achievement fills a critical gap, by helping children and youth understand the relationship between education, work, money, how to manage finances, and how to prepare for an economically healthy future. Junior Achievement’s sweet spot is in the intersection of youth, education and area economic development.

**Kaleida Health: Early Childhood Direction Center -** The Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC), part of Kaleida Health’s John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital, provides information, referral, technical assistance, support and follow-up to families of children birth-5 years with suspected or diagnosed special needs and the professionals who work with them. These free services help to improve outcomes for young children at risk for developmental, social and behavioral issues. ECDC provides educational workshops, information and referral services for parents and other caregivers to increase early identification and securing needed early intervention services. Parents receive follow-up calls to determine if they have secured needed or requested services and identify if any additional information or referrals are required. ECDC also offers free on-site technical assistance and training to early childhood professionals to provide them with specialized skills in areas of developmental screening and early identification, improving social-emotional and behavior skills and family engagement. ECDC collaborates and partners with a variety of early childhood agencies, committees and coalitions to improve the awareness of resources available for participants, to increase referrals to the program and improve service coordination and accessibility in the community. Average ECDC survey results over the past three years for the questions: Did we treat you well were 100% and Did we help you were 99%.

**King Urban Life Center Inc.: Technology Enhanced Secondary-Post Secondary Prep Project -** The King Urban Life Center (KULC) and the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center (UBEOC) are partnering to provide community based tuition-free instruction and preparation for the NYS High School Equivalency (HSE) examination (Test Assessing Secondary Completion - TASC); training for certifications in Microsoft Office Software; and individualized support services to enter college or other post-secondary CTE (Career and Technical Education Programs). UBEOC/KULC offers an integrated approach to HSE instruction and preparation on-site at the KULC by using classroom instruction and online-tutorial programming, including math, ELA Digital Literacy in preparation for the on-line TASC examination. The University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center is enhancing our Incumbent Worker Series (IWS) by offering the Google Productivity Suite to the course offerings. Google Suite is the leading software platform used in education and business and we assert that it represents critical knowledge and skills needed for today’s workforce. G Suite is utilized across industries. Students who complete the G Suite course will have improved employment skills and credentials. Using the G Suite software, users will be able to analyze data, create effective presentations and proposals, share content with multiple users, plan and hold remote meetings, and manage calendars and emails. The UBEOC instructor will utilize the G Suite curriculum and project based learning to ensure that students attain proficiency across the G Suite platforms including: Gmail, Calendar, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, and Sites. Students who complete the Google Productivity Suite course will be proficient in the platform.

**King Urban Life Center Inc.: The Parent-Child Home Program** - Since 2002, the King Urban Life Center, has implemented the research-proven Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), an intensive school-readiness, home-visiting program for toddlers and parents. The PCHP program targets families challenged by poverty and low-levels of education. Each family has a trained para-professional literacy specialist, or Home-Visitor who comes into the home twice a week for one half-hour for a minimum of 23-weeks, for up to two program years. The Home-Visitor brings educational books and toys, which are used to develop early-literacy and school-readiness skills, increase the parent-child verbal interaction, model positive parenting, and promote pro-social behaviors. The gifted learning materials serve the additional purpose of creating an educational learning environment in the home that generalizes to other siblings and serves as a bridge to starting school. Analysis of the Program’s outcomes shows that the children and parents achieve statistically significant outcomes in Pre-Post Test design. Additionally, long-term analysis of standardized assessment outcomes of PCHP and control group children entering kindergarten, leaving kindergarten and from 3rd and 4th grade NYS ELA and Math assessments show that PCHP graduates significantly outperform non-program children at each of these points. The success of PCHP clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of accessing and effecting families in the home and promoting the parent as the child's first and most important teacher.

**Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara, Inc.: Work Readiness Program -** Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara (LNYBN) is seeking continued support of the expansion of our United Way Works program to provide a stronger emphasis on workforce readiness. Our Workforce Readiness Program provides classroom instruction and work experience opportunities to individuals with the hope of transitioning them off welfare. Our agency has recently expanded our program in order to provide supplemental, wrap-around services to clients. These activities would include presentations and workshops to improve our clients’ soft skills, self-awareness, self-determination, employability, parenting and financial literacy skills. As a means of addressing literacy challenges among individuals on welfare with children, in 2013 LNYBN initiated a program in partnership with the Erie County Department of Social Services (ECDSS), Catholic Charities of WNY, and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. This 25 hour per week program provides clients with classroom instruction, with a heavy emphasis on basic reading and math, as well as job training for families with young children who are receiving public assistance. Clients work to improve their basic reading and math levels in order to prepare to take the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion), ultimately obtaining their high school equivalency diploma in order to create more opportunities to them and their families. To date, we have served over 250 individuals, many of whom have obtained their high school equivalency diploma, entered into job training programs or college, obtained jobs and left the welfare system completely.

**Lt. Colonel Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y.: Hope Center (Financial) -** The Matt Urban Hope Center, a department of the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of Western New York, acts as a one-stop resource center for the Broadway-Fillmore community and surrounding areas. Our primary goals are to increase access to services for low income households and to empower community members to improve their quality of life. We accomplish these goals through collaboration with a wide network of community agencies, and by utilizing strengths-based and person-centered approach to client engagement. Services provided at the Matt Urban Hope Center include: the Urban Diner by Friends of Night People, which is a restaurant-style soup kitchen; a food pantry; a personal essentials pantry; a clothing boutique; one-on-one and group financial education activities; our Hope Works job training program, which provides both hands-on experience and training in a classroom setting; housing search assistance; benefits screening and advocacy; triage and referral services to other community resources; health and wellness activities; family-friendly community events; and homeless outreach and rapid rehousing programs that focus on serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout Erie county. The Matt Urban Hope Center acts as a community hub by hosting community and block club meetings, as well as other endeavors initiated by area residents. We also do this by bringing in over 20 other agencies from throughout the community on a regular basis to provide an array of services including: mobile health services; syringe exchange services; rapid HIV testing and harm reduction services; health insurance navigation assistance; affordable housing opportunities; educational and training programs; and safety planning support.

**Lt. Colonel Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y.: Hope Center (Health & Wellness) -** The Matt Urban Hope Center, a department of the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of Western New York, acts as a one-stop resource center for the Broadway-Fillmore community and surrounding areas. Our primary goals are to increase access to services for low income households and to empower community members to improve their quality of life. We accomplish these goals through collaboration with a wide network of community agencies, and by utilizing strengths-based and person-centered approach to client engagement. Services provided at the Matt Urban Hope Center include: the Urban Diner by Friends of Night People, which is a restaurant-style soup kitchen; a food pantry; a personal essentials pantry; a clothing boutique; one-on-one and group financial education activities; our Hope Works job training program, which provides both hands-on experience and training in a classroom setting; housing search assistance; benefits screening and advocacy; triage and referral services to other community resources; health and wellness activities; family-friendly community events; and homeless outreach and rapid rehousing programs that focus on serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout Erie county; The Matt Urban Hope Center acts as a community hub by hosting community and block club meetings, as well as other endeavors initiated by area residents. We also do this by bringing in over 20 other agencies from throughout the community on a regular basis to provide an array of services including: mobile health services; syringe exchange services; rapid HIV testing and harm reduction services; health insurance navigation assistance; affordable housing opportunities; educational and training programs; and safety planning support.

**Lt. Colonel Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y.: Hope Center (Hope Works) -**  The Matt Urban Hope Center, a department of the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of Western New York, acts as a one-stop resource center for the Broadway-Fillmore community and surrounding areas. Our primary goals are to increase access to services for low income households and to empower community members to improve their quality of life. We accomplish these goals through collaboration with a wide network of community agencies, and by utilizing strengths-based and person-centered approach to client engagement. Services provided at the Matt Urban Hope Center include: the Urban Diner by Friends of Night People, which is a restaurant-style soup kitchen; a food pantry; a personal essentials pantry; a clothing boutique; one-on-one and group financial education; our Hope Works job training program, which provides both hands-on experience and training in a classroom setting; AMP Ink, a screen printing social enterprise; housing search assistance; benefits screening and advocacy; triage and referral services to other community resources; health and wellness activities; family-friendly community events; and homeless outreach and rapid rehousing programs that focus on serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout Erie county. The Matt Urban Hope Center acts as a community hub by hosting community and block club meetings, as well as other endeavors initiated by area residents. We also do this by bringing in over 20 other agencies from throughout the community on a regular basis to provide an array of services including: mobile health services; syringe exchange services; rapid HIV testing and harm reduction services; health insurance navigation assistance; affordable housing opportunities; educational and training programs; and safety planning support.

**Lt. Colonel Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y.: Matt Urban Center Senior Services Program -** The Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY’s (the Matt Urban Center) mission is to provide programs that enhance the quality of life, preserve neighborhoods and encourage economic development. For more than 36 years, the Matt Urban Center, formerly known as the Polish Community Center of Buffalo, Inc., has provided activities and programs that serve families and individuals from age 5 through to senior citizen. Extensive services and programs are provided in three community locations: 1081 Broadway; 385 Paderewski Dr.; and 129 Lewis Street. The Matt Urban Center Senior Services Program (MUC SSP) is seeking to supplement its Case Management program by one Case Manager, and one full-time Van Operator to increase the transportation program back to previous levels, to meet the ever-increasing needs of our aging community The purpose of the MUC SSP is to assist frail, homebound senior citizens, age 60+, with maintaining their level of independence in their community of choice (house or apartment), by linking them with financial benefits and services. These linkages prolong or eliminate the need for placement in a supervised facility, such as assisted living or a nursing home. Major financial programs include: Medicaid, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Food Stamps, and the Medicare Savings Plan, which covers the monthly Medicare premium. Services accessed to support the client in the home include, but are not limited to: home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels), chore worker/housekeeper, personal care aide, social adult day care, a personal emergency response system (i.e., “Help! I’ve fallen and I can’t get up!”), and transportation. In past years, the MUC SSP has accessed 60% of our clients to requested benefits or services.

**Lt. Colonel Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y.: MUC Afterschool and Summer Program -** The Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY is applying for funds to provide services to children and youth who participate in the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Afterschool and Summer Camps. Our programs are located at two sites: the TJ Dulski Community Center (129 Lewis St., 14206), and Polonia Hall (385 Paderewski Dr., 14212). True to the mission of the 21st Century CCLC model, our programs are focused on students in highly impoverished areas who attend low-performing schools. These programs operate in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the City of Buffalo. The focus of the programs is on academic enrichment, as well as services that address basic needs: social-emotional, physical, recreational and character-building. The programs provide opportunity for families of students to receive full, wrap-around assistance. After-school and summer programs in this neighborhood are crucial for the positive development of youth, because they provide structure, support and guidance. Our after-school programs provide four hours of intentional learning after school, Monday through Friday. The summer camp provides full-day services to meet the needs of working families. These programs provide a safe, positive space that encourages emotional and academic growth, as well as the development of positive attitudes and behavior. The after-school program and summer camps play an important role in mediating the trauma and hardships endured by youth growing up in poverty. These centers are safe havens for children and youth when they have nowhere else to go. These centers, located in the Fillmore district, encourage children to be well-rounded and responsible citizens within their community.

**Magic Penny Early Literacy Institute, Inc.: Buffalo/Magic Penny Early Literacy Initiative**- We are very grateful for the faith and trust that the United Way has placed in us by funding the Buffalo/Magic Penny Early Literacy Initiative over the last two funding cycles. Please rest assured that your funding has made - and will continue to make - a BIG difference in the little lives of the kindergarten students in Buffalo! Even though the Magic Penny Early Literacy Institute (MPELI) is now only half way through the second United Way funding cycle for the Buffalo/Magic Penny Early Literacy Initiative (2014-2016 and 2017-2019), MPELI has guided over 100 teachers to more effectively teach beginning literacy skills to the over 5,000 kindergarten children who participated in the Buffalo/Magic Penny Early Literacy Initiative. Over the last 3 years, 94.5% of these kindergarten children have scored at or significantly above grade level based on the Magic Penny Phonemic Reading Assessment! The Board of Education, teacher and administrator response has been overwhelmingly positive. The long term goal at MPELI is to provide prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers and parents with cutting edge early literacy knowledge, guidance, and software that will enable them to teach all children, now and in the future, to joyfully master foundational early literacy skills by the end of kindergarten. This is accomplished when MPELI Coaches, funded by the United Way, work within the classroom with PK and K teachers to demonstrate the Magic Penny method: delightful, yet powerful, early literacy foundational lessons that include games, songs, and videos. The MPELI Coaches also conduct grade level, parent, and district staff development meetings. The Buffalo/Magic Penny Early Literacy Initiative is helping to make our community better and stronger!

**Massachusetts Avenue Project: Growing Green -** The Massachusetts Avenue Project’s (MAP) Growing Green Program aims to reduce the economic and social root causes of poverty by increasing economic and educational opportunities for at-risk youth on Buffalo’s West Side, while addressing issues of food justice in Buffalo. Growing Green provides employment and training to youth, ages 14-20, in sustainable urban agriculture, food systems, micro-enterprise and community leadership. Growing Green youth, the majority of whom come from immigrant and refugee families with younger siblings (age 0-8), grow organic produce at our 1.5 acre urban farm and youth garden sites on Buffalo’s West Side. In our fifteenth year of urban farming, we have established a model of sustainable urban agriculture, including and the reuse of vacant urban land to directly meet food needs in underserved parts of the city. On average, annually, youth help produce over 15,000 lbs. of organic produce and distribute 30,000 lbs. of fresh produce sourced from our farm and other local farms to low-income households through our city-wide Mobile Market program. Youth also are engaged in food-based community education and advocacy to create healthier food environments in their schools and neighborhoods. The income youth earn at Growing Green often goes to support the basic needs of their families. Our program not only provides youth with employment and job skills, but provides supports for youth to graduate from high school and go on to college or further job training opportunities. For the past 8 years, 96% of the youth who have completed at least a year in the program have graduated high school on-time and enrolled in college.

**Mental Health Association of** **Erie County, Inc.: BEST Basic Emotional Skills Training B.E.S.T. (Basic Emotional Skills Training)** - Mental Health Association of Erie County (MHA) Primary grade level students participate in a series of classroom based lessons which improve social emotional learning (SEL). B.E.S.T. is primarily provided in schools located in areas of concentrated poverty in the City of Buffalo and first ring suburbs. MHA Education Specialists provide B.E.S.T. using two distinct multi-session curriculum formats: 1). Pre-Kindergarten: Teaching Kids to Care (TKTC) is proven to increase the frequency of students self-regulatory behaviors including: sharing, taking turns, identifying and expressing feelings, stopping to calm down when angry and making safe choices. 2). Kindergarten through Grade Two: Too Good For Violence (TGFV) helps at risk students develop the skills they need to cope with conflict, frustration, anger and disappointment in mentally healthy, age-appropriate ways. To reinforce the B.E.S.T. classroom lessons, teacher and family follow-up activities are also provided. When the significant adults in a child's life use SEL language and strategies, skills and behaviors improve even more. B.E.S.T. students increase their school readiness by improving SEL skills and behavior. This creates a classroom environment where teachers can teach and students can develop a lifelong love of learning. Research proves that children who interact appropriately with peers, teachers and family members are more likely to achieve academic success. The B.E.S.T research protocol was developed and is conducted by the Center for Health & Social Research at SUNY Buffalo State College. They have concluded, "Results support the B.E.S.T program's ability to demonstrate its positive impact on behavior at a young age."

**Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.: Domestic Violence Advocacy at the Family Justice Center -** Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) currently provides civil legal services to victims of domestic violence at the Family Justice Center of Erie County (FJC). The FJC provides a variety of services for victims at one location. In addition to civil legal assistance, the FJC gives victims access to counseling, lay advocacy, law enforcement, and forensic medical services. Civil legal assistance includes legal information, advice and counsel with respect to victims’ legal options and legal representation. Legal representation is provided in child support, custody, family offense, and divorce cases. Clients are interviewed by an attorney/advocate who assesses the client's civil legal needs and financial eligibility for services. Safety planning is provided in conjunction with FJC staff. If the client needs family law representation, the on-site staff attorney/advocate will assess the matter and, when appropriate, assist the client with petition-drafting and/or court representation. If the client has other legal needs, particularly in the housing or public benefits areas, another NLS attorney or paralegal may provide representation. NLS is requesting funding for the program attorney/advocate position. This will cover one FTE attorney/advocate (3 staff attorneys on rotation, with an experienced paralegal as backup and emergency coverage) for staffing the satellite office at the FJC. Funding for legal representation in court for clients accepted through the partnership will be furnished in kind through state and federal funding sources.

**Northwest Buffalo Community Center: Academic Improvement Program -** Northwest Buffalo Community Center’s Academic Improvement Program is a comprehensive program providing homework assistance, one-to-one and small-group tutoring, social skill-building, literacy skill-building, computer literacy, job readiness skills and recreation. The target population is children and youth ages six to 18 years old who reside in the City of Buffalo in Erie County. The program offers a variety of enrichment opportunities as well as technology access, which enables participants to utilize web-based academic enhancement programs that align well with Buffalo Public Schools programming. As a United Way agency, NWBCC continues to strengthen its Academic Improvement Program, utilizing youth outcome data to guide program modifications. In previous years NWBCC has consistently achieved or exceeded projected outcomes. Within the last three years, our youth reading scores have increased one to two grade levels each year, a testament to the design of the program and the staff who supervise it. NWBCC is seeking funding to continue serving the youth of our community, strengthening their academic and social skills and guiding them to develop the skills necessary for future success as adults. Program outcome measurements include: # of students receiving academic enrichment, tutoring or mentoring, # of students promoted to the next grad, # of students receiving life skills training.

**Northwest Buffalo Community Center: VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) -** The VITA program provides income tax preparation services for low income individuals. While the majority of those served live in the Black Rock and Riverside neighborhoods of Buffalo, individuals from throughout Erie County and southern Niagara County are served by the program. The target population includes families and individuals living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The program has operated primarily from the Northwest Buffalo Community Center (NWBCC), in donated space that is set up and broken down each day the service is offered. A smaller satellite site is located at the Riverside Public Library. The program annually assists more than 2700 low income individuals and families to file their taxes at no charge. According to IRS reports, the site currently ranks within the top four volunteer sites in returns prepared across New York State. The other top sites are staffed 40 or more hours weekly with a combination of paid and volunteer staff. Our VITA site is only open nine hours per week and has no paid staff. The number of returns that can be completed in a single session is determined by the number of volunteers that day and the number of volunteers is limited by the space and equipment available; usually the program reaches capacity within one-half hour of opening. In 2017, the average return filed generated just over $3,000 in income returned to the family/individual.

**Olmsted Center for Sight: Senior Vision Services -** Olmsted Center for Sight (OCS) has been providing its Senior Vision Services (SVS) Program to Erie County residents, age 55 years and above since 1986. The program provides vision rehabilitation services designed to maximize the safety, independence and quality of life of Seniors experiencing vision loss. Our vision rehabilitation clinic provides specialized optometric evaluations to maximize (remaining) functional vision through the use of high-powered lenses, magnification, glare control and lighting; when pharmaceuticals, standard lenses and/or surgical treatments are no longer beneficial. We educate our consumers on their specific diagnosis and what they might experience as/if vision continues to deteriorate. Information regarding available resources/services, adaptive equipment and techniques are also recommended based on the individuals’ needs/goals. Our clinic accepts most major insurances including Medicare and Medicaid. Home assessments are provided by specially trained staff to ensure client’s safety and independence in skills of daily living. Simple tasks including telephone usage, setting of thermostats, differentiating medications and safe/simple meal preparation may be improved by introducing an adaptive technique or administering tactile markings. Based on satisfaction surveys in 2017, consumers reported nearly a 95% success rate in acquiring an increase in knowledge and/or independence following their participation in the program. This often results in the consumer’s ability to remain safely in their own home and experience an improved quality of life. Based on an annual operating budget of $147,275, Olmsted Center is requesting funding towards the provision of programming for seniors with vision impairments.

**Parent Network of WNY: Parent Education/Engagement Program (PE/EP) -** Established in 1986, Parent Network of WNY (PNWNY) has a longstanding presence in the community serving over 30,000 people in the last dozen years through various funding sources. As a consistent link between parents, family members, educators, service providers and the community, we have built a reputation as strong collaborators within WNY. Over 340 events provided education and information about available supports and services for families. The Parent Network of WNY Parent Education/Engagement Program Birth-8 has been highly successful in supporting young children by providing education and support to families and professionals. United Way funding will increase our services, including enabling us to increase comprehensive services to parents of children with a disability under age 8, and include a partnership with The Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC), part of John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital. Like PNWNY, ECDC provides information, referral, support and follow-up to families of children birth-5 years with suspected or diagnosed special needs and the professionals who work with them. On-site technical assistance and training to early childhood professionals is also provided, to strengthen skills in developmental screening and early identification, improving social-emotional and behavior skills, and family engagement. Both PN and ECDC collaborate with a variety of early childhood agencies, committees and coalitions to improve the awareness of resources available for our participants and increases referrals to our program. These free services help to improve outcomes for young children at risk for developmental, social and behavioral issues.

**Peace of the City Ministries: Peace Club (Homework Club) -** Peace Of The City (POTC) exists to be a force for good in under-resourced Buffalo neighborhoods, loving and empowering children, teens and their families through four guiding priorities: literacy, the arts, advocacy and transformation. POTC has offered innovative and empowering programs for Buffalo’s highly diverse and at risk K-12th grade youth since 1992 (over 27 years). All services incorporate trauma-informed care and restorative justice practices. Our early child development programs are our oldest, and have a strong focus on early literacy and numeracy literacy skill development within the larger context of positive social-emotional development. United Way funding will help to enhance and sustain our Peace Club, serving young children at risk for developmental, social, emotional and behavioral issues. We are requesting funding to provide critical staff capacity, particularly to serve our youngest participants. Through Peace Club (formerly known as “Homework Club”), we envelop our 4-12 year old kids in a radically loving and safe environment in which children are free to learn, make mistakes, and grow. We also provide intensive, one-on-one literacy interventions with a strong focus on phonemic awareness, word recognition, comprehension and fluency, both in reading and writing. Walking through the doors of POTC exposes children to a profoundly different culture focused on developing personal responsibility, goal-directed behavior, self-management and improving social-emotional wellness. Peace Club is the gateway for many kids to find a place of belonging at POTC and continue on to grow up through our programs year over year. Programs are unique in providing a highly relational, loving, personalized, responsive and literacy-rich environment in which kids thrive.

**Peace of the City Ministries: Teen Empowerment** - Peace Of The City (POTC) exists to be a force for good in under-resourced Buffalo neighborhoods, loving and empowering children, teens and their families through four guiding priorities: literacy, the arts, advocacy, and transformation. POTC has offered innovative and empowering programs for Buffalo’s highly diverse and at risk K-12th grade youth since 1992 (over 27 years). All services incorporate trauma-informed care, restorative justice practices, and a literacy rich environment. United Way funding will help to enhance and sustain our high impact, highly-relational Teen Empowerment programs in response to the increasing demand for our services. We are requesting support for our unique matrix of Teen Empowerment programming, an investment in the trajectory of our students’ futures. Initiatives include: Shakespeare Comes to (716), Workforce Continuum, Sports and Enrichment Activities, After Hours Tutoring/College Prep, and ongoing Restorative Justice mentoring and advocacy. Walking through the doors of POTC exposes teens to a radically different culture focused on developing personal responsibility, goal-directed behavior, self-leadership and improving social-emotional wellbeing. Our model is unique in our long-term approach to the development of talents and leadership skills, while improving literacy and cultivating individuals' inherent grit. POTC is the only urban youth program of its kind, linking life skills and the arts, Shakespeare and social justice, to profoundly impact students at their core. Teens emerge ready to pursue higher education and employment opportunities, with finely honed problem solving skills, flexibility and resiliency. They stand head and shoulders above their peers, able to articulate their hopes and dreams and the strategies to get there.

**Reach Out and Read: Rx for Early Literacy in Erie County -** Reach Out and Read gives young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read together. When families read aloud to their young children, they can give them a better start to life. With unparalleled access to families with young children, Reach Out and Read medical providers give books to children at more than 10 well-child visits from infancy until they start school. More importantly, they encourage families to read aloud and engage with their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers every day. We currently serve nearly 8,100 children in Erie County, 87% of whom are on Medicaid or Child Health Plus or are uninsured. In the next year, we expect to add at least 3,000 more children when UBMD Pediatrics becomes an active program. Your partnership would provide us book and program support to serve 2,000 families each year in Erie County and help us break down knowledge barriers between the medical system and local early childhood stakeholders. We partner closely with Help Me Grow WNY. With this partnership, at well-child visits under age 5 we are able to distribute our Prescription for Success, a takeaway document generously funded by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, which introduces Help Me Grow and reinforces our message to families about the importance of reading aloud daily, encourages families to get book refills at their local libraries, and to visit museums. In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that pediatric providers promote early literacy development for all children, and medical practices throughout our region are looking for a means to implement these recommendations. We’re offering a powerful solution.

**Read to Succeed Buffalo: CARE Child Care -** CARE Child Care, developed in the 1990s at UW as a flagship imitative of Success By 6, has served hundreds of children birth through age 8, by increasing quality in scores of family child care programs in Buffalo's poorest neighborhoods. For the last decade it has been a Read to Succeed program increasing practitioner knowledge of literacy and early development while facilitating the intentional infusion of language and literature in child care. The program is acknowledged by Child Care Resource Network as an in-depth, next level quality improvement initiative. CARE’s goal is to maximize language and vocabulary development by ensuring child care, serving our most vulnerable, is nurturing, educational and developmentally appropriate. This is critical when considering the seminal Word Gap research documenting that children who grow up in poverty are exposed to 32 million fewer words by the age of 4 than children in professional families. Another sobering finding noted these children heard a significantly higher ratio of discouragements to encouragements than their more affluent peers. Conclusions of this research determined the most important aspects of children’s language development is access to quantity AND quality of language. CARE utilizes nationally normed child and environmental assessments to facilitate improvement and measure growth, in terms of child development, practitioner knowledge, and the environment. CARE serves practitioners in the 14207 Military/Riverside, 14211 Genesee, Bailey Fillmore, 14214 Central Park and 14215 Bailey/Kensington neighborhoods. Imagination Library is a complementary promising practice, delivering an age appropriate, high quality book every month, into children’s homes in these economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

**Read to Succeed Buffalo: CARE Preschool (CARE Elementary) -** CARE Preschool is the second level of the RTSB early language and literacy continuum, bridging the developmental divide between child care and elementary, for our most at risk preschoolers in Buffalo. CARE Preschool is a comprehensive program increasing practitioner knowledge of literacy and early development while facilitating the intentional infusion of language and literature in Head Start classroom or care setting. This program was developed through a federal Department of Education Early Reading First (ERF) grant implemented from 2008-2011, in partnership with Bethel Head Start, BPS and RTSB Literacy Coalition. While the DOE no longer funds ERF, RTSB was able to continue the CARE coaching model in Head Start and elementary schools through a partnership with Buffalo Promise Neighborhood and UWBEC. The continued support of UWBEC has ensured the proven, evidence based practice, developed with the $4 million federal investment continues to support teachers of our most at risk students. The continued support of UWBEC also enabled RTSB to recruit a new partner in Rich Family Foundation. This has produced an expansion of CARE Preschool to Buffalo’s West Side in collaboration with Holy Cross Head Start. CARE supports are critical when considering the seminal Word Gap research documenting that children who grow up in poverty are exposed to 32 million fewer words by the age of 4 than their more affluent peers. Another sobering finding noted these children heard a significantly higher ratio of discouragements to encouragements than their more affluent peers. Conclusions of this research determined the most important aspects of children’s language development is access to quantity AND quality of language.

**Rural Outreach Center: ROC U for Families** - For those living in poverty, financial stability is about more than money. To fully address financial stability the antecedents and consequences must be understood and addressed. Our mission is to assist, empower, and elevate the rural populations in Southern Erie County and the surrounding areas. At the ROC, people discover their own path to success by partnering with our caring staff and participating in our innovative programs. The ROC makes a long-term commitment from birth to seniors to the rural poor living at or below 300% of HHS Federal Poverty level. These services are brought together in our ROC U program. ROC U is a comprehensive approach to addressing financial stability. After meeting emergency needs Participant entry into ROC U is via a commitment to invest in themselves and to work toward change. ROC U starts with an individualized budget session that, when possible, leads to direct deposit, automatic bill payment, and the start of a savings account. The ultimate goal of ROC U is financial self-sufficiency. Participants move through three Paths to reach this goal. Each Path has Mentoring Circles (classes) and Incentives. Each Path systematically empowers Participants to manage greater independence and financial self-sufficiency as they learn more skills. Skills include basic life skills (health, nutrition, parenting) and are complemented with ongoing mental health support as needed. Incentives include programs that support daily family living and moving families forward to financial self-sufficiency. They include therapies, High School Equivalency (formerly GED), educational and developmental enrichment for children, legal assistance, home repair, one-on-one mentoring for parents, career counseling, job assistance, employment training and more.

**Seneca-Babcock Community Association: Work Ready Workforce Development -** The Seneca-Babcock Community Association’s (SBCA) Work Ready Workforce Development program is an education and workforce development program that provides a myriad of services to clients in Erie County. The program provides education, employment, case management and job training opportunities to participants. The purpose of the Seneca-Babcock Community Association’s Work Ready Workforce Development program is to provide clients with the skills necessary to build a successful career. The Seneca-Babcock Work Ready Workforce Development program uses an integrated service model that embraces a holistic approach by addressing the educational, employment, and social service needs of participants. Specifically, the SBCA’s goals for clients completing the Work Ready Workforce Development program are the following: placement in employment that has career potential, placement in an advanced occupational training program, or placement in postsecondary education that leads to a certification and/or associate’s degree or higher. The Seneca-Babcock Community Association’s Work Ready Workforce Development program helps individuals and families secure income supports, financial education, educational, and workforce training. In the past year, 69 clients participating in the program have obtained their GED and 98 obtained jobs.

**The Belle Center: Belle's Bookworms**- Research has taught us that the child growing up in a low income home hears up to 40 million less words than their peers in middle income homes. The challenge for our The Belle Center Child Care Center is to provide education and supports to the parents, helping them to understand what they can do to encourage their children to become readers. Many of our families have few books in their homes. We propose to use an evidence based program called Raising a Reader (RAR) to meet that need. RAR’s core program includes book bag rotation, parent training and library connection. RAR through our Child Care Center will rotate bright red bags filled with award-winning books into children’s homes on a weekly basis, exposing families to over 100 books per rotation cycle. RAR pairs this book rotation with parent training and information on how to effectively share books to promote children’s early literacy skills and love of learning. Families are also connected with their local public and school libraries through literacy and end of year events. At these events, children receive their own blue library book bag so they can continue the practice of borrowing books and build a lifelong habit of reading. With United Way’s investment, 100 children will receive personal literacy education in two years with a total of 250 in five years. The long term benefit is children reaching their potential, taking their place in the American Dream and providing an economic impact inn Buffalo.

**The Salvation Army: Emergency Services -** As part of its mission to meet basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter, The Salvation Army provides emergency and supportive services to assist men, women, and children in crisis. The Salvation Army’s emergency services are comprised of two core programs: Emergency Family Assistance (EFA) and Emergency (Homeless) Family Shelter. Both act as a safety-net to immediately assist and/or house people in crisis, helping them get back on their feet. In 2017, 13,452 individuals were served by EFA, receiving assistance with food, clothing, personal care items, prescriptions, utility bills, and/or referrals. Families are screened for and assisted with securing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Help with budgeting, banking, and credit education is also available. Within the Emergency (Homeless) Family Shelter, temporary living accommodations and support programs are provided to more than 450 homeless men, women, and children each year. Services include secure housing, three full meals and one evening snack daily, and all personal care items (soap, shampoo, deodorant, diapers, etc.). Trained caseworkers help the residents confront and address the issues that led to their homeless situation. By providing ongoing case management, residents learn the appropriate steps to maintaining permanent housing. Temporary shelter residents are also provided basic needs and financial literacy assistance through EFA. In order to continue serving Buffalo’s economically disadvantaged, It is The Salvation Army’s goal to reduce financial strain within lower-income households in crisis by providing them immediate assistance with shelter, basic needs, and support services.

**The Salvation Army: Employment Services -** The Employment Services Program provides workfare and job readiness training in priority industries to low-income individuals through the Erie County Social Services (ECDSS). Each client receives supportive services, case management, job readiness training, employment counseling, and training opportunities. On-the-job training includes dietary/culinary, facility maintenance, and clerical. Training certifications are offered in the healthcare and culinary industries. Staff members encourage clients to utilize the program’s open door policy for referrals, linkage, and advocacy. Employment Services accepts individuals referred by ECDSS that are welfare recipients and primarily classified as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) clients. These individuals receive cash assistance for their family, including a minor child living with their parent or a caretaker relative. One hundred percent (100%) of individuals served by the program have incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level for a given household. Clients are mainly single women with children. They may also be of an immigrant population, disabled (mostly learning disabled), a veteran, and/or newly unemployed. In 2018, two additional referral categories were added to the program. The Poverty Initiative helps individuals find employment within an eight-week period who, near the five-year maximum timeframe, are in danger of being cut off from welfare benefits. An additional 120 individuals (estimated) will be referred to the program by ECDSS with the end goal of finding a job. The Safety Net Project will serve 15-20 single non-TANF individuals without ECDSS enumeration. It is estimated that this referral segment will cost the program an additional $24,000 ($1,600 per client) during the fiscal year.

**The Salvation Army: Golden Age Center -** Since 1972, The Salvation Army has operated the Golden Age Center (GAC) for adults over age 50. The GAC is focused on providing opportunities for seniors to socialize and participate in recreational, educational, and spiritual activities in a safe and supportive environment. As a congregate meal site through the Erie County Department of Senior Services, the GAC provides breakfast and hot lunches, Monday through Friday, to program members and the community. The GAC also provides numerous opportunities for members to stay active, engaged, and involved. Exercise classes, art instruction, piano, workshops, computer instruction, arts and crafts, book club, and field trips (day or overnight) are some of the benefits of membership. Members are able to participate in classes, play cards and bingo, or simply join their friends for lunch. This multi-purpose center provides an atmosphere that is not only mentally stimulating, but is also a critical resource that enables this underserved population to progress through healthy aging, despite financial hardships. The program offers opportunities to improve health and wellness through instructor-led exercise classes, a fitness room, health workshops, and more. In order to continue serving the older adult population within the local community, The Salvation Army respectfully requests funding from the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. It is The Salvation Army’s goal to improve the nutrition, physical health, and emotional security of the Golden Age Center’s members through increased mental activity, stimulating social activities, enhanced social networks, and improved health behaviors. The Golden Age Center currently has 345 members, 245 female and 100 male.

**The Service Collaborative of Western New York: TSC Economic Opportunity -** The Economic Opportunity (EO) initiative at The Service Collaborative of WNY (TSC) is comprised of Serve NY VISTA, Economic Development Corps, and our local UWBEC VITA tax network participation. EO has 64 full-time AmeriCorps members and 5 staff members, providing financial literacy training and other anti-poverty services in 24 locations across Buffalo and Erie County. EO is committed to fighting poverty and helping individuals achieve economic self-sufficiency through financial education and training. EO members serve in non-profit and educational institutions across WNY as one-on-one and small group financial literacy mentors and anti-poverty capacity building specialists. Since 2011, EO has served 54,111 economically disadvantaged adults with services including creating financial plans, accessing income supports, job readiness training, budgeting, credit review and repair and housing and home ownership programs.

**Trocaire College: Phlebotomy Plus Pro -** For 27 years, Trocaire College has prepared individuals to become healthcare practitioners through its accredited Phlebotomy Program. A 7-week class experience and 3-week clinical leads to a certificate of completion, qualifying participants for immediate employment. Financial support is available to pay for the national certification examination for Phlebotomy Technician, which is increasingly in demand. Participants gain skills in healthcare delivery, anatomy and physiology, specimen collection, infection control, laboratory testing and more, and soft skills in customer service, active listening, social perceptiveness, speaking and critical thinking. Trocaire has partnered with 716 Ministries to integrate their established 4-week Work Readiness Program. 716 Ministries has provided job training since 2007. Staying within the one-semester timeframe and established cost structure, this adds training on character traits for employability, time management, personal budgeting based on projected income, developing a vocational plan, interview skills, and workplace conflict. Students are also linked to dedicated mentors and coaches. The course costs $1,250 and requires a high school transcript or GED. According to salary research through GlassDoor and O\*Net Online, the average salary for a Phlebotomist in Buffalo ranges from $27,576-$34,260/ year. Nearly 40 jobs are currently posted for Phlebotomists in our region. The program is offered through Trocaire’s Workforce Development division in partnership with 716 Ministries. Trocaire is one of the top three higher education providers of workforce development in Western New York. The expanded 14-week course is offered four times per year. Transportation support is also available.

**True Community Development Corporation: Young Parents Campus**- The Young Parents Campus (YPC) is an educational and supportive program that address the needs of teen-aged parents in the communities served by True Community Development Corporation (TCDC): zip codes 14208, 14211 and 14215 on Buffalo’s east side. YPC provides a safe and stable group environment for learning and building relationships among young parents and their children. YPC serves young parents from 14-19 years of age, offering counseling, social and academic support, employment and parental skills training, and mentoring services in a 6-8 week series with 6 hours of group sessions each week. Parents also receive individual education and support outside the group setting, based on need and desire for privacy. YPC also provides larger focus-groups/discussion forums, outreach gatherings and collaborative special events, providing community parents with incentive donations while imparting skills and resources to assist them in developing stronger parenting skills and connections to other community service providers. YPC helps young parents provide their children with loving, stable and nurturing environments- homes where children can grow to be successful in school and happy in life. TCDC seeks continued funding for the position of a full-time Program Coordinator to oversee content, recruitment, delivery of programming, assessment and improvement of the Young Parents Campus program. The addition of the Program Coordinator has increased the number of parents enrolled in YPC small group programming annually from 26 to 55 or more. TCDC projects that the greater number of parents participating in YPC will report an increase in their knowledge and parenting skills because of their involvement in YPC.

**Valley Community Association: First In The Family -** The Valley Community Association’s First In The Family (FITF) Program assists youth in applying, enrolling, and maintaining study at institutions of secondary education. The target population includes at-risk, impoverished youth, typically aged 16-24 years old. Families, once convinced that college was unattainable, are participating in the process of enrolling their children in secondary education and trades. The majority of the youth are the first in their families to attend college, allowing them to begin breaking the cycle of poverty. The program is led by Dr. Julie Hall who offers personalized, one on one consultations with youth and their families, guides them step by step through the process including the daunting financial aid process, and continues to mentor youth through their higher education careers and beyond. Dr. Hall also assists individuals with job readiness training including resume creation, soft skills development, and job searches as well as career counseling, assistance applying for vocational trade schools and civil service exams as well as offering personalized assistance in sorting through financial issues, particularly student loans. In addition, the FITF program assists 7th & 8th grade students and their families with the high school application process and scholarship procurement.

**Valley Community Association: Keep Moving -** The Valley Community Association’s Keep Moving" program is designed to encourage & maintain healthy lifestyles in elderly residents through providing affordable healthy meals, facilitated physical activity, peer interaction and socialization, health care navigation & access to support services. Program activities include congregate dining, low-impact aerobics exercise, cards & BINGO, healthy aging education, cultural & educational presentations & individual case management. Many recent studies have explored the long term benefits of regular physical & social activity as it relates to cognitive function, demonstrating the positive effects of maintaining an interactive & healthy lifestyle in order to enable continued independence & quality of life. Recent studies have also shown the importance of community-based access for senior populations who see increased difficulty with navigating the today’s complex system of services & access to support. The senior population of the Buffalo River Community is, on average, low-income & follows national trends regarding chronic illnesses & disabilities presenting even more challenges to healthy aging. Through collaboration & partnership, the Keep Moving program also gives the local senior population access to regular on-site free screenings & consultations that give them better control over managing a variety of chronic conditions & allow them to age in place comfortably and independently. This program is dedicated to promoting preventative measures & provides a network of support to improve the quality of life in the local senior population.

**Valley Community Association: Striving For Excellence -** The Valley Community Association’s “Striving For Excellence” Youth Program meets the needs of the “at risk” and impoverished youth who reside in the Buffalo River Community. The activities and programs that comprise the VCA’s program improve student achievement and learning by offering a comprehensive, structured, schedule based program that includes not only academic remediation but also academic enrichment activities; a broad array of additional services, programs and activities; and family services. The program meets the diverse needs of all students by offering a variety of hands-on, project based, high quality, fun activities that meet student’s different learning styles. Activities are based on NYS Learning and Common Core Standards and include targeted homework help, physical education, art classes, STEM programming, computer instruction, literacy programming, small group ELA tutoring, Boy and Girl Scouts, family events, parent and family workshops, field trips, and more for youth in grades K-8. Diverse partnerships and collaborations add to the core group of activities as well. Youth are exposed to new experiences and knowledge that they otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience.

**Valley Community Association: Valley Child Care -** The Valley Child Care (VCC) is an organization within the Valley Community Association (VCA). The VCC is a non-profit child care center located in the Buffalo River Community and was created to serve the families of the surrounding low socio-economic area and to provide high quality child care to underprivileged children. The Valley Child Care at the Larkin Building (LCo) was built in 2004 to accommodate working families in the newly renovated Larkin District. Both centers serve children in over 20 different ZIP codes throughout the area. The VCC was created to meet the NYS standards of high quality child care with its architectural design, staffing model, and curriculum design. Some of the key program features include Universal PreK, highly qualified and consistent staff, the proximity to the VCA Nature Park and Habitat Trail, and its ability to provide a safe, secure, and nurturing environment to children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Both centers are part of QUALITYstarsNY. Both the VCC and LCo have been rated 4 out of 5 stars.

**Veterans One-Stop Center of WNY Inc.: Financial Stability Initiative -** The Veterans One-stop Center of WNY, Inc. (VOC of WNY) brings people, resources, and organizations together in time, space, and effort to effectively improve the well-being of all WNY veterans, service members and their families. We ensure barrier-free access to essential services that are an integral part of the transition from military life to civilian life. Our wide range of services assist with basic needs, such as requesting discharge papers; to critical needs, such as financial counseling, employment and housing assistance. These services are coordinated through our integrated case managers and are provided on-site at our Buffalo location at 1280 Main Street. Since opening our doors in 2013, the VOC of WNY has served over 10,000 veterans and over 1,500 family members. As an established resource organization, our goal is to connect with the over 54,000 veterans and their family members that reside in the Erie County region. As a true one-stop, the VOC of WNY is able to effectively coordinate service navigation by bringing the providers and resources together under one roof. Collectively, the VOC of WNY and our community partners work together to ensure that our veterans and their families are given the proper tools and support to achieve financial stability, employment, and sustainable housing while improving their overall well-being.

**Western New York Independent Living, Inc. : Job Club -** Western New York Independent Living, Inc. (WNYIL), family of agencies, is a multi-cultural, peer directed organization that provides a full range of assistance, programs and services to enhance the quality of life for all individuals with disabilities. The WNYIL Board of Directors, OAHIIO Council, Mental Health Peer Connection Council, Independent Living of Niagara County Council, Independent Living of Genesee Region Council, staff and volunteers, comprised of a majority of persons with disabilities, operate a professional and efficient organization creating opportunities for choice, independence and community participation. This is accomplished by eliminating physical and attitudinal barriers and facilitating transportation and communication access in our community. WNYIL assists persons with disabilities to realize their life choices through information and referral, independent living skills, individual and systems advocacy, peer counseling, empowerment programs, self-help, job placement, leadership development, support to families, community education and partnerships. The Mental Health Peer Connection's Job Club is a program designed to assist people with mental health diagnosis in obtaining and maintaining employment in their community. Support Services are provided in assisting with developing interview skills, resume and cover letter writing, job searching, peer support, employer outreach and life management. These employment supports have proven long term, positive outcomes for people with mental health diagnosis in the reduction of hospitalization, and increased mental and physical wellness.

**Western New York Law Center Inc .: Buffalo CLARO** - The Buffalo Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO), is a joint effort between the Law Center, private bar, courts, and community organizations. The clinics are walk-in and visitors first meet with paralegals who collect information on the entire financial situation and focus on prevention and early intervention services. Visitors receive legal advice, drafting of legal documents, reviewing credit reports, bankruptcy advice, and initiating credit report disputes. All visitors meet with attorneys who can immediately draft court documents or letters to creditors if necessary. CLARO services do not end with free legal assistance. The program also assists visitors in reestablishing their financial foundation. All families are offered the opportunity to have a credit report reviewed with one of the intake specialists. When combining the service of reviewing credit reports with legal support, CLARO is able to assist its visitors to develop a path to a stronger financial future. The program uses staff from the Law Center to supervise and guide volunteer paralegals and attorneys and in that way, leverages its resources to assist more people. Since its inception in 2012, 4,963 households with 3,576 young children in Erie County have been directly helped by limited-scope legal advice and representation. In the last year, CLARO clinics served families consisting of a total of 2200 people, 700 of whom were children, and helped those families set aside $783,408 in improper consumer judgments. Approximately 74% of individuals served by CLARO have incomes at or below 200% of the FPIG. The heaviest concentration of CLARO visitors in the last year came from zip codes in Buffalo and contiguous areas in Amherst, Cheektowaga and Lackawanna with heavy concentrations of poverty.

**Westminster Economic Development Initiative: Economic Development Program -** Westminster Economic Development Initiative, Inc. (WEDI) manages the Economic Development Program that offers a pipeline from poverty to business ownership through financial and business training, technical assistance, and microloans. The program serves all prospective or current business owners, but focuses on assisting refugees, immigrants, and people living in areas of concentrated poverty. The program begins with an intake process that explores the personal, social, and financial foundations that must be in place before opening a business. Depending on the need, staffers refer clients to program partners. Intake includes establishing a personal budget, gaining access to food and shelter, financial capability training, credit repair, and services that are specific to unique populations (e.g., language services for refugees). With individualized business coaching, a client acquires the skills to develop a business plan, cash flow projections, and other documents. He or she is then empowered to open, expand, or maintain a business, either at the West Side Bazaar, WEDI’s business incubator, or in one of the vacant storefronts in the local community, often accessing one of WEDI’s microloans. The client routinely meets with a volunteer business coach to report on progress and strengthen his or her business. Through many partnerships, WEDI is able to keep costs low in a staff-intensive program that provides high-quality services to the economically disadvantaged.

**Westminster Economic Development Initiative: Focused Learning for Youth (FLY) -** Since 2007, Westminster Economic Development Initiative’s (WEDI) after-school program, FLY, has served English-language learners (ELL) and Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) in grades 6-8. The student population comes from around the world, including from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, the Central African Republic, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. FLY supports multiple languages simultaneously, including Arabic, Burmese, Karen, Mai-Mai, Somali, and Swahili. By welcoming these multilingual learners, WEDI creates a culturally rich and diverse program. Students receive individualized assistance to become familiarized with American culture while maintaining their unique cultural identities. The overarching goal is to assist these learners in gaining parity with their peers. The program incorporates a project-based learning approach, a proven and successful model for these students. During the school year, FLY operates from October-June, Monday-Thursday from 3:00 PM-6:30 PM. During the summer months, WEDI offers enrichment programming for six weeks, Monday-Friday from 12:00 PM-5:00 PM. Year-round programming prevents students from experiencing summer slide and losing academic milestones gained during the school year. With a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) concepts, FLY provides a strong foundation for students to achieve academic success.

**Westminster Economic Development Initiative: West Side Bazaar** - Since its 2011 founding, the West Side Bazaar has provided a supportive, collaborative environment for aspiring entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities to test out a business concept and grow in their business acumen. The Bazaar represents a synthesis of the following: a small business incubator, a startup accelerator, a community meeting space, and a public market. This unique space includes a shared commercial kitchen for restaurants that provide daily prepared meals to customers and retail spaces for service-oriented, product, and apparel companies. The Bazaar consistently represents a diverse set of entrepreneurs from Buffalo’s refugee and low-income communities and provides them individualized training to ensure they can meet their goals. The Bazaar has hosted 48 businesses, 100% of which were startups, and has created 77 jobs. In 2019, the Bazaar will expand to a larger location to better support the overwhelming demand for its food-business spaces. This expansion will build upon the Bazaar’s proven track record of bringing job training and business ownership opportunities to historically excluded and economically disadvantaged populations.

**WNY United Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Inc.: Ripple Effects Mentoring Program -**  In order to meet the growing needs of the schools, WNY United adapted the Mentoring and Academic Support Program (MAS) to make the program more behaviorally focused, by utilizing the Ripple Effects behavioral modification program to help deal with the barriers to learning that hinder student achievement. Ripple Effects is a guided, interactive, computer-based intervention for students that is designed to enhance social-emotional competencies that improve outcomes such as mental health, delinquency, substance abuse, and classroom behaviors. Utilizing a cognitive-behavioral approach, the program contains over 400 independent tutorials that can be used to personalize the program based on each student's particular needs, each taking around 20 minutes to complete. Serving students in Grades 1 to 5, the Ripple Effects Mentoring Program (REMP) utilizes the building SST to refer students that can benefit most from the services. Each student receives an individualized behavior plan (averaging around 25 sessions), which aims to improve the behaviors that are causing the greatest difficulty for the student. Services are delivered by qualified staff members that formulate a relationship and bond with each participant and works with a caseload of 40 students per year. The REMP functions at a very high capacity, demonstrating statistically significant improvements across the majority of targeted behavioral areas. In addition, not only does REMP help define the referral processes in the building itself, but it is also able to demonstrate measurable improvements in actual observable behavior and help students avoid more intensive treatment options such as out of school placement and/or special education.

**WNY United Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Inc.: Too Good for Violence**- In order to help combat the ever-growing levels of violence found in the Buffalo Public Schools, WNY United is proposing to deliver the evidence-based Too Good for Violence Program to 500 kindergarten through 2nd grade students at BPS #18, BPS #27, BPS #43, and BPS #67. Students in these buildings exhibit poor academics, high levels of poverty, and are surrounded by a culture of violence that often uses violence as a solution to problems. “Too Good for Violence” is 7 sessions long, teaches students how to be non-violent through various activities, and utilizes a pre and post-test assessment to ensure positive results. The Too Good for Violence curriculum is scientifically proven to help improve social emotional competence, develop personal standards of non-violence, and teach students that violence is wrong and harmful. In addition, students that participate in the program demonstrate a greater feeling of connectedness with the school and show increased disapproval of violent behavior among their peers. Past evaluations of the program have been extremely positive, with students showing measurable improvements in anger management, proper communication, and emotional competency. Now more than ever, students attending these Buffalo Public Schools need this important program to ameliorate the many risk factors experienced by these students. Without intervention, early levels of violence will become much more pervasive and lead to academic failure, school suspension, and a generally poor outlook across numerous social variables. If funded, Too Good for Violence will give these students the tools they need to live more productive, violence-free lives.

**WNY Women's Foundation: MOMs: From Education to Employment** - MOMs: From Education to Employment (MOMs) is an economic empowerment initiative of the WNY Women’s Foundation (WNYWF) designed to move single mothers and their dependent children out of poverty. The program eliminates barriers single mothers face when attempting to complete their education by providing achievement coaching, career coaching, case management services, as well as incentives and scholarships that provide critical support for these families. The goals of MOMs program is for mothers to move into career pathways and secure family sustaining jobs thus moving herself and her children out of poverty. The students in the program are counseled about educational programs and career pathways that can lead to high demand, higher wage jobs with upward mobility. The model includes mentoring that empowers students to both visualize and achieve movement and sustainable, transformative change in their lives. Best of all, children see their mothers achieving educational goals which research show will influence the child’s educational achievement as well. Program outcomes thus far demonstrate the model to be valuable and efficacious. MOMs started in fall 2013 at Niagara County Community College (NCCC), expanded to SUNY Erie Community College (ECC) in April 2017, and to Jamestown Community College (JCC) in January 2018.

**Young Audiences of Western NY, Inc.: Early Learning Arts Integration Programming** - Young Audiences of Western New York’s Early Learning Arts Integration Programming is designed to support early learning and development for children grades PreK - 3 (ages 4-8 years). Arts Integration provides for the development of cognitive, social, and emotional skills associated with language, literacy, numeracy and success throughout life. The United Way Community Needs Assessment (2011-12) estimates that more than half of local children start school without the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical skills needed for success. This is the result of concentrated poverty, health issues, and instability at home. These challenges present as increased behavioral problems, difficulties with self-regulation, communication issues and peer-interactions in both early childhood and later, ultimately creating barriers to adult success. Arts-based programs have positive impacts, resulting in positive, social outcomes including overall engagement in school and increased community engagement and pro-social activities. The United Way report, “Third-Grade Proficiency”, shows that frequent, positive interactions are crucial for establishing an emotional bond, which forms the basis of a child’s social-economic development. As such, it is imperative we work to integrate greater chances for young children to engage in the creative arts, for such measures will provide the foundation for later success. Through arts-integrated programs, Young Audiences’ professional artists engage young children in music, dance, theatre, media, visual and literary arts. Programs target social-emotional, cognitive and physiological transformations that children experience in early childhood, and integrate language, literacy, and mathematical skills that impact future development in school and beyond.

**YWCA of WNY: YWCA WNY Early Childhood Success Center** - YWCA WNY respectfully requests funding to enhance existing core services at our Early Childhood Success Center (Center), located in a concentrated poverty tract (more than 40% of families living below the poverty line) in the Black Rock Grant-Amherst neighborhood. YWCA WNY supports over 3,400 women, children and families annually. We are on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. The Center currently partners with Community Action Organization to provide Early Head Start to those children who are eligible (30%). Our programs address the holistic needs of children and families with school readiness strategies and supports that promote well-being, the benefits of which we witness on a daily basis. United Way of Buffalo & Erie County funding will provide the quality and services associated with Head Start programs to all of our children regardless of their ability to access Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS). Your support will ensure that all children and families who utilize the Center receive high quality educational programming and comprehensive services and supports utilizing evidence based curriculum (Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum) and assessment tools (BRIGANCE, Ages & Stages, and Teaching Strategies Gold) to inform practice. With a small investment of resources, we will create an expanded continuum of one-stop services and supports for under-resourced families. Expected outcomes are to: increase the language and literacy skills of at least 40 children annually; increase the number of children receiving social-emotional and developmental supports; and promote family well-being through connection to needed services, parent education and family engagement.