

**United Way of Buffalo & Erie County**  
**Investment Process 2017-2019**  
**Program Summaries**

**Adoption STAR's Family STAR program** is an evidence-based post-adoption services (PAS) program that offers adoptive children and families: 1-support services, including support groups for parents, and informal contact with other families who have adopted children with and without special needs and help lines; 2-easily accessible information about services, supports, and resources; 3-parenting education, including practical help with children's needs; 4-counseling, including assistance with children's attachment issues; 5-guidance in responding to their adopted children's emotional, behavioral, and developmental issues; 6-assistance with dealing with the impact of adoption on their birth children; 7-help with life planning for children; 8-crisis intervention services, including mediation in open-adoptions; advocacy services, including assistance in negotiating educational and mental health systems; and 9-counseling services for their children, including group services for older adopted children. The program targets culturally diverse clientele with the great majority (over 85%) of birth mothers & foster children coming from the City of Buffalo. Many babies and foster care children are either born at-risk for special needs or have been identified with special needs. While there are many strong parenting programs for non-adoptive families, there are few to none focusing directly on positive outcomes for the adoptive child, adoptive family, and birth mother. With the advent of open adoptions, increasing interest in adoption through foster care, and with virtually one PAS program left in Buffalo and Erie County, it is critical that these families have access to high quality and high impact PAS that meet the very specific needs of adoptive families and birth mothers.

**Adoption STAR's Training Medical and Other Professionals on Adoption Option** program is an evidence-based post-adoption services (PAS) program that offers adoptive children and families: 1-support services, including support groups for parents, and informal contact with other families who have adopted children with and without special needs and help lines; 2-easily accessible information about services, supports, and resources; 3-parenting education, including practical help with children's needs; 4-counseling, including assistance with children's attachment issues; 5-guidance in responding to their adopted children's emotional, behavioral, and developmental issues; 6-assistance with dealing with the impact of adoption on their birth children; 7-help with life planning for children; 8-crisis intervention services, including mediation in open-adoptions; advocacy services, including assistance in negotiating educational and mental health systems; and 9-counseling services for their children, including group services for older adopted children. The program targets a diverse clientele with the great majority (over 85%) of birth mothers & foster children coming from Buffalo. Many babies/foster care children are either born at-risk for special needs or have been identified with special needs. While there are many strong parenting programs for non-adoptive families, there are few to none focusing directly on positive outcomes for the adoptive child, adoptive family, and birth mother. With the advent of open adoptions, declining adoption providers, increasing interest in adoption through foster care, and the value of PAS, this proposal focuses on educating Health Care, Counseling and Human Service professionals on the option of adoption and all that is entailed in that process while they meet their legal obligations to do so.

**The African American Cultural Center's (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 enhancement has yielded positive outcomes. The key program elements that provide 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 benefits 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.

**Algonquin Sports for Kids** serves approximately 1000 children annually through the **Soccer for Success** programming. Soccer for Success is a sports based youth development program that is free to all players who register and been running in Buffalo for 5 years. The Buffalo Soccer for Success program is part of a national Soccer for Success program that is run in over 32 cities nation-wide. The Soccer for Success 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 (BVS)**, in conjunction with the Department of Health's Bureau of Dental Health, operates the **School-Based Mobile Dental Program**. This program provides critical preventive, screening, hygiene and reconstructive services to more than 1,000 school-age children across 35 sites concentrated in the highest areas of poverty in Western New York. 93% of the children served have no insurance or receive Medicaid. The School-Based Mobile Dental Program is requesting a program investment to maintain the program and continue bringing services into schools to reach children, including a majority with no insurance or Medicaid, that would otherwise not receive necessary care and services.

**Baker Victory Services (BVS)** operates the **Work Appreciation for Youth (WAY) Program** to help youth and young adults realize the value of education and work while developing individual strengths to achieve both academic and personal success. The program provides life and career skills through a robust offering of in and out-of-school activities and curriculum enrichment opportunities. The program serves at-risk school-aged children ages 14-21 from Erie County school districts that have cognitive or developmental disabilities, mental health diagnoses, and/or identified emotional behavioral conditions. The WAY Program operates sites that provide: 1. Academic enrichment services that include tutoring

and mentoring; 2. Career enrichment and mentoring services to prepare participants for the competitive community employment environment through interest inventories, career counseling, vocational planning, job coaching, job development, resume building, mobility training, interview practice, job search skills, and job shadowing; and life-skills workshops, crisis intervention, and career exploration activities. The WAY Program is requesting a program investment to maintain and grow the program until the self-sustainability model of using program generated revenue can be fully realized.

**Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc.** provides affordable housing, community development services, asset-building opportunities, and housing retention services to low and moderate income families throughout Western New York. Quality, affordable housing is the foundation upon which lives our built. Economic and housing stability has profound impact on the family and children in the households. School attendance, academic performance, health and therefore their future is directed related to decent, permanent housing. Through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, Belmont offers the **Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program**. Voluntary for HCV families, FSS is an economic independence program that was developed to help HCV participants become self-sufficient through education, training, case management, and other supportive services. The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program was legislated by congress in 1990 to help Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) clients become economically independent and reduce the need for public assistance and rental subsidies. Belmont started its FSS program in 1994; it is currently one of nearly 900 FSS programs nationwide. Adult family members of HCV families can voluntarily sign up for FSS, entering into a personalized education and training contract with a program caseworker, and receive job training and career counseling. FSS Coordinators also 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 individuals and families who are living in areas of concentrated poverty, veterans, and new or long-term unemployed persons.

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Established in 1977, **Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc.** provides affordable housing, community development services, asset-building opportunities, and housing retention services to low and moderate income families throughout Western New York. In addition to Housing Choice Voucher program administration, Belmont's services include: housing development, restoration, property management; consulting with municipalities and other non-profits; and housing counseling and financial education. The **Siemer Family Stability Program** provides full time housing case management and temporary financial assistance to low income families with children in Buffalo Public Schools #3, #30, and #94 who are experiencing housing instability. Belmont staff address the family's reasons for housing instability; provides rental counseling and housing search assistance; benefit screening to secure income supports; financial coaching to develop financial capabilities; provides 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 school social workers. This two generation approach addresses the family's housing stability in an effort to produce better attendance and performance outcomes for the children in school. Quality, affordable housing is the foundation upon which lives our built. Economic and housing stability has profound impact on the family and children in the households. School attendance, academic performance, health and therefore their future is directed related to decent, permanent housing.

Originally established in 1977 to administer federally-funded Section 8 renter assistance programs, **Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc.** has grown into a full-service, one-stop housing agency serving well over 15,000 families annually. In addition to Housing Choice Voucher program administration, Belmont's services include: housing development, restoration, property management; consulting with municipalities and other non-profits; and housing counseling and financial education. Belmont, a HUD-Certified **Housing and Financial Counseling** agency, is the Buffalo/Niagara region's largest HUD-Certified agency with a counseling staff of 13 advising over 2,000 low-to-moderate income households annually on finding affordable rental opportunities, buying a home, financial capabilities, foreclosure prevention, reverse mortgages, home maintenance, energy efficiency and green and healthy behaviors. Quality, affordable housing is the foundation upon which lives our built. Economic and housing stability has profound impact on the family and children in the households. School attendance, academic performance, health and therefore their future is directed related to decent, permanent housing.

**Be-A-Friend Program, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County (BBBSEC)** 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 45 years, the mission of BBBSEC 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 and meet year round, 2-4 times per month for 1.5-2 hours (depending on the location). A BBBSEC 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, but each day also includes activities that are fun, to

engage the child and keep them excited about coming back. United Way of Buffalo & Erie County funding will provide the SBM Program at the existing sites in Downtown Buffalo (Enterprise Charter School), Kenmore (Kenmore Youth Center) and Hamburg (Town of Hamburg Community Center); and support the program's expansion to communities that BBBSEC has identified are in need of mentoring services and are able to support the SBM program through partnerships. When children are enrolled in the SBM Program, they dramatically out-perform their peers. Among children currently enrolled in the SBM Program, 91% of children increased or maintained good grades, 89% demonstrated positive behavior in school and 100% were promoted to the next grade level.

**Be-A-Friend Program, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County (BBBSEC)** seeks funding to support our **Group Mentoring Program (GMP)** for Males. For 45 years, the mission of BBBSEC 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 15 years of experience providing the GMP to at-risk male 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 14-18, who are at a high-risk of dropping out of school or becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. 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. The GMP provides opportunities for children to learn workforce development skills while building educational and social skills. UWBECE funding will provide the GMP to 45 male youth, who are at a high-risk of dropping out of school or becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, with quality mentoring relationships to help them reach their full potential.

**Be-A-Friend Program, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County (BBBSEC)** seeks funding to support its **Community Based Mentoring (CBM) Program**, including Transforming Buffalo Through Mentoring & Education (TBTME). For 45 years, the mission of BBBSEC 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 72% of children enrolled in BBBSEC's mentoring programs are in the CBM Program, including TBTME, an enhancement program that is delivered in partnership with the 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 communities who provide partnership support. 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 83.2% had a positive attitude towards school, 95.3% had greater self-confidence and 98.9% were promoted to the next grade level. With

UWBEC funding, the CBM Program will positively impact the lives of 315 children facing adversity, including 200 children who attend Buffalo Public Schools and 115 children who reside throughout Erie County, with a focus on areas of high need and established community partnerships.

The **Boys and Girls Club of Orchard Park Project Learn Program** is a high quality afterschool education enhancement program designed to help children and youth reach their full learning potential. Students that demonstrate socio-economic need and children, in grades K through 8, that are identified as in need of academic intervention services by the Orchard Park and Springville-Griffith Institute School Districts will be specifically targeted. We believe that by providing early, intense intervention to these children, more students will reach proficiency levels in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6-8. Program features include the traditional BGCA's program and its five key components, with the incorporation of a collaborative summer reading component and the continuation of an Internet based independent reading incentive program. Homework assistance, tutoring, and high-yield learning activities continue to be a valuable asset to Project Learn in order to improve academic performance, improve daily attendance in school, and increase the number of children who are promoted to the next grade level. In the recent past, Project Learn has been highly successful. All participants became more motivated, attentive, and engaged. The amount of time participants spent doing homework increased, as did their desire to improve or maintain their performance in school.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo** will deliver **Healthy Lifestyles** a program focused on improving Club members knowledge of healthy habits, good nutrition and physical fitness; increase the number of hours per day they participate in physical activities; and strengthen their ability to interact positively with others and engage in healthy relationships. Through the Healthy Lifestyles experience, we will challenge members to become healthy and active by learning new ways to eat nutritionally, manage stress, maintain physical fitness and form positive relationships with peers. This program will incorporate healthy living and active learning in every part of the Club experience, from the gym to the learning center, to the arts and crafts room. The central themes of good nutrition, regular physical activity and improving overall ones well-being are emphasized. Club members and parents will learn the importance of adopting healthy, nutritious eating habits and how exercising for life-long fitness can result in a soul shaping, healthy lifestyle.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo** will deliver **Bridging the Gap (BTG)**, an educational enhancement program to 900 children ages 5 - 8. This program is designed to help drive academic success for youth & uniquely position them to make a difference in the future workforce & become contributing members of society. Bridging the Gap is the educational centerpiece of programs designed to nurture the mind, body & soul of the children who participate. The population to be served is among the most at risk in Buffalo 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 improve achievement on NYS Learning Standard assessments and graduate from high school. Programs will be offered to stimulate curiosity in core subject areas and potential careers so that members are motivated to continue their education and avoid risky behavior. Programs also encourage leadership and character development, which result in lower delinquency and school drop-

out rates. We believe that every child can learn given the right circumstances & resources, which led to the creation of Bridging the Gap which will ultimately help youth become higher achievers in school leading to high school graduation. Bridging the Gap's main priority is to increase the educational achievements of low income students. We do this through the implementation of fun, engaging educational programs and activities that work to ensure every child is on-time for grade progression & that they successfully graduate from high school. All programming contains a strong emphasis on preparing youth to enter a post-secondary education.

**The Boys & Girls Clubs of East Aurora and Holland** are collaborating to request support from UW to fund the **Project Learn** Educational Enhancement Strategy at each Club. Project Learn reinforces academic enrichment, school engagement, decision making and social development of young people during time spent at the Clubs. 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 parent involvement and collaboration between Clubs 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 students ages 5-8 underachieving at school, making poor decisions, and socially immature. The key features of Project Learn are Power Hour (Homework Help/Tutoring Program) and HYLAs that are injected into all Club program areas.

Project Learn is a strategy with proven success in that children attending Boys & Girls Clubs and participating in Power Hour and HYLAs perform better academically, maintain/improve grades from one marking period to the next, advance to the next grade level, achieve the merit/honor roll at school, make better decisions and are more socially developed than non-Club youth.

**The Northtowns Boys & Girls Clubs (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 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. Performance measures to be attained include: Number of youth receiving life skills training; Number of individuals receiving career enrichment, exploration or professional development services; Number of youth securing employment. Northtowns Boys & Girls Clubs Erie County Clubs serve an average of 3,000 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 high school

youth are anticipated to participate in the teen **College and Career program** in the coming year. BGCNT seeks funding to support this program for high school-age youth.

**The Northtowns Boys & Girls Clubs (BGCNT)** is committed to helping children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to develop the skills they need to become self-sufficient and successful adults. 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 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 to be attained include: # of students promoted to the next grade; # of children receiving academic enrichment, tutoring or mentoring services; # of children receiving life skills training BGCNT's Erie County Clubs serve an average of 3,000 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 1,200 youth, of whom approximately 30% are ages 8 and younger, will participate in the YADP in the coming year, with more than 600 attending regularly (at least 30 school days).

**Greater Niagara Frontier Council, Boy Scouts of America's Scoutreach** in the Buffalo, Lackawanna and Niagara Falls provides programs that impact the lives of young people in high-risk, low-income neighborhoods and communities in the cities of Buffalo, Lackawanna and Niagara Falls. The Scoutreach Program serves an increasing number of youth who live in at-risk areas throughout Erie and the western 1/3 of Niagara Counties. Many of these children live at or just above the poverty level in single parent, multi-child households in neighborhoods and communities where violence and habitual drug use are all too common and there are too few positive adult role models. Scoutreach targets youth between the ages of 6-18 in the following school districts: the City of Buffalo, Lackawanna and Niagara Falls Scoutreach is a community-based program with adult leaders demonstrating positive values and teaching practical life skills while providing reassurance, and security. Youth participate in fun, structured, challenging activities that they have helped to plan and implement with the adult leaders. Youth members are taught, and expected to live by, the principles found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law, which teach foundational character traits such as: trustworthiness, loyalty, courtesy, leadership, personal responsibility, and civic responsibility. The program is designed to deter youth from participating in illegal, delinquent or destructive activities by both teaching and providing a more positive alternative. The success of the Scoutreach Program is significantly increased with caring, capable adult leadership. By hiring program coordinator(s), we ensure the quality and consistency of each program.

**The Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology** (BCAT)'s mission is to inspire, motivate and prepare youth and adults for educational and career advancement through year round training programs. BCAT's **Workforce Development Programs** offer full courses in Medical Coding and Pharmacy Tech. Each course is nine months long with over 1,200 hours of instruction, a full internship in the field and is licensed by the New York State Education Department. These high demand jobs in the health field are instructed by certified teachers and take place in the beautiful BCAT building in the heart of Buffalo. The BCAT model is derived from MacArthur Fellow Bill Strickland's Manchester Bidwell Guild and is a proven result driven approach to addressing poverty through respect and hard work. BCAT is new to Buffalo, but has already achieved great success with a job placement rate of 92%.

**The Buffalo City Mission** (BCM) is dedicated to meeting the needs of the poor through spiritual and practical demonstrations of love by providing hot meals, a place to stay, and educational classes. At Cornerstone Manor, the Mission's women and children facility, early learning care and education is provided to 35 children every year. The program will serve all of these children that are under five years of age in Cornerstone Manor's classrooms. Key program elements include the **Early Childcare Program**, a curriculum that is individualized for each child's needs to fill any educational, social, or developmental gaps. The program serves children who are going through difficult situations, including homelessness. With a consistent number of women and children entering the program, Cornerstone Manor intends to use the requested funding toward compiling, tracking and storing data from the Early Childcare Program.

**Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers** (BFNC) operates the **BFNC Hope Center & Free Tax Preparation Network (FTPN)** program at the BFNC Hope Center and at 6 sites throughout Erie County to provide one-stop comprehensive, free income tax preparation, benefits assistance, financial coaching, college access, debtor defendant legal assistance, small business coaching and group classes. BFNC's Hope Center and FTPN is a one-stop node from which low-income working families may better plan and address economic needs. The requested United Way investment supports integration of the full range of Hope Center programs into the FTPN cycle, which experiences incredible participant volume and mobilizes to 6 remote sites. The FTPN ensures families have gained valuable tax credits that help lift families out of poverty. For example, Earned Income Tax Credit, one of the nation's largest anti-poverty programs assisted 27.5 million working families receiving over \$66.7 billion in 2015. The same year, the FTPN assisted 3,093 families in obtaining \$5.4 million in EITC alone. The Child Tax Credit, worth \$1,000 per qualifying child, further lifts families out of poverty. In 2015 the FTPN assisted 1,634 families in receiving over \$2.1 million in child tax credits. This additional money particularly helps families with young children, where one financial crisis could be the choice between rent and groceries. Wrapping families in economic empowerment coaching services at the Hope Center teaches families to maximize their tax refunds to be used for items such as bills, clothing, food and shelter; providing the opportunity to save and reduce amounts owed. The BFNC Hope Center assisted 9,598 individuals and families in 2015 with integrated economic empowerment and free tax.

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 1,500 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 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 Aimsweb Reading and Maze Curriculum-Based Measurements. This improvement will significantly impact student performance across content areas, as well as increase self-esteem and academic engagement.

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 eliminate disparities in Perinatal Health. The proposed program will utilize staff, which are culturally diverse & bilingual and are able to engage program participants (PP) by possessing the language skills & cultural competency needed to service the target program population. The staff service clients in 12 of 25 zip codes (14201, 14204, 14207, 14208, 14209, 14210, 14211, 14212, 14213, 14214, 14215 and 14216). The CHWP's 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 to prenatal appointments; increase health awareness through education (e.g., nutrition, breastfeeding, immunization, addressing chronic illness, obesity etc.) etc.

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 community planning and is playing a pivotal leadership role in the design of the BPN Community Schools Zone, in partnership with the Buffalo Public Schools. UWBEF 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.

**The Buffalo Urban League's Employment Transition Services program** provides employment services to meet the needs of individuals who are unemployed, underemployed or dislocated workers. Our services target individuals who experience the highest rates of unemployment, 30% and above. They include youth, ex-offenders, minorities, specifically African Americans and Latinos, and individuals transitioning from public assistance. Our target groups incorporate the specific needs of the most recently long term unemployed, the disabled, those with ESL needs and those living in the most impoverished neighborhoods. Case management, training and job search services provide the support and skill building required to enable them to obtain and retain employment. The program staff provides the client with intensive support coaching and assistance to reduce barriers to the job search. Post-employment support ensures job retention. Employment will enable individuals to become economically self-sufficient and productive members of the community, thereby improving their quality of life and contributing to the economy. To ensure coordination and linkages which maximize employment opportunities, our staff is co-located two days per week at the Buffalo Employment and Training Center (BETC). This allows a seamless integration of our clients into the community's One-Stop services as a component of our case management and job placement services. Identified needs of individuals comprised of the disabled, veterans, refugees and immigrants are addressed with concurrent enrollment in Buffalo Urban League program services and other community resource agencies. This insures accessibility to the most viable of employment services.

**The Buffalo Urban League** provides youth services through its **Project Ready Youth Engagement Services (PRYES)** program. This is a year-round comprehensive after school and summer program that has been in operation since 2005. The program is targeted for Opportunity Youth (ages 14 -21). It is designed to improve overall academic, personal and socio-emotional development; prevent youth from dropping out of high school before graduation; increase high school graduation rates; and facilitate transition into post-secondary education and / or careers. The PRYES program also equips and empowers low income youth to become self-sufficient by addressing their education, economic, family and social challenges through educational support, life skills support, career development, college transition and parent and community engagement. Our participants are often a part of a family that consists of younger siblings. In Fact, one-fifth of the participants have siblings between the ages of birth and eight years old. Studies have shown that siblings that have older siblings who model positive academic and social behavior, have a higher chance of succeeding academically and socially in their adolescent years (Mayer, 2004). Our program works with participants to provide support academically and socially, so they can become positive role models in their family and community. The program

serves on average, 200 youth. Case Management coordinates the various services required to overcome barriers that may prevent student achievement. To avoid learning-loss over the summer, the program operates a Summer Earn and Learn program to provide work-experience and academic enrichment.

**The Buffalo Urban League** is dedicated to serving our community's most vulnerable and at risk populations since the agency's inception in 1927. The **Senior Multi-Service Center** provides services to seniors age 55 and over, including those with a disability that support a healthy life style, decreases poverty among senior citizens and increases opportunity for continued independent living. Important to the program's participants and one of our goals is to prevent premature nursing home placement. Services provide seniors with: ways to stay active and connected to the community; a form of emotional support through caring relationships that can grow and improve their lives; keeping their minds active and stimulates continued learning; and can lead to improved health. We achieve this 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; Health & Wellness Screenings and Socialization through a host of activities aimed at positive socialization and fun such as: current events discussions, arts & crafts, choir, plays, games, movies, and field trips. There is no fee to participate in the program; there is a suggested donation based on income for the congregate dining program.

The **Buffalo Urban League's Housing Counseling Program** has adopted the catch phrase "Did You Know" The "Did You Know" initiative provides financial counseling and educational services that serves low to moderate income residents primarily in the Buffalo/Niagara MSA. For this funding, we will provide counseling and educational services targeted to families with young children to secure and/or maintain financial stability and growth including a home, vehicle, or micro-business/small business Our program allows us to: educate and counsel consumers on financial literacy, to include budgeting, 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 assistance 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 to serving our clients, 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.

**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 helps 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 retention support. Since becoming an independent nonprofit in 1996, CEO has made over 18,000 full-time job placements with hundreds of businesses throughout New York State. CEO opened its doors in Buffalo in 2009, and has since served over 1,200 formerly incarcerated individuals through life skills education, transitional employment, and job coaching support, and secured nearly 1,000 placements in full-time, unsubsidized jobs throughout Erie County.

The mission of **Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) Building Brighter Futures High School 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, life- skills, health and wellness, technology, socio-emotional supports, career exploration, college preparation and planning, leadership and more. The program has three overall goals. The first will be 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 and community. The third goal concentrates on life skills through enrichment and social emotional skill building. Each year Child and Adolescent Treatment Services aims to meet and exceed all of their internal objectives that include the following United Way measures: number of students receiving life skills training and the number of students receiving pre college and advisement services. In the 2014-2015 school year the BBF (21st CCL) high school program well exceeded its target enrollment of 210 with an enrollment of 560. Students in the BBF program demonstrated improved academic performance, social and emotional development, school attendance, and stronger connection to the school day.

The mission of the **Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) Building Brighter Futures program** is to enhance Students' academic achievement, social emotional development and to foster lifelong interests in the arts, recreation, and other areas by providing high quality out-of-school opportunities that keep children' safe, help them thrive and that meaningfully engage and support adult family members in helping their children and families succeed. The program serves at-risk students and their families in grades K-8 who attend Buffalo Public Schools #18 and # 66. Services include academic supports, mentoring, life-skills, physical activity, health and wellness, technology, socio-emotional supports, STEAM, career exploration, college preparation and planning, leadership and more. The program has three overall goals. The first will be 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 and community. The third goal concentrates on increasing family involvement. Each year Child and Adolescent Treatment Services\_aims to meet and

exceed all of their internal objectives that include the following United Way measures: number of students promoted to the next grade level, #of students enrolled in high-quality after-school programs and number of students exhibiting developmentally appropriate social-emotional and/or behavioral skills as well as additional measures. Students in the BBF program demonstrate improved academic performance, social and emotional development, school attendance, and stronger connection to the school day. In 2014-2015 279 students in grades K-8 participated in BBF programming at 18 and 66.

**Child & Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) 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.

**Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) ICM Wrap Program** works with youth ages 5-17 and their immediate family members throughout Erie County to maintain the youth safely in their community family setting, and to avoid costly out-of-home placements. Possible placements could include hospitalizations, residential treatment facilities or centers or detention facilities. Wraparound services are provided by utilizing a nationally recognized, evidenced-based model that encompasses client empowerment and advocacy. Care Coordinators (CC) provide community resources and linkages to "wrap" the whole family so all family member needs are identified and addressed through our strength-based interventions. Child & family goals are created and progress towards meeting those goals is monitored through monthly Child & Family Team (CFT) meetings. CC's provide ongoing assessment, crisis/safety planning, and support to families to promote empowerment and advocacy in the home, school and community. Parents are provided support to increase their knowledge and parenting skills through natural supports such as community linkages and resources or through in-home support services. CC's monitor maintainable progress towards meeting client and family treatment goals to ensure the development of problem solving skills, healthy coping skills and improved parenting skills and communication skills. Vendor service linkages can be provided to family members in the event that traditional outpatient mental health services are not successful in maintaining an Seriously Emotionally Disturbed safely child in their family setting.

**Child & Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Program** is an evidence-based treatment deriving from cognitive behavioral therapy. DBT helps clients identify thoughts, beliefs, and assumptions that make their lives challenging, 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, 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. The following modalities are implemented to keep our program adherent to the DBT model and support its mission of preventing inpatient hospitalization and helping clients build a life worth living. Individual therapy sessions allow clients to share personal thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that are potentially life threatening, interfering with their progress in treatment, and/or impacting their 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 will assist them in meeting their treatment goals, including those related to personal health and safety. Telephone consultation is available to clients/families to help them in applying skills they have learned when dealing with urges to harm themselves, are at risk for hospitalization, or in high stress. The therapist provides skills coaching, assesses risks, and develops safety plans. Team consultation meetings are held weekly and aim at preventing therapist burnout and ensure fidelity to the model.

**The Lee Gross Anthonie Child Advocacy Center, (CAC)**, is a program of **Child & Adolescent Treatment Services, Inc., (CATS)**. The mission of CATS is to effectively treat children ages 3-21 with mental health challenges by reducing emotional suffering, behavioral issues and the impact of psychological trauma through psychiatric services, counseling and community based programs. 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 alleged victims of sexual and/or serious physical abuse and their non-offending caregivers who live in Erie County. The CAC is the seat of Erie County's Multi-Disciplinary Team, (MDT). The MDT has representation from Erie County child abuse professionals in the fields of law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, medical, mental health and victim advocacy. Key services include MDT child friendly forensic interviews, conducted by a highly trained child forensic interviewer. Other key services include forensically competent medical examinations provided by highly trained providers at our on-site satellite clinic of Women and children's hospital. Clinical therapy including trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, and child survivor groups is another key service. Case Coordinators provide supportive services to child and caregiver, including creation and verification of safety plans for every child. Our funding request is 75, 000, which will be used as a match to draw down critical funding from the Erie County Department of Social Services.

**Haven House**, a program of **Child & Family Services of Erie County**, was the third shelter for victims of domestic violence to be established in New York State in 1979. Now one of the oldest and fully inclusive domestic violence programs in the United States, Haven House offers a comprehensive, broad-based continuum of care on a 24 hours a day/7 days a week, which features both residential and innovative

nonresidential community-based programming. United Way funding is being sought to support services that are provided on a nonresidential basis 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 with understanding the dynamics of domestic violence, understanding their rights and options, accessing protective measures and developing 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 and specialized parenting services are also available to assist parents and children with healing from traumatic effects often associated with interpersonal violence.

**Child & Family Services' Family Mental Health Program** is requesting funding to continue to provide mental health counseling, psychiatric screening, medical screening, medication management, and health monitoring to adults aged 55 years and older with serious mental health issues requiring intensive intervention. Our program, described in the most recent audit by the Office of Mental Health as the health monitoring gold standard, provides incoming patients with psychiatric services within 60 days; other area clinics have average waiting periods of six months. Our success in delivering counseling and psychiatric services includes reducing the number of preventable hospital stays by addressing a social condition that negatively impacts health. Child & Family Services recognizes that healthy families are the building blocks of our WNY community. Licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Health, the Family Mental Health Program's psychiatric services are staffed by skilled, licensed professionals who work with youth, adults and seniors to help them become healthy members of our community. Through the assessment process, counselors screen clients to determine the need for ongoing services. All clients are evaluated for health needs by a Licensed Practical Nurse, and those requiring psychiatric intervention are seen by a nurse and psychiatric nurse practitioner or psychiatrist. Our current clients range in age from three to 74 years, and we are currently working with 64 clients over the age of 54. To meet the need of our clients, we have expanded our services by adding a second full-time psychiatric nurse practitioner as well as a second full-time Licensed Practical Nurse. At this time, both locations have full time psychiatric providers on site.

**Child & Family Services Family Mental Health Program** is requesting funding 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 Sex Offender Management, Play therapy, and Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing therapy. We have established a relationship with Say Yes to Education since 2015 where we have provided mental health services to students within the Buffalo Public Schools.

**The Preventive Services Program of Child & Family Services** provides home and community based case management services to families where there is a risk of out-of-home placement of children or to expedite the return home of children who have been placed outside their home. Difficulties related to parenting, substance abuse, domestic violence and/or educational needs can create stress and instability in a home. An assigned Case Planner for each family helps individuals gain access to necessary resources in the areas of basic needs, education, health care, finances and/or treatment providers. Help is offered to coordinate resources when families are involved with multiple agencies or programs. Additionally, supportive services such as parent education, supportive counseling, and crisis intervention are provided. The services are based in the community and are provided directly in a family's home. The expected outcome is for a child to remain safe from abuse, neglect and maltreatment and for the family to remain intact. To achieve this objective, our staff employ a solution focused, trauma informed model of care which builds on client strengths and empowers families to achieve sustainable results.

**Child Care Resource Network (CCRN)** is a resource & referral agency that promotes quality, affordable, accessible care and learning for all children by supporting and empowering families, caregivers, education professionals, and employers. Our **Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential** program offers early childhood educators a comprehensive approach to completing the first step of the early childhood career ladder. CDA is the most widely recognized credential in early care and education field and has a core set of competency standards to develop qualified teachers of young children. The credential is awarded to those who have demonstrated skill in working with young children and families by successfully completing the CDA process. CDA candidates have knowledge of how to put the CDA Competency Standards into practice and understanding of why and how those 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. Participants taking CDA with CCRN have the option of participating in classroom or online instruction. In both cases, participants are assigned an Education Specialist to support them in the development of the required portfolio and mentor them in their programs in an effort to increase the quality of care provided to children. Courses run cyclically, with two sections of both the traditional and online programs offered each year. Over the past three years, 53 candidates have completed our program and received the CDA credential. 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** is a lead partner in **Help Me Grow WNY (HMGWNY)**, an evidence-based early childhood developmental screening, referral, service linkage, and family support initiative that improves young children's health, well-being, and school readiness. HMGWNY provides no-fee access to universal developmental monitoring for all WNY families, with a focus on care coordination, family empowerment, and linkages to community supports for our most vulnerable, at-risk children aged 0-5. Building on existing WNY resources and based on a national HMG model operating in 25 states, HMGWNY embraces 4 core components: (1) child health care provider outreach; (2) community outreach to families and early care and learning partners; (3) a centralized point of access through 2-1-1 WNY and the HMGWNY online portal; and (4) data collection and analyses to identify community needs/gaps and improve quality of service. HMGWNY uses a valid, reliable, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) screening tool, the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, to identify whether children are on track in meeting developmental milestones. Our early childhood specialists follow up with parents to share results and offer additional resources to support their children's optimal growth. Reminders to re-screen at AAP-suggested intervals are provided. For families whose children exhibit areas of concern, referral is made to the appropriate service for more in-depth assessment and intervention. Initiated 6 years ago in WNY, HMG is unique in its extensive collaboration, building on and embracing strengths of existing community partners to enhance protective factors and provide interventions for children in their most critical first 5 years of life, when more than 85% of brain and personality development occurs.

**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 licensed 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 Parent and Employer Services Specialist, trained in child development and case management, 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 language 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 to 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.

**Classroom Champions** (CC) is a nonprofit organization that positively shifts the fabric of classrooms in high-need schools by providing them with a school-year long mentoring and strategic social-emotional learning (SEL) program at no cost to schools. CC is unique among SEL interventions; it is a scalable one-to-many relationship-based learning framework used actively by teachers, rather than an out-of-the-box

program. Implemented weekly by teachers, through technology, Olympian and Paralympian Mentors challenge students to engage in activities that foster development of critical skills such as academic mindset, persistence, teamwork, and self-regulation. The program concurrently addresses systemic educational inequities by identifying and engaging partner teachers in high-need areas. CC provides them with structured, high-quality opportunities to improve development and appropriate application of critical SEL skills that are linked with improved academic results, reduced achievement disparities, and improved behavioral outcomes. Similarly, resources devoted to family engagement and learning are provided to ensure lessons continue at home. CC was co-founded by CEO, three-time Olympian and Olympic Gold Medalist, Steve Mesler with his sister Dr. Leigh Parise, a former teacher and Research Associate at the education/social policy firm MDRC. As a native Buffalonian and proud City Honors graduate, Steve cares deeply about the region and plans substantive expansion of CC in local schools. UWBEC investment will support the addition of 50 K-3 classrooms over two years. Classrooms targeted will include those that serve children living in areas of concentrated poverty and/or attending highly-segregated, challenged districts/schools (public/charter) in Buffalo and Erie County.

**Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled** provides **Budgeting, Financial Training and Representative Payee Services** to over 150 low-income families with a developmental disability annually. This includes 13 families with children ages 0-8years. We are requesting funding to be able to provide this same service for an additional 20 families per year who are in need of this service and who have I/DD and children age 0-8 years . This program provides financial literacy training through individualized planning and financial education with the ultimate goal of achieving financial independence. These men, women and children have a broad range of disabilities, with some needing to learn and master basic skills such as counting money; some people needing support with reporting earnings and balancing their checkbooks; and others who just require assistance with ensuring essential bills are paid on time. Prior to this program, many of the individuals and families were faced with eviction, regular use of food pantries, involvement with Child Protective or Adult Protective Services and utility shut-off notices. This was in largely due to lack of understanding of budgeting and money management. This program provides all individuals 1:1 financial assistance from trained Budgeting Direct Support Professionals. This assistance has reduced the number of shut off and eviction notices, and increased financial literacy. Children who were once at risk of being removed from the home are now receiving the food, clothing and shelter necessary to keep them safe. An additional 20 families per year will be able to ensure that their basic needs are met and will learn how to plan to meet the economic needs involved with having children (school supplies, day care costs, health care, transportation, etc.).

**Compass House** provides safe shelter and services for runaway and homeless youth with a 44-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), 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 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 extensively-trained and dedicated staff team provides individualized case management services structured to prevent a young person from relying on unsafe streets for survival while reducing the likelihood of chronic homelessness into adulthood. In a context where young 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, Compass House's mission is an urgent priority in a community where the poverty rate for children under the age of 18 rose from 45% in 2012 to 50.6% percent in 2013 (US Census Bureau).

**Compeer of Greater Buffalo** seeks funding to help support **Compeer for Adults**- a program that supports health and increased physical activity (Priority Area H&W #1). Founded in 1985, Compeer is a unique agency in Erie County inspired by the belief that relationships are key to resiliency and friendship is good medicine. Compeer, since its inception, has served socially isolated adults age 18-59 years who are striving for optimal mental health and a high quality of life. These individuals are at-risk for hospitalization or other out of home placement. The Compeer for Adults Program recruits, interviews, screens, trains, matches, and monitors volunteers who are interested in actively helping people 18-59 years old by providing social and emotional support through friendship and social activities. Friendships forged through these relationships close the gap between community isolation and social integration. Currently the Compeer for Adults Program serves over 100 adult clients annually, in one-to-one supportive friendships as well as through meaningful group activities. Key features of Compeer's model include: nationally recognized as best practices for mentoring, including outreach, screening, training, monitoring, and evaluation; activities and projects designed to strengthen or rekindle unique talents and skills; re-integration into the community to reach and maintain optimum quality of life; unpaid volunteers who serve as mentors and advocates; linkages to community services and activities; respite for family caregivers; and Compeer-sponsored monthly group activities. Ninety-eight percent of the volunteers report that they feel they have improved the quality of life for their adult matches.

**Compeer of Greater Buffalo** is a unique agency in Erie County that uses the healing power of friendship 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 symptoms and possibly physical/medical issues, loneliness, isolation, and poverty. The **Compeer for Seniors Program** recruits, screens, trains, matches, and monitors volunteers who are actively helping seniors by providing support. 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 friendship 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 2015, Compeer for Seniors serves 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, friendly visitors, 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** is an evidence-based program, uniquely designed to help those we serve to live happier and healthier, achieving optimum quality of life. Serving all of Erie County, Compeer is inspired by the belief that relationships are key to resiliency and friendship is good medicine. Compeer serves youth, adults, older adults (60+), and veterans and their families living with mental disorders. **Compeer's Vet2Vet Program** helps veterans transition from military to civilian life to ensure family stability and to ensure veterans are engaged with needed supports, thus lowering their risk of poverty, divorce and/or suicide. The Vet2Vet peer program has two components: 1) Professionally trained veteran volunteers are matched with fellow veterans who need support, understanding and encouragement. 2) Veteran volunteers engage in community service and experience self-worth by offering supportive friendship. 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. Also Compeer offers Operation Family Caregiver (OFC). Compeer OFC certified-staff provides free and confidential support to military families. We empower caregivers of service members to adjust to the new normal by coping more effectively with problems they never imagined. Caregivers participate in a 16 to 24 week curriculum designed to develop coping skills and resolve issues such as: finding community resources, problem-solving, daily schedule management, prioritizing tasks and stress relief exercises. Compeer's veterans' program provides social activities as well as one-to-one and group support sessions.

**Compeer of Greater Buffalo's** mission is to use the power of volunteer friends and mentors to improve the lives of children, adults and seniors who are striving for good mental health. With funding from the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, Compeer of Greater Buffalo's **Mentoring Program** will provide support for parents with young children (Education Platform Priority 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 a need another positive role model. Compeer's Mentoring Program both follows evidence-based policies and procedures, and is nationally recognized as best practice for mentoring. In 2015, we provided high quality, long-term, one-on-one mentoring to 104 youths (3-17) and engaged another 197 youths with letters, phone calls, monthly newsletters, and monthly social activities. Among those surveyed, 87% reported going to school more, 75% reported that they were doing homework more often, and 73% getting better grades compared to before they had a mentor. This is in line with UWBECC's identified result: Children and youth develop individual strengths to achieve academic and personal success. Adult volunteer mentors who model positive, responsible behavior are recruited, trained, and matched by Compeer's professional program staff. Devoting an average of 2 hours per week for a minimum of one year, mentors listen, educate, coach and share experiences. Youth learn and practice how to communicate effectively and make

informed choices. For 31 years, Compeer's high quality mentoring has proven to be a powerful tool to help at-risk youths achieve their true potential. It is a worthwhile investment.

**Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS)** has offered **Creditor Repayment Plans (CRP)** since 1965. During 2015, the average family enrolled \$20,015.76 in a CRP; 2016 shows an average of \$20,593.35. The majority of these clients reported their cause of financial problems to be unemployment, medical/disability, and poor money skills. The average individual seeking a CRP was 46 years old, female, unmarried/divorced, Caucasian, with 1 child. 46% of individuals owned/mortgaged their home, 33% were renting, and 9% had another housing status (typically living with family). A CRP is a structured repayment of unsecured debts, by lowering payment amounts, interest rates, ceasing late/over-limit fees, and requires payoff within 5 years. When families seek a CRP, they first setup an appointment to review their financial situation to learn their options for resolving their debt crisis. Each appointment takes place confidentially with a certified financial counselor who reviews their budget, debt situation, factors for creating the situation, and provides them with options and referrals to outside organizations. Counselors have been able to locate options for debt resolution for more than 81% of clients without resorting to bankruptcy. These families are faced with high interest rates between 20-30%, and are struggling with making the monthly payment. They have usually faced a significant life event that brought turmoil to their financial stability. Counselors have coached individuals regarding their finances to learn of medical & disability factors, or joblessness for a period of time to only be newly hired with a lower salary or wage. The CRP assists families to become debt free, enabling them to save, buy homes, advance their careers with education, and become larger financial supporters of WNY.

**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 tolerance of and respect for 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 new 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.

**Cradle Beach** has been providing hope, opportunities, and life changing experiences for children with disadvantages and children with disabilities since 1888. **PROJECT SOAR** (Success, Opportunity, Achievement, and Responsibility) was established 8 years ago to help these children reach their full potential. Children who live in poverty are more likely to drop out of high school, be unemployed, be involved in criminal activity, become pregnant before age 16, and raise their own children in poverty. The implication for the future of Buffalo, where nearly 80% of children live at or below the poverty level and less than 50% achieve a high school diploma, is ominous. Cradle Beach launched PROJECT SOAR in 2009 as a cost-effective initiative to improve academic achievement and graduation rates for Buffalo Public schools students with disadvantages and disabilities. In cooperation with our funders, youth organizations, social service agencies, and the Buffalo Public Schools, the program has demonstrated its ability to change lives of children who might otherwise become victims of generational poverty and a failing educational system. PROJECT SOAR provides at-risk students with daily in-class tutoring, after-school mentoring, skill building weekends, and eight weeks of special enrichment activities during the summer. At-risk students are defined as those who demonstrate significant deficiencies in Math or English or who have attendance or behavioral problems. Students who are experiencing any of these issues prior to middle school have a 75% likelihood of dropping out of school and hence the urgency for targeting this population. Third grade is the entry point of the program and a 10-year commitment is made to provide academic and social support for each child through graduation.

**Cradle Beach** has been providing hope, opportunities, and life changing experiences for children with disadvantages and children with disabilities since 1888. The **LIVING CLASSROOMS** program was developed 3 years ago to help these children reach their full potential. The economic viability of our region is dependent upon an educated and skilled workforce. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) occupations will fuel our regional economy but thousands of our young people are not being adequately engaged in STEM disciplines. Through LIVING CLASSROOMS we provide hands-on, experiential education with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. With 60 acres of woodlands and 1,200 feet of lakefront shoreline, Cradle Beach is a natural location for year-round experiential out-of-school STEM education that cannot be offered elsewhere in the region. LIVING CLASSROOMS is offered as a stand-alone program that schools and community organizations can access and it is also embedded into our Summer Camp and Project SOAR programs. Over the last three years, LIVING CLASSROOMS has expanded existing STEM partnerships with Buffalo State College, The Interdisciplinary Science & Engineering Partnership (ISEP) at UB, The Buffalo Museum of Science, the WNY STEM Hub, The National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA), and the Buffalo Public Schools (BPS). Because of these close partnerships we know that there is tremendous interest in the development of LIVING CLASSROOMS. In fact, we are planning to build a 5,300 sq/ft year-round structure which will include classrooms, a laboratory, aquariums, and exhibit space, and will serve as a permanent home for the expansion of **LIVING CLASSROOMS**.

The **Depew-Lancaster Boys & Girls Clubs (DLBGC)** is committed to providing academic enrichment and education services to area youth. Club programming is designed around five core areas, created by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The curriculum is intended to engage young people in activities with adults, peers and family members, enabling them to develop their self-esteem and reach their full

potential. Recognizing developmental principles, the core programs are based on physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs and interests of both girls and boys. The Depew Club serves an average of 500 children and youth annually, more than 25% of whom live in economically-disadvantaged circumstances. Families rely on the Clubs to provide a safe, affordable and dependable after-school destination, where young people participate in both structured and unstructured programming in a healthy environment. Without the Clubs these young people would spend their after-school hours unsupervised, a situation which, research shows, increases the risk of delinquent activities and unhealthy behaviors. DLBGC programs are designed to build a physical, emotional, academic and social development of every youth. A youth who lacks skills in any one of these areas are less likely than other youth to become a contributing member of the community and a productive adult. The Depew-Lancaster Boys & Girls Club's programming is designed to promote youth development and provide consistent opportunities for youth to be successful. Measures to be tracked include 1) Number of students promoted to the next grade. 2) Number of students receiving academic enrichment, tutoring or mentoring services. 3) Number of students receiving life skills training.

**EPIC-Every Person Influences Children, Inc.** **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 problems including substance abuse, mental health issues, domestic violence, child abuse, neglect and endangerment, often resulting in loss of custody of their children. Participants are referred by the domestic and family court system, the Office of Mental Health, preventive services and other agencies, while others are seeking support on their own to help them overcome personal challenges that interfere with being effective parents. FiT serves nearly 600 parents annually with a waiting list for services exceeding 3 months. 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. The intensive parenting program is based on EPIC's highly effective active learning delivery model, offered as a 6-week series, which starts with an orientation. Each 3 hour 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's curriculum is tailored for three developmental age groups: Parents of Infants & Toddlers, Parents of Young Children, and Parents of Young Adolescents. Many parents take all three programs and then enroll in EPIC's other programs and services offered throughout the calendar year.

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 serve parents of children in Pre-K - Grade 2 in a New York State Education Department Focus School, PS 6 (Buffalo Elementary School of Technology) and Priority School, PS 91 (BUILD Academy). EPIC will work to build a school culture conducive to family engagement by building the capacity of parents and teachers to engage 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. EPIC staff will administer pre and post surveys to parents and teachers at each school

based on the National Standards for Family School Partnerships. These surveys assess beliefs and practices regarding a school culture that supports and engages parents. Data will be analyzed by the UB School of Social Work and focus on improvements in the family engagement culture and practices in both schools. Services will be provided to effect this change through on and offsite workshops and trainings for parents in how to effectively engage teachers, provide information so parents can support a child's academics at home, build literacy and manage behavior. Professional development will be provided to teachers to share the benefits of and create a supportive and engaging environment for families. Additionally, teachers will be provided with ELA and STEM activities that will be sent home with students, to be completed by parents and the child and returned each month.

Recently **EPIC - Every Person Influences Children** added an additional curriculum and delivery method to its traditional **Just for Teens** program with the evidence-based model, Incredible Years (IY), Parents and Babies Program to meet the requirements of NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, from whom EPIC receives a majority of this program's funding and also aligns with United Way's Health Platform: Maternal, Infant and Child Health initiative. EPIC adopted the evidence-based curriculum of Incredible Years which allows us to go beyond our traditional reach and provide a more interactive learning experience between parent and baby. Incredible Years (IY) is a series of interlocking, evidence-based programs for parents and their baby, supported by over 30 years of research. IY can be facilitated in schools, residential and health centers and has been shown to work across cultures and socioeconomic groups. IY Parents and Babies is designed to teach valuable parenting skills (for parents of young 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. Participants in this program are our youngest parents ranging from 15-26 years of age and they bring their baby aged 0-12 months with them to the workshops.

**The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ECCPASA)** has worked for the past fifteen years in partnership with many local agencies conducting The **Strengthening Families Program (SFP)** for parents and their children ages three to 15. SFP is a national model and is the first research-based parenting program specifically designed for substance abusing parents and their children. This evidence-based program aims to assist families in reaching the goal of breaking the cycle of addiction. The SFP is a multi-component, family focused program that provides prevention and intervention services for three to 15 year old children and their parents who are actively involved in, or recently completed substance abuse treatment. Included in the SFP curriculum are; discussions, demonstrations, role modeling, videos, role plays, tests, homework and public acknowledgement of personal behaviors. SFP strategies include the provision of age appropriate information in a culturally sensitive manner. There is a particular emphasis placed on communication and family strength building, the promotion of positive alternatives to drug use, and training in the areas of communication, decision making and problem solving for parents and their children as it relates to the family, school and the workplace. The SFP has yielded statistically significant results indicating both an increase in parenting skills and relationship building between parents and children. The establishment of these protective

factors helps to reduce the cycle of substance abuse and addiction among youth. In addition, SFP staff identify parents in need of further assistance and provide a referral and linkages to additional services including employment and vocational educational services.

**The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ECCPASA)** has worked for over twenty-three 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-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 counseling 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.

**Explore & More Children's Museum** requests funds to continue offering free **EnCompass Outreach**. The program has been presented annually since 1997 at Buffalo & Erie County Library branches in underserved urban and rural areas of Erie County. The program is offered in neighborhood library branches for families who are not able to visit Explore & More children's Museum, located in East Aurora. EnCompass programming is designed to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in children, which as research has shown, are all vital skills leading to positive academic and civic outcomes in adolescence and adulthood. During its nearly 20 year history, EnCompass has grown to address the education needs of children living in poverty by offering free, innovative and engaging enrichment opportunities otherwise unavailable to them. EnCompass has reached over 25,000 children living in underserved areas throughout Erie County since its inception. In 2015, EnCompass was presented 42 times at 21 libraries throughout Erie County and reached over 2,500 low-income and at-risk children ages 4 to 12. EnCompass programming focuses on informal learning opportunities that are aligned with NYS English Language Arts and Math, Science, and Technology standards.

Since 1973, the **Family Help Center (FHC)** has offered an immediate response to families experiencing issues of child abuse and neglect. The cornerstone prevention program of FHC has been the 24/7 Family Helpline. If someone is in need, they can call the Family Helpline and find an understanding listener at the other end of the line anytime of the day or night. Today, the FHC has grown into a multi-service

agency providing in-home support services, preventive and wrap around services, youth services, parenting groups, and school based services; doing whatever it takes to serve children and families in Erie County. Since 2001, FHC has collaborated with United Way, Buffalo Public Schools and other human services agencies to provide **Closing the Gap (CTG)** program to improve student academic achievement by providing non-academic social, emotional and behavioral supports and life skill training to students in the school. CTG services are provided by FHC Schools Family Workers (SFW) based in the school. Many students and their families reside in impoverished neighborhoods with high crime and unemployment rates. Families may be dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues. All of this impacts a child's performance in the school. The goal of CTG is to create a bridge between the family and school in order to eliminate barriers to academic success. SFW are able to provide home visits so that parents gain an understanding of their child's academic and school needs, encourage parent participation in the child's school program and further assess the home for additional home based supports and services. SFW are also a key part of a student's support plan, encouraging parental engagement in issues outside of school which may be affecting the student's school success.

**Family Help Center (FHC)** provides comprehensive home based preventive type services to multiple problem families whose children and youth are at risk of neglect, abuse or out of home placement. The cornerstone prevention program of the FHC is the 24/7 Family Helpline in our **Core Service program**, targeting low income families, parents/caretakers in parenting crisis and at risk of abuse or neglect of their children. The focus of 24/7 Family Helpline/Core Services is to reduce risk to children by providing stabilizing support to parents/caretakers through home visiting, building parenting skills, providing basic concrete goods, linkages and case management. Core Services provide parents with the necessary supports and interventions that are known to prevent the detrimental impact that neglect and impoverishment can have on children. Neglected children not only have social emotional deficits, but have severe cognitive and academic deficits as well. The program provides help to these children by engaging their parents/caretakers with both phone and home visiting support and is parent friendly with flexible and multiple methods of parent intervention, education and skill building. The Family Helpline is answered by a staff person or highly trained volunteer who completes a Needs Assessment in order to provide an immediate response to the parent. Core Services consistently exceed United Way's identified performance measures in providing supports to parents with young children by providing parent education activities that are known to improve health and well-being outcomes of vulnerable children.

**Family Help Center Daycare (FHC)** is the first United Way and participating QUALITYstarsNY designated **Children's Center for Success (CCS)**, a unique evidenced-based, trauma informed model of classroom and family interventions that promote resiliency, social, emotional and mental health of young children. The CCS model develops a strong foundation in at risk children so that it maximizes their ability to learn, develop and succeed during their early years of life. Through United Way and community partnerships, the CCS provides a combination of evidenced based Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) onsite for parents/caretakers as well as Teacher-Child Interaction Training (TCIT) implemented in the classrooms by the teachers and aides. By supporting and improving the social-emotional and behavioral outcomes for children, CCS aims to ensure that children are academically and social-emotionally supported in a high quality childcare setting. TCIT adapted from the evidenced-based, trauma-informed PCIT, is used in

class resulting in successful change in a child from showing extremely challenging behaviors to engaging in positive, cooperative behaviors. An onsite Site Coordinator and Family Advocate are key components of CCS who help remove the barriers in family life that may get in the way of children reaching their full potential. They also help many families work through complex systems such as health care, school systems, social systems and other human service programs. It is common for the population we serve to lack parent-child interactions. CCS provides developmental & learning environment necessary for successful development. About 10% of children have an IEP. About 30% show delays in language or literacy. Depending on their success at CCS, we may provide linkages.

**The Family Justice Center of Erie County, Inc. (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 13 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, etc. In addition, the FJC provides transportation and language assistance. With past funding from United Way, the FJC has been able to reach over 14,000 domestic violence victims and their children.

**Field & Fork Network's Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB)** is a SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program formerly known as food stamps) incentive program delivered at local farmers markets as a way to increase the access to and the affordability of fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income individuals and families. DUFB provides a \$1 for \$1 match on any SNAP purchase up to \$20 per market visit per day. The DUFB incentive 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. Double Up Food Bucks operates for 16-18 weeks during the peak harvest season, June through October. The program is currently delivered at 15 regional farmers markets spanning 5 counties. Beginning in 2016, we will be expanding the program to over 11 counties & 80+ sites including 4 different year-round sites. The program has many quantitative and qualitative evaluation components that measure the program's impact and help to inform future SNAP incentive policies on a local, state, and federal level.

Established in 2000, **Gerard Place** offers transitional 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, GED and pre-GED 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 education and workforce 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 **Job Club** program is to prepare parents of young children for financial stability and enable them to support their families, both financially and emotionally. Job Club offers parents employment readiness skills provided by a Job Coach/Case Manager and computer training provided by a Computer Specialist. Job Club participants develop resumes, conduct job searches, prepare for Interviews and learn appropriate on-the-job attire, communication skills, timeliness and other skills related to maintaining employment. Training is specific to employment opportunities of interest to each participant. Computer training prepares participants to utilize technology to develop resumes, search and apply for job opportunities, contact prospective employers, explore career fields, complete required educational components, such as GED attainment and other online skills that help participants prepare for employment.

Established in 2000, **Gerard Place** offers transitional 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, GED and pre-GED 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** seeks to provide progressive outdoor experiences for under-served youth in Erie County with a specific focus on girls ages 5-8 years in the Buffalo City School District. GSWNY will seek to increase girls social-emotional and behavior skills through the **Girl Scout Daisy and Brownie Camp Experience**. This program will allow 100 girls from Buffalo City Schools District to attend a field trip to Camp Seven Hills Environmental Science Center during the school year. The girls will participate in a half day to full day program that introduces them to summer camp and outdoor programs offered by Girl Scouts at no cost. The girls will then be offered the opportunity to attend summer camp at a reduced or no cost (awards are informed by federal poverty guidelines). This progressive model allows girls and parents to become familiar with Girl Scout outdoor and camp programs, in addition to removing barriers to participation such as transportation, familiarity, and a lack of financial resources. Girl Scouts teaches girls many soft-skills that benefit their social emotional development - studies show that Girl Scouting has a greater impact on youth from lower-socioeconomic

statuses and minority groups than their counterparts. What's more, summer camp has been shown to reduce summer learning loss and increase literacy and math skills. Camp Seven Hills has been operating for over 85 years. This program will engage under-served girls in programming they currently lack access to. This will be accomplished by engaging girls ages 5-8 in non-traditional staff-run after-school troops in the City of Buffalo. We believe that this new means of serving girls is both important and impactful to a girl's social emotional development.

**Girl Scout of Western New York (GSWNY)** seeks to provide a Girl Scout troop experience for girls in under-served areas through the **Girl Scout Leadership Experience After-school Program**. The proposed program seeks to serve girls who would not traditionally be able to participate in Girl Scouts. This population faces many barriers to participating in Scouting including: a lack of qualified volunteers, transportation, financial barriers, and a lack of understanding and familiarity with Girl Scout programs. By providing an avenue for girls to participate in a non-traditional troop through the After-school Program, girls are in the care of invested adult mentors during times when youth most typically engage in high-risk behavior. Girls are given the opportunity to participate in a non-traditional troop for one year at no cost. Over the course of the year GSWNY staff work to build relationships with parents and other adults in the community. Many times, through these relationships new troop leaders and volunteers are cultivated and girls can be transitioned into a traditional troop. Staff work to recruit volunteers throughout the year. Many of our Membership Services Staff are bilingual and are able to translate materials and converse with parents and guardians in the language they are most comfortable speaking. Girl Scouts provides girls with the leadership skills they need to thrive in today's world. Traditionally Girl Scouts have served girls in middle-class suburban neighborhoods this model was not inclusive and so GSWNY has reevaluated how it delivers services. In the past ten years we have spent a great deal of time and resources forming relationships in city school districts. Overtime we have established trust and a reputation of delivering successful programs.

**Goodwill Industries of WNY** is a 96-year old agency that delivers comprehensive **Job Training/Employment** programs with wrap-around services to adults having all types and combinations of vocationally disadvantaging and/or disabling conditions. Our agency empowers and assists its clients to obtain, maintain and advance in employment and create financial stability. We serve four specific populations: persons with physical, developmental and mental disabilities, Public Assistance recipients, Veterans, and former alcohol/substance abusers. Goodwill's programs are a combination of individualized services based on the client's strengths, abilities, needs and preferences, along with group soft skills training, focusing on key areas of need by employers. Our approach is holistic and collaborative where additional resources are required to address non-vocational issues that influence employability and family stability. Every client undergoes an evaluation whose findings guide development of a Plan for Employment and the client's choice of hands-on training programs in retail, industrial production, warehouse operations, E-commerce or environmental services. Toward the end of training, the client works with our Job Developer who assists with job searches, resume preparation and interview prep. Once a client secures employment, we maintain communication to resolve issues that arise, helping ensure retention. Goodwill programs and services are accredited at the highest level by CARF, the national Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities. Our request covers a

portion of the salaries and benefits of our employment and training staff. These essential positions are not fully offset through revenue from their respective programs due to budget cuts.

**Grassroots Gardens WNY** seeks to continue its highly successful **Education Series** through 2019. Converging factors of property abandonment, poverty, food insecurity and the high incidence of diet-related diseases continue to threaten the health of our residents. Faced with these challenges, combined with environmental harms and risks, community leaders seek opportunities to mitigate these factors by establishing community and school gardens in their neighborhoods. The Education Series provides these change makers with the fundamental information and tools necessary to mitigate environmental risks, change eating behaviors, increase physical activity and improve quality of life through sustainably-managed community and school gardens. At least 40 Workshops, open to the public but targeted toward 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, utilizing them as active space while engaging participants in physical activity; a Healthy Harvest series focused on food production and preservation, and new in 2015 an added "Community Building" series to build social capacity, address succession planning and train in conflict mediation. In addition, 20 school-based workshops are held, demonstrating to low-income youth in Buffalo Public Schools the benefits of urban greenspace, and several hands-on exercises to start them on their food-producing adventures.

**Hearts and Hands-Faith in Action** is a neighbors helping neighbors volunteer organization which has supported the independence of older, disabled and frail adults and their caregivers since 2003. **Hearts and Hands** mission is to uphold our care receivers dignity, improve their quality of life and enhance their ability to stay in their homes. We do this by linking them with trained volunteers for non-medical support services including transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping and other errands, and at-home support such as minor home repair, wellness checks, yard work, visits and caregiver respite. Services are provided at no cost to our care receivers. Our program delays or eliminates the need for expensive institutional care, supports the health and independence of those we serve, and aids those caring for older/disabled family members. From April 2015-16, 301 active volunteers served 754 active care receivers, with 9,164 service hours and 116,138 miles driven. Hearts and Hands collaborates with 74 community partners including 39 faith-based organizations that help identify volunteers and care receivers; 12 organizations/municipal governments which donate office/training space, equipment & maintenance; and 23 private/public sponsors and funders which support events, program coordination and expansion. Services are offered to residents of Akron/Newstead, Alden, Amherst, Clarence, Holland, Marilla, Wales, the Tonawanda Indian Reservation, areas of Niagara County and surrounding areas. As the population of older citizens continues at about 20% in Erie County, demand for our services is growing. We expect it to double in the next two to three years, especially in Amherst. Our focus is on continued expansion into Amherst and increasing volunteer recruitment.

**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 420 at-risk high school youth in Buffalo City School District.

**Horizon Health Services (HHS)** is seeking support for the delivery of vocational and educational training, placement, and post-placement support for adolescents and 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.

**The International Institute** has been working with refugees and immigrants for almost 100 years. For the past 25 years, IIB has successfully run successful 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 specialized **REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM** offers individualized, client centered, culturally and linguistically appropriate employment services to

the refugee and immigrant population, as well as immigrant victims of trafficking. These services include individual assessment, identification & addressing of any 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 employment client is assigned a case manager to follow them through their journey to self-sufficiency or career placement. Other in house services include personalized financial literacy and budgeting for each client. Our employment program also 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.

Immigrants face specific vulnerabilities to intimate partner and family violence here in Western New York. **The International Institute of Buffalo's (IIB) Domestic Violence Victim Services Program** provides an enhanced response for foreign-born victims and their children who face cultural and linguistic impediments to safety, self-sufficiency and appropriate services available within our community. As the only program specifically focused on immigrant survivors, IIB has established culturally competent and linguistically appropriate best practices including safety planning, criminal justice-based advocacy, access to immigration legal support, interpretation and translation services, and supportive referrals to community partners. Advocates within IIB's Domestic Violence Services Program work diligently to address the vital safety needs of this ever-growing, widely diverse and underserved population. Most specifically, IIB advocates work to counter the consistent strategies perpetrators utilize to maintain power and control over their immigrant victims: threats and/or misinformation regarding their immigration status, violence or threats involving children and isolation due to language and culture. The goals of increasing safety, independence and health are achieved in four distinct ways; direct, on-site services with identified survivors including supportive referrals to partner agencies, an on-site educational support group for immigrant survivors, targeted outreach and education to established culturally-specific organizations and communities, and training to traditional mainstream systems including social services, shelters, mental health and medical providers and the criminal justice system to increase their cultural competence.

**The Priscilla Project of Buffalo (PPB)** is a pregnancy mentoring program for refugee women, an integral part of the holistic care provided to refugee patients through **Jericho Road Community Health Center** (JRCHC). The program targets women experiencing birth in the United States for the first time. PPB matches refugee women with the support of a volunteer mentor during pregnancy and a linguistically matched doula to provide interpretation and support during birth. 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 helped nearly 600 pregnant refugee women. In this past year, PPB staff have served a total of 208 women from over 19 countries and screened 196 women for WIC. In addition PPB has assisted 208 women to initiate breastfeeding, of which at least about 25% were still breastfeeding after six months.

**The Jericho Road Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP)**, an initiative of **Jericho Road Community Health Center (JRCHC)**, 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](http://www.parent-child.org)), which is a 48-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 UWPEC-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.

**JRCHC's Financial Education Program** 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 participants 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 12 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. Long-term, by creating financial stability for Buffalo's most vulnerable populations, we are creating a healthier community for us all.

**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 6,667 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.

The **Hope Refugee Drop-In Center (HRDC) (Health and Wellness)** 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 6,667 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.

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 180 children in 11 classrooms. We value our partnerships with several agencies in Buffalo. Community is our middle name.

**Jewish Family Services (JFS) Parent Support Program** provides 12 to 14-week, Incredible Years evidence-based parenting education program for low-income refugee and immigrant parents of children aged 0-6. United Way funding will allow JFS to expand the program to include support services and education for low-income parents of any background (not just refugees and immigrants) and for parents of children aged 0 to 12 years. The parent education program, delivered by trained, bilingual/bicultural instructors, is a Blueprints 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. Funds will support the hiring of a part time parent educator to run classes and provide individualized in home instruction, as well as a part time parent support specialist who will assess families for additional services, provide care coordination, and ensure linkages with appropriate community providers.

**Project Integration** provides integrated intake, assessment, service planning, and economic stabilization services (benefits enrollment and job placement) for any **JFS** program participant experiencing economic hardship. Project Integration, currently funded by the United Way for refugee and immigrant families only, is being expanded for the coming year to all community members. All Project Integration participants will have one-stop access to the full set of JFS and outside service for which they are eligible.

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 15,238 students in 2014-2015. 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. 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 is pleased to partner with United Way of Buffalo & Erie County to provide the following program: **Junior Achievement Financial Literacy for Youth Career & College Readiness**. JAWNY seeks funding to implement K-3 programs in school districts throughout Erie County, including under-performing Buffalo schools.

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**The Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC)**, part of **Kaleida Health's Women and Children's Hospital (WCHOB)**, 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 information and referral services for parents and other caregivers to increase early identification and securing of 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 our participants, increase referrals to our program and improve service coordination and accessibility in our community. Average ECDC survey results over the past three years for the questions: Did we treat you well were 100% Did we help you were 99%.

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 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.

**The King Urban Life Center (KULC)** and the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center (UBEOC) have maintained a successful partnership for over 20 years. Since 2002, the UBEOC at the KULC have provided tuition-free computer classes for adults and seniors in a community that is both distressed and underserved. Now we have increased the level of services in the community with the **Technology Enhanced Secondary - Post Secondary Preparation Project**. UBEOC offers 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-based tutorial programming. Although currently, the TASC is offered via paper and pencil, the NYS Education Department intends to transition to a computer-based test. Digital literacy training and repeated exposure to computer based academic testing will prepare adults and increase likelihood for success on the TASC; therefore Digital Literacy training is offered along with certification training in Microsoft Office applications. Students can earn certification as Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) by completing training in all five areas (Word, Access, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook). This Program will target 20-40 adult learners who are at or below the 200% poverty level, have low-levels of education and are not effectively accessing community resources.

**Literacy Empowerment Action Plan of Western New York, Inc. (LEAP of WNY)** is requesting funding from the United Way for continued support of **LEAP~ASAP (Academic Support Assistance Program)**. LEAP~ASAP is a highly effective afterschool program that addresses the disparity in literacy proficiency between low-income children and their more affluent peers. LEAP~ASAP targets the needs of children in grades K-5 who reside in Sheridan Parkside Village, a low-income community located in the Town of Tonawanda. It has been offered for eight consecutive years. On average, 52 children have been tutored in LEAP~ASAP annually over the last three years. Of these, 71.2% were ages 5-8. The program has two main components: 1) collaborative, small group tutoring in literacy using research-based reading strategies; and 2) expansive children's library services (i.e., homework/project assistance, literacy enrichment, book checkout, and assistance with electronic resources) in a state-of-the-art children's library (Birth-Grade 12) located on-site in LEAP's Reading Clinic & Library. The tutoring component is provided in two eight-week sessions, fall and spring of each school year. Tutors provide individualized literacy instruction to participants in groups of three or less, one day each week for one hour. Participants are also provided supplementary academic support through LEAP's library services for two hours each weekday over the entire academic year. The success of LEAP~ASAP over the last three years has been consistently documented. On average, 95.6% improved their literacy skills and 100% of participants were promoted to the next grade. Previously a closed branch of the Erie County Libraries, LEAP's library serves all Sheridan Park residents and hosts approximately 160 visits each month.

**Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara (LNYBN)** is seeking to expand 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 transitioning off welfare. Our

agency would like to expand 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 200 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.

**The Matt Urban Hope Works**, 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 individuals and families 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 a strength-based 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; 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; health and wellness activities; family-friendly community events; a free tax preparation site; a Homeless Outreach program that focuses on ending homelessness for individuals living on the streets; a rapid rehousing program; and supportive services for sex workers. 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 15 other agencies from throughout the community on a regular basis to provide services to our community. The services provided by these agencies include: mobile health services; HIV testing and services; health insurance navigation assistance; affordable housing opportunities; educational and training programs; and safety planning support.

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**The Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY** is applying for funds to provide services to children and youth that participate in the **Creative & Fun Kids Club** and S.A.S.S.Y Summer Camp. Programs are located at 2 sites: the TJ Dulski Community Center, 129 Lewis St., Buffalo NY 14206 and Polonia Hall, 385 Paderewski Dr, Buffalo NY 14212. The after-school and summer camp program provide needed services to children and families including academic enrichment, nutritious meals, social-emotional support, recreation, positive supervision and safety. These programs operate in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the city of Buffalo. After-school and summer programs in this neighborhood are not just important but crucial for the positive development of youth because they provide structure, support and guidance. The Creative & Fun Kids Club provides 4 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 camp play an important role in mediating the trauma and hardships that are endured by youth growing up in poverty. These centers are safe-havens for children and youth when they have nowhere to go. These centers, located in the Fillmore district encourage the growth of children to be well-rounded and responsible, hopeful and successful.

**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 expand 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. More could have been helped.

With the help of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, the **Magic Penny Early Literacy Institute** has partnered with the Buffalo Board of Education to help 120 Buffalo kindergarten and prekindergarten teachers in 24 different schools during the 2015-16 school year. Our Magic Penny Literacy Coaches have given these teachers in-classroom training and demonstrations on how to provide over 2000 young children with the necessary foundational skills for joyful early literacy success. Parent training sessions and Magic Penny Kinder Concerts have also been held at Buffalo schools. These meetings helped parents understand the importance of playing the Magic Penny Early Literacy games and activities that are sent home weekly. These 2000 Buffalo school children in 76 kindergartens and 20 pre-k's have made wonderful gains in their early literacy skills! Most of the pre-k children are now reading and writing! Kindergarten children are now ready for Grade 1! Trained teachers will apply these early literacy strategies to all of their future classes! The impact that the United Way was able to make by giving us a grant to help these teachers will have far reaching effects on countless children. Many special education, speech, and reading teachers have asked for training and materials to help their children, too. We have been able to accommodate many, but with a renewed partnership with the United Way, we will be able to help so many more teachers to make a BIGGER difference in the little lives that are entrusted into their care. Lives are changing and futures are so much brighter because early literacy means school success and increased graduation rates - the foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty and making our community, our country, and the world a better place for everyone.

Through our **Growing Green Program**, the **Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP)** is working to create a more equitable food system in Buffalo, NY by creating community based food and agriculture initiatives that create jobs and job training for disadvantaged young people, supports to plan for college and career, and leadership training. Annually we employ and train 50 low-income youth, ages 14-20. Youth not only learn job and life skills but are engaged in addressing documented community needs, improving food security and promoting healthier neighborhoods. Growing Green trains youth to become community leaders to meet the direct food security needs of their urban neighborhoods, while giving them the confidence, skills and inspiration to be successful into adulthood. From 2013-15, 43% of youth participants contributed to their household income to meet basic needs and had siblings under the age of 8. Growing Green's job training and supportive services engage youth in sustainable urban farming, distributing healthy affordable produce in food desert neighborhoods, through a farm stand and Mobile Market, developing a youth-run business specializing in locally made, value-added food products and engaging youth as leaders to promote policies and practices for healthier schools and neighborhoods, with a focus on addressing food insecurity and climate change. In addition we provide youth supports and skill building to plan for college or the workforce after high school. Since 2003 we have successfully employed and trained over 650 youth and impacted over 20,000 through program activities. For the

eighth consecutive year, 95% of our high school seniors have graduated high school and gone on to college. Most of them were the first person in their family to go to college.

**B.E.S.T. Program - Mental Health Association of Erie County, Inc.** Basic Emotional Skills Training helps young children enter school ready to learn. Children with healthy social emotional skills interact more appropriately with peers, teachers and family members and are more likely to achieve academic success. B.E.S.T. is provided in classrooms by our staff in two curriculum formats: Teaching Kids to Care improves Pre-Kindergarten student behavior through the development and use of self-regulation skills such as: sharing, taking turns, understanding and expressing feelings, solving conflicts and making safe, healthy choices. Too Good for Violence is a SAMHSA approved, evidence-based program. At-risk Kindergarten through Grade Two students living in areas of concentrated poverty learn skills they need to deal with conflict, frustration, anger and disappointment in positive, age-appropriate ways. Both curriculums involve classroom teacher participation. Behavior management methods are modeled for teachers by our staff over a six to seven week series of presentations. Specially designed teacher and family follow-up materials are provided to provide a full complement of supports. B.E.S.T. is a universal prevention program, however, 89 % of our participants reside in Buffalo and in first ring suburban districts where issues of poverty and crime place students at greater risk. B.E.S.T. is independently evaluated by Buffalo State College's Center for Health and Social Research. They have concluded: Results support the program's ability to demonstrate its positive impact on behavior at a young age.

**Native American Community Services (NACS)** operates a 21st Century Community Learning Center initiative at the Native American Magnet School (NAMS). The **Enhancing Excellent Choices Educating Lifelong Learners (EXCELL) After School program** is designed to combat low academic achievement, enhance exposure to enriching educational experiences, and increase the level of familial services and supports. These key program elements are consistent with the United Way's funding priority areas and fit well under the United Way's Educational Platform. Program efforts will yield outcomes that lead to moderate and/or long term impacts on individuals and the community. Program interventions will produce children who are academically and personally successful while providing supportive services for families. Attention will be focused on developing both academic and non-academic competencies. The target audience is NAM'S students and their families. Programming is data driven and considerate of a variety of needs assessments. Academically, the school report card (<http://data.nysed.gov/profile.php?instid=800000052962>) shows a low percentage of students reaching proficiency levels in both ELA (10%) and Math (16%). The program's non-academic emphasis was crafted from data on the local community. The Community Needs Index (CNI) measures various socio-economic indicators using zip codes to differentiate between communities. The CNI score for the program's zip code and target audience illustrates an immense need for services and supports that are non-academic. It is the combination of deliberate programming for academic and non-academic needs for both student and family that make the EXCELL program critical to the community's longevity and prosperity.

**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, safety planning, and legal representation. Legal representation is provided in child support, custody, family offense, and divorce cases. Clients are interviewed by a highly experienced paralegal who assesses the client's civil legal needs and financial eligibility for services, and frequently assists the client in developing a safety plan. If the client needs family law representation, the client is referred to a program attorney. If the client has other legal needs, particularly in the housing or public benefits areas, another NLS attorney or paralegal may provide representation. Through this application we seek funding for the program paralegal position. Funding for legal representation and a second paralegal position will be furnished in kind through state and federal funding sources.

**Northwest Buffalo Community Center's (NWBCC) Child Care Program** is a full-day child care program for children from 9 months through age 12. For pre-K children, the program provides pre-literacy and early math skills, social and emotional skills development, structured and unstructured play, and exposure to music, arts and fitness. The program serves 34 children and operates at capacity. The program aligns with research supporting the design of effective pre-K programs. But, the most promising program cannot be successful if the children do not attend regularly. Families without personal transportation, and those with other challenges such as irregular job shifts, substance abuse or mental health challenges which are referred to us by Child Protective Services, or other barriers, have difficulty getting their pre-K children to school every day. With limited resources, these families are not able to prepare their children for kindergarten on their own. Frequent or extended absences from early childhood programming creates learning gaps that are difficult for the child to overcome, resulting in the child entering school behind his or her peers and struggling to catch up. NWBCC seeks funding for a part time van driver who will transport children to the center to assure regular attendance and increase the child's preparedness for kindergarten. Assuring regular attendance will enable us to meet key performance indicators including: Children exhibit developmentally appropriate language, literacy, or mathematical skills. Children enrolled in high-quality care/early learning programs.

**Northwest Buffalo Community Center (NWBCC)** provides comprehensive quality human services to improve the quality of life for residents of Northwest Buffalo. NWBCC is the largest community center in Western New York, with approximately 1500 residents utilizing services provided at the main facility on a daily basis. Our **Elderly Services Program** provides a variety of services for residents 60 years and older, including: Nutrition Programs, 55 Alive, Transportation to medical appointments and shopping, linkage to HEAP funding, computer classes, aquatics and other services, as needed. Staff currently providing services to the elderly have over 100 years of combined experience working with NWBCC, and are well-prepared to meet the identified performance measures. The demand for transportation for the elderly and disabled has continued to increase steadily, and we are now operating two vans full time, five days per week. Medical appointments receive first priority, followed by nutrition-related transportation (to grocery stores or to NWBCC or other location offering hot meals for seniors), followed

by less urgent requests. Demand is currently so high we are not able to honor all requests for nutrition-related transportation, which negatively impacts the health of the frail elderly and disabled. We have purchased a third van so that if one vehicle is being repaired there is no loss of service. We are requesting funding from the United Way to address the increasing demand for medical-related transportation for our elderly and disabled population and assist them to increase their health management skills. Performance measures will include: Number of adults attending necessary health-related appointments; Number of adults addressing a social condition that negatively impacts them.

**Northwest Buffalo Community Center's (NWBC) 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, NWBC continues to strengthen its Academic Improvement Program, utilizing youth outcome data to guide program modifications. In previous years NWBC 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. NWBC 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 grade; # of students receiving life skills training.

**Olmsted Center for Sight (OCS)** has been providing its **Senior Vision Services (SVS) Program** to Erie County residents, age 60 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 RNs 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 2015, 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.

**2-1-1 WNY** is a lead partner in **Help Me Grow WNY (HMGWNY)**, an evidence-based early childhood developmental screening, referral, service linkage, and family support initiative that improves young children's health, well-being, and school readiness. HMGWNY provides no-fee access to universal developmental monitoring for all WNY families, with a focus on care coordination, family empowerment, and linkages to community supports for our most vulnerable, at-risk children aged 0-5. Building on existing WNY resources and based on a national HMG model operating in 25 states, HMG embraces 4 core components: (1) child health care provider outreach; (2) community outreach to families and early care and learning partners; (3) a centralized point of access through 2-1-1WNY and the HMGWNY online portal; and (4) data collection and analyses to identify community needs/gaps and improve quality of service. HMGWNY uses a valid, reliable, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) screening tool, the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, to identify whether children are on track in meeting developmental milestones. Our early childhood specialists follow up with parents to share results and offer additional resources to support their children's optimal growth. Reminders to re-screen at AAP-suggested intervals are provided. For families whose children exhibit areas of concern, referral is made to the appropriate service for more in-depth assessment and intervention. Initiated 6 years ago in WNY, HMGWNY is unique in its extensive collaboration, building on and embracing strengths of existing community partners to enhance protective factors and provide interventions for children in their most critical first 5 years of life, when more than 85% of brain and personality development occurs.

Established in 1986, **Parent Network of WNY (PN)** 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. The **Supporting Transition to Adulthood Program** (Formerly called: Transition Planning: Career & College Readiness for Students with Disabilities) has been highly successful in supporting school-aged children and youth by providing education and support to families and educators. One on one support services provided through this program address concerns about a child's development and learning from the earliest stage through transition to adulthood. Our accessible website, active social media interactions and distribution of informational materials provide much needed information to the community. During the agency's last fiscal year (July 1, 2014, June 30, 2015) 1,147 parents, professionals and youth received information and linkage services through one on one support in Erie County alone. Education and information about the available supports and services was also provided through the provision of 18 support group sessions, 188 workshops and 240 outreach events. Ultimately, this program allows PN to support students through the promotion of effective person centered planning through a team approach between the family, educators and community supports. Through the provision of information about disabilities and special education in plain language students of all ages are better supported by their parents, family members and professionals increasing the quality of their education and in achieving their life goals.

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parents, professionals and youth received information and linkage services through one on one support in Erie County alone. Over 350 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. Funding provided through his proposal will increase our reach and include a subcontract with The Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC), part of Kaleida Health's Women and children's Hospital. 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. Free on-site technical assistance and training to early childhood professionals is also provided supporting specialized skills in areas of developmental screening and early identification, improving social-emotional and behavior skills and family engagement. Both PN and ECDC collaborate and partner 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.

Since 1992, **Peace Of The City Ministries (POTC)** has been working to serve and empower at-risk youth in Buffalo's West Side. We offer a wide range of relevant, effective programming that targets the specific needs of young people living at or below the poverty line in one of the most economically-depressed, high crime sections of Buffalo. The interconnected nature of programs creates a strong feeling of community and belonging, further supported by long-term mentoring relationships between staff, volunteers and youth. **Teen Empowerment** programming builds on the lessons learned from a "Homework Club upbringing" that many of our teens have experienced by growing up in Peace Of The City programming. Teen Empowerment programming at Peace Of The City begins in 7th grade and continues through graduation, extending into the early college years through a multi-touch approach to provide continuous love, support and encouragement. Teen programming incorporates all learning styles and works in a trauma-informed care model to provide teens with the necessary tools to empower themselves in the pursuit of their dreams. Our approach includes several key components: literacy, the arts, advocacy and transformation. Increasing literacy enables teens to succeed academically. Advocating for our youth and teaching them how to be effective self-advocates increases their probability of success, and our Creative Arts, "Shakespeare Comes to (716)" theater ensemble, small business and employment training programs transform youth by increasing self-confidence, developing positive social-emotional health, and providing opportunities for their natural tenacity and grit to shine.

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engagement with youth (and their families) is more effective than serving a higher quantity of children less effectively. Homework Club is where children are first introduced to POTC and learn how to be part of our Peace Family - creating a community of courage in which children are free to learn, make mistakes, and grow. In response to neighborhood need, POTC has been seeking to further extend programming to include more pre-school aged children over the last few years. While limited by space in our current facilities, POTC has incorporated Montessori teaching styles into Homework Club and has a certified Montessori teacher on staff. Collaborating with PUSH Buffalo in their School 77 renovation project into a mixed-use community facility will increase our capacity and make a Montessori pre-school possible in 2018, expanding our reach from ~50 children/year to ~70, and furthering leveraging our impact with children on Buffalo's West Side.

**Reach Out and Read** is a national nonprofit organization that serves more than 4.5 million children annually in all 50 states. At their regular medical checkups, doctors and nurses give young children, newborn through 5 years of age, a brand-new book, developmentally-appropriate book. At the same time, they talk with the children's parent about the importance of regular reading; fifteen published studies have shown that parents read more often as a result of this advice, and children gain pre-reading skills. We partner with medical providers at nearly 5,000 program sites across the country, including six in Buffalo. We primarily serve children from low-income families; the majority of our Buffalo families rely on Medicaid or are uninsured. We respectfully request a grant in support of our **Buffalo Early Literacy Initiative**. Your support will allow four high-quality pediatric practices serving children in poverty to fully re-establish their programs after a lapse in funding. Beyond re-establishing the programs, we will also expand to officially serve infants under 6 months of age, in line with our national direction and strategy to reach children from the earliest days of life. Furthermore, your partnership would allow us to collaborate with local libraries, museums and other organizations to increase our collective impact on community literacy. As we work to rejuvenate Reach Out and Read in Erie County, your partnership will play a critical role in our work to improve early literacy outcomes for Buffalo's youngest children.

In 2015 **CARE** served over 500 students in partnership with Promise Neighborhood. **Read to Succeed Buffalo (RTSB)** staff provided embedded support in 4-5 classrooms, Pre-K to 3rd Grade. Evaluation proved CARE a highly effective practice, but, due to the end of Promise funding, RTSB's intensive intervention was deemed too costly. BPS instructed RTSB to tweak its service delivery model, but preserve fidelity to its data-driven best practices & proven impact. RTSB discovered a well-researched promising practice known as Experience Corps, and in 2016, became one of only 5 organizations in the country to receive a 4-year Social Innovation Fund investment to expand the program. This partnership enhances the CARE Elementary model through its use of highly trained, dedicated volunteers age 50+, allowing RTSB to increase student support capacity from 5 to 15 classrooms per staff. This hybrid model decreases overall program cost while increasing the intensity of student support, while maintaining fidelity to the teacher-coach-student relationship. In 2016-17 school year 40 volunteers will be recruited, trained and deployed in 45 classrooms in 3 lowest-performing BPSs serving 950 students in Buffalo's poorest neighborhoods. The utilization of highly trained adults 50+ will provide the capacity missing in the CARE model, allowing the partnership to measurably increase literacy development in 3-

to 6-times more struggling students for the same investment. This intergenerational, team based approach also creates a robust peer support network that will lead to improved social connections among volunteers and the students we serve. Imagination Library, a complementary promising practice, will deliver an age appropriate, high quality book every month, into children's homes in these disadvantaged neighborhoods.

**Read to Succeed Buffalo (RTSB)** originally implemented **CARE Child Care**, in partnership with UW and Tower Foundation, as a quality improvement program for family child care. Today, it's evolved into a comprehensive program designed to increase practitioner knowledge of literacy and early childhood development while facilitating the intentional infusion of language and literature throughout the child care or Head Start environment. Its goal is to maximize language and vocabulary development in our City's most at risk infants, toddlers and preschoolers, by ensuring their classroom is nurturing and as educationally and developmentally appropriate as possible. Betty Hart and Todd Risley conducted seminal research that determined children who grow up in poverty are exposed to 30 million fewer words by the age of 4 than children in professional families. Another sobering finding noted children in professional families heard a significantly higher ratio of encouragements to discouragements than their working class or welfare supported peers. A conclusion of this research found the most important aspect of children's language development is quantity as well as quality. CARE utilizes nationally normed child screening/assessment and environment assessment to plan for improvement and measure growth, in terms of child development, practitioner knowledge, and the child care/classroom environment. CARE Child Care serves child care and Head Start classrooms in the 14213 Grant/Ferry, the 14207 Military/Riverside and the 14215 Bailey/Kensington ZIP codes on Buffalo's west and east sides. 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.

To form partnerships with community organizations in order to create avenues of Self-Sufficiency for section 8 clients. Clients find financial education, education pathways and job opportunities through our guidance and coordination. The program plans to expand both in scale and scope by increasing the numbers of clients, as well as the opportunities they are afforded. Each client is screened and evaluated based on an initial survey and then provided with recommendations to overcome any obstacles that are keeping them back from achieving self-sufficiency and moreover their goals and dreams. Once clients complete the **Family Self Sufficiency program** they will have the opportunity to continue their assistance to purchase a home with their section 8 voucher. We at **Rental Assistance** hope gain housing counseling training so that we can help our clients gain the knowledge they need to streamline their process as well as to provide them with a substantial knowledge base. Both of our programs work towards HUD's Public and Indian Housing Mission to provide safe and affordable housing as well as providing the opportunities for avenues of Self-Sufficiency.

**Movin' Seniors** focus is to provide affordable, safe, and reliable transportation to senior residents to destinations which allow them to maintain a happier, healthier and more independent lifestyle and to heighten senior involvement in the community. Movin' Seniors main purpose though the **Rural Transit**

**Service** organization is to provide transportation to senior citizens. However, in addition to seniors Rural Transit will transport low/moderate income individuals and disabled clients. Eligible residents are transported to dialysis clinics, medical offices, physical therapy, pharmacies, colleges, work places, nutrition sites, adult day cares, grocery stores, banks, salons/barbers, etc., with medical trips taking priority. Rural Transit vehicles will transport residents with door to door service, anywhere that they need to go to complete their daily life routine. The true value and strength of their service is verified by the fact that the driving and dispatching is entirely run by a volunteer workforce! To date, almost 130 people volunteer their services as drivers, dispatchers and driver aides in the nine vans they operate. They run on an exceptionally low operating budget, and in turn their clients are not required to contribute for their services provided, although donations are accepted and encouraged (suggested \$3.00 donation per trip). To date the program is operating in twenty five (25) municipalities in Erie County. Rural Transit vans provide an average of over 10,000 rides each year. Over 1,500 individuals are currently registered for active use on their vans. Rural Transit Service is requesting funding for the continuation of the Movin' Seniors program.

The **Seneca-Babcock Community Association's (SBCA) Prime Time After-School Program** meets the needs of the youth living in poverty, in unsafe family and community circumstances, and/or at high risk for academic failure in the Seneca-Babcock Community. The Seneca-Babcock Community Association's Prime Time After-School Program is an education program designed to engage young people in learning, encourage them to succeed in school, and help them become lifelong learners. The comprehensive program includes expanded afterschool and out of school time learning/enrichment opportunities. The greater part of the activities in the Seneca-Babcock Community Association's Prime Time After School Program are based on NYS Common Core Standards and include homework help, physical activity, nutrition classes, art classes, science classes, mentoring, recreation, Boy and Girl Scouts, family functions, and field trips. Youth are exposed to new experiences and knowledge that they otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience. In the past three years, 97% of youth participating in the program have been passed to the next grade level.

The **Seneca-Babcock Community Association's (SBCA) 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 Workforce Development program is to provide clients with the skills necessary to build a successful career. The Seneca-Babcock 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 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 an associate's degree or higher. The Seneca-Babcock Community Association's Workforce Development Program helps individuals and families secure income supports, financial education, educational, and workforce training. In the past three years, 72 clients participating in the program have obtained their GED and 101 obtained jobs.

The **Seneca-Babcock Community Association's (SBCA) Parents on a Mission (POM) program** is a curriculum based program to develop parent leadership in our neighborhoods, which we contend is the key to raising happy, healthy children that contribute to safe communities. The Seneca-Babcock Community Association knows that healthy and happy children are not the result of more youth programs, pools, parks, or police on the streets. Happy children and safe communities are the result of parents who raise healthy and respectful children. This makes parental leadership crucial and that's what Parents on a Mission is all about. This Parent Leadership Course educates parents on: How to build healthy relationships with their children and win the battle for loyalty. How stepparents and blended families can thrive not just survive. How to connect, communicate, and earn respect for their parental authority. How to reconcile strained relationships back to the harmony of happiness. Closing the high-tech gap with high-touch parenting. Why PARENTS not programs are the number one asset in their child's life and much, much more! The purpose of the Seneca-Babcock Community Association's Parents on a Mission program is to provide the skills necessary to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents, as the best practice for preventing children from engaging in negative lifestyles. The Seneca-Babcock's Parents on a Mission program uses an integrated service model that embraces a holistic approach by addressing the needs of the family as a whole. The POM program is designed to help parents acquire the skills and knowledge they need to become positive influences in the lives of their children.

Since 1998 **High Hurdles**, a program of **Suburban Adult Services**, has provided therapeutic horseback instruction to individuals challenged with developmental, physical, emotional and behavioral disabilities. In an effort to promote an environment of inclusion, High Hurdles now serves non-disabled riders as well. From managing the reigns, maintaining balance, following directions and instructing the horse riders are constantly being tested while learning valuable lessons through horsemanship. Trust is gained and social abilities are developed by utilizing a team approach of rider, instructor, volunteer...and horse. Learning new skills and overcoming obstacles through a series of successes builds self-esteem, and the horse is an excellent teacher as it responds to the rider's cues without judgment and with unconditional affection. The team shares in the struggles as well as the victories of each rider. Lesson games are used as a successful learning tool allowing the rider to demonstrate problem solving, cognitive skills and improved communication, while displaying the ability to take and give direction. In addition to riding, students also benefit from barn management, grooming and tending to the needs of the horses. Program participants take on these responsibilities while heightening their own sensory and motor skills. Students look forward to their lesson each week, rekindling friendships with staff and volunteers and nurturing their relationship with their horse/therapy partner. The program offers a new opportunity for interaction and socialization. The lesson becomes an important and enjoyable part of their lives. Sitting tall in the saddle, liberated from their fears and disabilities, riders are able to demonstrate their 'ABILITIES'.

**Erie Regional Housing Development Corporation dba The Belle Center** proposes capacity building for our **Pathways to Careers program** that has been providing workforce development and financial literacy training to youth and young adults. The center serves a "cluster of poverty" on Buffalo's Lower West Side where poverty reaches 45.6% (ACS 2010-2014) and children under five live in poverty at 68.4%. Since Belle staff are bilingual Pathways to Careers will guide youth from the HSE as necessary to job readiness to specialized training under a caseworker who will proactively enlist clients without the skills to take jobs of the 21st century that will support a family. The caseworker will serve in casework, workshops in job readiness and financial literacy and referral to advanced training for a career.

As part of its mission to meet basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter, **The Salvation Army** provides emergency and supportive services to assist families in crisis. The Salvation Army's emergency services are comprised of its two core programs: **Emergency Family Shelter and Emergency Family Assistance (EFA)**. Both programs act as a safety-net to immediately assist and/or house families in crisis, helping them get back on their feet. Annually, over 10,300 people are served by Emergency Family Assistance, 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 Family Shelter, temporary living accommodations and support programs are provided to approximately 500 homeless men, women, and children each year. Services include secure housing, three full meals and one evening snack daily, all personal care items (soap, shampoo, diapers, etc.) and caseworkers to assist with securing permanent housing. Residents are also provided basic needs and financial literacy assistance through Emergency Family Assistance. In order to continue serving the economically disadvantaged within our community, The Salvation Army respectfully requests funding from the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. It is our 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's Employment Services Program** provides workfare, employment readiness training, job placement, and supportive services to individuals referred by the Erie County Department of Social Services (ECDSS). Approximately 90% of the individuals served are female, head-of-household, public assistance recipients who lack the skills, education, and resources needed to find and maintain gainful employment. Employment Services not only offers job placement services, but also provides participants with additional tools needed for employment search and success. These resources include job readiness and vocational training, comprehensive case management, job exploration, TASC classes, resume preparation, and eventually employment placement, further assisting them toward economic self-sufficiency. The Salvation Army respectfully requests funding from the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County in our continued efforts to assist clients within the Employment Services Program. The Salvation Army seeks to increase employability among its job seekers by providing them with the proper resources and tools necessary to obtain and retain employment.

Since 1972, **The Salvation Army's Golden Age Center** has offered adults, ages 50 and older, with an opportunity to make new friends and participate in recreational, educational, and spiritual activities in a safe and supportive environment. As a congregate meal site, the Golden Age Center provides breakfast and hot lunches, Monday through Friday, to program members and the community. The Golden Age Center also provides numerous opportunities for members to stay active, engaged, and involved. Instructional classes, referrals, workshops, shopping, overnight trips, and recreation are but a few of the benefits of membership. Members can participate in computer and art classes, play cards and bingo, or just 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 under-served population the opportunity to progress through healthy aging, despite financial hardships. The program offers opportunities for health and wellness including exercise classes, a fitness room, and health workshops. In order to continue serving the older adult population within our community, The Salvation Army respectfully requests funding from the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. It is our goal to improve the nutrition, physical health, and emotional security of our members through increased mental activity, social well-being, enhanced social networks, and improved health behaviors. Currently, the Golden Age Center has 257 members, 161 female and 96 male.

Since 1980, **The Salvation Army's Supervised Visitation Program** has provided safe, neutral, and high quality access for 21,701 non-custodial parents and their children to visit weekly in a child-centered, homelike environment, supervised by a Master's level Counselor. The rules of a highly structured, evidence-based model like this program, serve to protect children first and foremost from all types of potential abuse such as domestic violence, drug abuse, and child neglect during their interaction with their biological parent(s). Positive parent-child interactions are stressed through a combination of therapeutic interventions and parenting skill development using developmentally and culturally-sensitive practices. In 2015, the Supervised Visitation Program received 156 referrals, served 632 adults and children, and provided 1,373 on-site and off-site supervised weekly visits. These individuals are beset by stressors that serve to impact negatively on bonding and attachment thus creating long-term damage. Without the intervention of our program, these families would occupy a downward repetitive spiral. The Salvation Army is requesting funding from the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County in order to continue to keep children safe from family violence, while assisting their parents to cope with the stress relating to parenting.

The **Economic Opportunity (EO) Initiative** at **The Service Collaborative of WNY (TSC)** (formerly Opportunity Corps) is comprised of our Serve NY VISTA grant, Regional Opportunity Corps grant, Financial Opportunity Corps grant and our local UWBECA VITA tax network participation. EO has 46 full-time AmeriCorps members, 4 staff members and 1 Fellow 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 47,795 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.

**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 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 will increase 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.

**University Heights Community Dev. Assoc. Gloria J. Parks Community Center** - We currently offer one hundred and seventy-five children in grades 1 to 8 a multi-faceted, data-based after school and summer youth program, called **Twenty-First Century Community Learning Center Youth Program**. We enroll approximately 80 students at any given time for the after school cohort, and 125 students in summer camp. We would like to expand our K to 3 grade after school enrollment by 45 students during the after school program. During the school year we offer programming from 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. During July and August we offer a Summer Youth Program for seven weeks, Monday through Friday, forty hours a week, comprised of academic enrichment, arts, Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM), social/character development, and athletics. We have two overall goals for our Youth Program: 1) to enhance the academic achievement of our participating youth and increase their ability to choose positive behaviors in home, school, and the community, and 2) to increase the involvement of family in academic, community, and life development. Our after school and summer programs provide homework help and academic skill-building activities that align with the New York State Common Core curricular standards and the Buffalo Public schools academic plan. We also provide daily enrichment activities from the following topics: the arts, athletics, character development, social skill learning, health, pregnancy prevention, college and career readiness, and recreation. In addition we partner with other organizations to provide parent enrichment seminars that build literacy, social, and recreational skills.

**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.

**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 this 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 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 Pre-K, 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 12 years. Both centers are part of QUALITYstarsNY. LCo has just begun the process. VCC has been rated 4 out of 5 stars.

**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. In addition, the FITF program assists 7th & 8th graders with the high school application process and provides young adults with 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.

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

**The Valley Community Association (VCA)** has been serving the Buffalo River Community since its inception in 1968 providing programming for individuals from infancy into old age. The **"Family Support Services" Program** has existed since 1984 and is designed to assist individuals and families in the Buffalo River Community that are struggling to recover from financial crises and face daily challenges as a result of poverty. Recent studies in areas of concentrated poverty show higher rates of chronic disease, lower rates of graduation, and lower quality of life as a result of limited access and resources. The population of the Buffalo River Community has a high rate of extreme poverty and among them are high rates of disability and individuals with limited transportation. The Family Support Services Program is dedicated to fostering independence and creating greater self-sufficiency and stability through community access to information and education, encouraging healthy behaviors through nutrition education and the provision of healthy foods, promoting employment through resume writing and job search services, and facilitating enrollment in services and supports offered through the City and County, such as Food Stamps, WIC, and HEAP. Services include screenings, individual case management with the Program Director, food pantry and nutrition education, and employment assistance.

**The Buffalo Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO)**, which runs under the auspices of the **Western New York Law Center (Law Center)**, is a joint effort between the Law Center, private bar, courts, and community organizations. CLARO is the only legal clinic in Western New York that offers consumer-related legal assistance and financial counseling services. This includes legal advice, drafting of legal documents, reviewing credit reports, bankruptcy advice, and initiating credit report disputes. Since CLARO's inception in 2012, 4,254 households with 1,942 young children in Erie County were directly affected by limited-scope legal advice and representation. As a result -- \$992,710 has been placed back in the hands of some of the poorest families in Buffalo, allowing them to secure and maintain their assets. However, CLARO services do not end with free legal assistance. The program also assists visitors in reestablishing their financial foundation. 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. Funds from the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County would help provide much needed follow-up services, and would take CLARO beyond the initial program model envisioned when it was first established. With a more holistic approach of expanded follow-up, CLARO will be better equipped to identify and facilitate appropriate financial coaching and credit repair services to best serve the community.

**WEDI's Focused Learning for Youth (FLY) Afterschool Program** was designed in 2007 to meet the specific needs of refugee English language learning (ELL) and students with interrupted formal education (SIFE) in grades 7th-8th, with a primary focus on those living on West Side of Buffalo. Five days a week after school, in addition to a six week summer program, FLY provides refugee middle-schoolers with a safe, supportive, and impactful environment, cultivating student development and success. FLY is primarily focused on literacy and math, as these skills are foundational to grade-level development and school success. Staff and volunteer tutors help to facilitate one-on-one and small-group tutoring and homework help to provide students with individualized instruction that is necessary to meet their needs. The staff also follow a Project-Based Learning model to offer students additional opportunities to learn, while concurrently completing a project in an area in which the students are interested. Once a week, the students participate in Girls and Boys Club, during which they focus on life skills and topics such as nutrition, gender-equality, self-awareness, and healthy relationships. Students also participate in book clubs and various other student-interest clubs such as Art, Science, Computers, and Music. Our school-year program runs Monday through Friday, 2:30pm-5:30pm, from October to June. As an extension of our after-school programming, each summer we offer a 6-week Summer Enrichment Program to continue the positive momentum, impact, and support to our at-risk refugee students by providing a safe, caring, educational, and recreational experience.

**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, veterans, unemployed individuals, 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.

**Education Nurture Encouragement Readiness and Growth for Youth (ENERGY)** is a program of **Westminster Economic Development Initiative, Inc. (WEDI)** that serves youth from refugee and immigrant families on Buffalo's West Side. ENERGY has existed since 1997. This is the only program in Western New York focusing on English language learners (ELL) and students with interrupted formal education (SIFE) in grades 1-6 during the school year. Because students come from low-income families, there is no fee to attend ENERGY. ELL students often struggle socially and academically in the school setting. Refugee children, often categorized as SIFE, may have experienced trauma before resettlement, leading to mental health issues and behavioral and cognitive difficulties (Hooper et. al., 2016). The ENERGY program creates a caring environment where students gain cultural awareness and self-confidence through improving their English language skills. ELLs gain social skills through the nutritious meal that ENERGY offers each program day, specifically because mealtime provides an opportunity for intentional conversations, relationship building, and social interactions. ENERGY's committed, trained volunteers, ages 15-85, closely monitor the students and provide direct instruction in literacy, reading, and other academic guidance. ENERGY's volunteer-student ratio of 1:1 throughout the school year reflects volunteers' significant commitment. Enrichment activities offer new experiences and build vocabulary, while introducing students to cultural variances within and outside the program.

The **Willie Hutch Jones Educational and Sports Programs** organization is on a mission to provide every child, at no cost, equal opportunities to engage in the highest quality program and to offer character building activities through academics, sports, and the arts. Programming is offered year round, as after school academic, arts and cultural activities and summer sports camps. We are seeking financial support for our Summer Sports Camps. The Summer Sports Clinics are designed to encourage an active lifestyle for improved youth health outcomes. The instruction is in the form of sports training in basketball, volleyball, dance, crew/rowing, swimming, tennis, soccer and football. The population served is low income youth whose families cannot afford traditional youth development programs. Youth ages 7 - 17 are recruited, and approximately 45% of our students are under 8 years old. After school programming includes Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Activities, including science club, computer class, math homework assistance and science fair project preparation. In addition, the after school program, which operates at Enterprise Charter School offers chess, creative movement, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and steel drum music instruction. Approximately 50% of the organization's resources and programs are geared to improving educational outcomes through quality after school enrichment. The other 50% of the organization resources are targeted to sports instruction, which helps the young people to enjoy, appreciate and practice an active lifestyle, which is an essential component of wellness.

**WNY United Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Inc.** - The **Leaders in Training Summer Program (LIT)** is an intensive, five week, academic enhancement and social skills development program for 7th grade students from high-risk, Buffalo Public partner schools. Targeting 100 total students, the goals of the program are to improve student academic performance and knowledge of social-emotional learning skills through a variety of activities including ELA enrichment, Math enrichment, life skills and career training, team and diversity training, and gender-specific social skills development. Program outcomes

include the delivery of high quality academic and social development programming, academic improvements, and social emotional growth.

After many years of internal study, **WNY United** adapted the foundational basis of 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 were hindering MAS success. 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 re-imagined MAS 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 enhanced version of MAS is now functioning at a stronger capacity than it ever has, demonstrating statistically significant improvements across the majority of targeted behavioral areas. In addition, not only does MAS now help define the referral processes in the building itself, but it is also able to demonstrate statistical improvements in actual observable behavior and help students avoid more intensive treatment options.

**MOMs: From Education to Employment** 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 goal of the MOMs: From Education to Employment 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. The MOMs: From Education to Employment program started in fall 2013 at Niagara County Community College (NCCC) and will be expanded to Erie Community College (ECC) in fall 2016. At NCCC, program outcomes have far exceeded initial expectations. Before the start of the program, NCCC estimated that there were 400 single mothers enrolled at the college. ECC's initial estimate is 1000 single mothers. The NCCC MOMs: From Education to Employment Program has operated at full capacity since its inception serving 100-120 students per semester, approximately 25% of the eligible student population.

**Young Audiences of Western New York's (Young Audiences) Early Learning Arts Integration Programming** is designed to support early learning and development for children grades pre-K - 3 (ages four to eight 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, inadequate housing, health issues and instability at home. These challenges often present as increased behavioral problems, difficulties with self-regulation, communication issues and peer-interactions in both early childhood and later, in classroom settings, ultimately, creating barriers to adult success. Arts-based, appropriate programs have positive impacts. Both the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development (2002) report arts participation in early childhood benefits social skills development and may uniquely boost learning and achievement for young children and children from economically disadvantaged circumstances, including positive outcomes for special populations. Through arts-integrated programs, Young Audiences professional artists engage young children in music, dance, theatre, visual and literary arts. The 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.