

## PROPOSAL SECTION

### Brief Program/Project Summary and Scope of Work:

Please provide a brief sentence that summarizes the work to be funded by AECF including the overall purpose and goal, target populations, number of people served and geography served (if applicable).

This proposal is for planning and design of a National Results and Equity Collaborative (NREC) that aims to (1) accelerate positive results for vulnerable children throughout the country by creating a national network to align results-based TA, measures, effective strategies and solutions across multiple national and local initiatives; and, and in so doing, (2) promote consistency and greater impact in the use of results-based methodologies at the federal, state and local levels.

### Scope of Work:

This section should include the activities you will conduct to achieve your targeted outcomes. Scope of work items are required and will be included in the Letter of Agreement and reporting form. Each metric should be specific, include a statement and be listed in a separate bullet. For example:

During this planning and design phase, NREC's work will consist of five major activities.

1. Working with the founding partners and allies to refine the purpose, scope and short and long-term timeframes for the NREC. The partners – the Promise Neighborhoods Institute (PNI), the Results Leadership Group (RLG), United Way Worldwide, BCT Partners, the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, the Literacy Funders Network and CSSP (both as part of PNI and as a TA provider for Choice Neighborhoods and the Department of Justice's Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) – have made initial decisions about purpose and future directions. With Casey's support, these organizations will further determine what needs to and can be done to bring the resources of multiple initiatives together in order to turn the curve on results for children and families. The product of this work will be an NREC plan of action for the next 3-5 years.
2. Solidifying relationships with a small number of local jurisdictions that will be partners in bringing the work of multiple initiatives together at the local level. As the national partners coordinate TA resources and tools, it will be important to have local and community leaders who are committed to using those tools and taking the further steps to integrate results frameworks, effective strategies, measurement and accountability techniques and use of data tools in order to (a) accelerate their local progress and (b) demonstrate the advantage this more integrated approach. NREC has already established these relationships with six jurisdictions. During the planning phase, we will further clarify the opportunities and expectations for these partnerships. The product of this work will be specific commitments by 3-6 local sites for coordination of a common results-based approach across multiple initiatives and identification of the supports available to the local sites from the foundation partners.
3. Outline the development of joint tools and products, to demonstrate the power of consolidated action around results-based approaches. This will create resources for communities throughout

the country that are working across disciplines and sectors to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children and youth. The tools and resources being considered include the following: (note: development of all of these resources will not be possible during the planning/design period, but they are listed here to provide a sense of the direction in which NREC is heading):

- A common results and indicators framework that communities can use throughout the country, adding their unique additional indicators and language;
  - A framework to build community capacity and share TA across initiatives, nationally and locally;
  - A methodology to share tools and materials that support strategy development and an ever increasing knowledge base; and
  - A business and knowledge dissemination model that both encourages broad use of shared indicators and other tools and that sustains the work over time.
4. Secure additional project funding to support the growth and spread of this work throughout the country, including:
- Identifying, engaging and requesting funding from 3-5 additional funders to implement plans and broadly share methodologies and frameworks created in this first planning phase; and
  - Securing 1-3 years of operating funding from diverse sources (foundation, corporate, government, etc.).
5. Work with AECF to identify the role of Results-Based Leadership (RBL) development as part of this further integration of results-based methodologies and approaches. RBS has been an important part of several of the initiatives that will be working together through NREC and can be an even more powerful force in accelerating progress toward results. As AECF leadership thinks through its next steps with RBL, it will be useful to identify and act on ways that the NREC can help advance those goals.

#### Performance Measures:

Performance measures quantify the effort and effect of AECF's investments. Specifically, each metric should demonstrate what/how much was done as part of this grant and what difference it will have on the population impacted. Performance measures are required and will be included in the Letter of Agreement and reporting form. Each measure should be specific, include a statement and be bulleted.

The NREC will track its progress carefully through a series of performance measures related to the Impact, Influence and Leverage of the work. Performance measures will include:

#### **For Impact:**

- # of partner communities with at least one curve turning. *(We will track this as a performance measure because it is the real point of this work. However, in this planning year, we realize that NREC will have only an indirect effect on partner communities' turning of curves. Over time, though, this will be a major measure of NREC's success.)*
- # of partner communities with at least one well thought out Turn the Curve Play
- # of tools created by the national organizations, working together through NREC (i.e. tools with NREC's curated library, national TA coordination agreements, templates of measures for communities to use, etc.)

**For Influence:**

- # of additional national organizations and/or initiatives that sign on as partners
- # of communities that have formally agreed to use the NREC approach and tools
- # of partners making at least one presentation to their national network

**For Leverage:**

- Additional funds secured for continued work at a national level
- Additional funds used at local level to implement NREC ideas
- Under Results Based Accountability, performance measures are characterized as **Impact, Influence, or Leverage**. **Impact** is the effect that strategies have on the well-being of children, families and the community. **Influence** targets changes in practices and policies in systems to reach significantly greater numbers of the population. **Leverage** measures new or expanded financial investments made for one or more strategies. For more information, please contact your AECF Program contact.

Project Start Date: January 1, 2014

Project End Date: December 31, 2014

Amount Requested: \$150,000

This should equal the amount requested from AECF that is listed in the detailed project budget. Please round up to the nearest dollar.

Total Project Budget: \$ 150,000

This should equal the total project amount that is listed in the completed, detailed project budget. Please round up to the nearest dollar.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Targeted Geography Served – City, State (only): National

Primary Population Served:

- ✓ Low income, low wealth
- ✓ Low income, low wealth in areas of concentrated poverty
- ✓ Low income, low wealth with additional barriers
- ✓ Disrupted families

- ✓ Families at high risk of disruption
- ✓ All populations

Secondary Population Served:

- ✓ Low income, low wealth
- ✓ Low income, low wealth in areas of concentrated poverty
- ✓ Low income, low wealth with additional barriers
- ✓ Disrupted families
- ✓ Families at high risk of disruption
- ✓ All populations

The proposed work will benefit low-income, low-wealth families and children, and the neighborhoods they live in, through the combined and more integrated work of initiatives serving these families and communities. The founding and future partners in NREC are diverse national organizations, but they are all focused on targeting their resources and actions to benefit the most vulnerable children and families across the United States. All founding partners' local work prioritizes children, parents/families who live in the neighborhoods where the greatest number of children often lack the benefits of consistent early health care and early care and education; are often not reading on grade level by third grade; drop out in middle or high school (research shows that the percentage of young children not healthy and ready for school stays constant and is typically the same percentage of students who disengage in the middle grades and drop out of high school); and too often are not able to go on to college or other post-secondary preparation for a career. In the community initiatives that will work together – such as Promise Neighborhoods, Choice Neighborhoods, United Way's community efforts, the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Community Schools and/or local literacy coalitions – populations served are often transient and include high numbers of single parent families, low wage earning or unemployed families, immigrants and refugees who are English language learners and often are undereducated and families of color. The neighborhoods they live in are often unsafe and lack many of the resources needed for children's success and family strength – from access to healthy food or high quality early childhood programs to libraries, health resources and safe and stable housing.

In addition to benefitting vulnerable children and families in the communities reached by the founding partners, we believe the NREC approach, tools and partnerships will, in the longer term, benefit much larger populations of vulnerable families, as NREC allows many more communities, community leaders, policy makers, funders, volunteers, government officials and other stakeholders to become part of an aligned and disciplined approach to: use data to drive strategy and investment; document the costs, benefits and results of community change efforts; teach community leaders to facilitate effective results-or-outcomes focused strategic action; and ultimately, establish an effective infrastructure for accomplishing true collective impact. This approach of aligning language, metrics, strategies and leadership will lead to increased community capacity to effectively eliminate the obstacles to the healthy development and successful learning and life trajectory of our nation's most vulnerable children.

