

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
AND
CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCEMENT

INNOVATIVE
COLLABORATIONS
FOR
EFFECTIVE
ORGANIZING

Community-based organizations use many effective strategies and tools to fight for social change and meet the needs of their constituents. However, organizations are often under-staffed and over-extended. Partnering with resource allies can provide community groups with valuable technical expertise to expand their capacity and deepen their impact. Resource organizations benefit too: they are most effective when developing close, ongoing partnerships with grassroots community organizations and taking the lead from these community-based partners. By developing action-oriented tools and services in collaboration with grassroots community organizations, resource allies can bolster the organizing and leadership development work of community partners; help draw media attention to critical issues; provide concrete educational tools to conduct outreach to community members; create advocacy tools to educate elected and public officials and help organizations to achieve concrete outcomes.

In June 2013, The Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center, Hester Street Collaborative and Center for Urban Pedagogy will host a day-long conference, *Partnering for Impact: Innovative Collaborations for Effective Organizing*, to share tools and best practices for innovative collaborations between resource groups and grassroots community organizations. The conference, to be held in New York City, will include panel discussions and hands-on workshops, and conclude with a reception and exhibition of example projects.

The exhibit will highlight the work of innovative collaborations for funders, community members, conference attendees and others. The organizations that are selected to display their projects will be provided with a \$100 stipend as well as technical and design assistance to create a poster that they will display at the exhibition. The posters will include images and descriptions of the collaboration, and will be compiled into a booklet, which will be distributed online and in hard copy to those that attend the exhibit, as well as funders, media, community groups and resource organizations.

This Request for Proposals is seeking submissions for examples of innovative grassroots partnerships. Innovative partnerships are those that:

- Bring skills or resources that are normally not used by and available to community organizations;
- Put those skills or resources to work to advance specific organizing goals defined by the community partner;
- Increase the capacity of the community partner to achieve their goals;
- Lead to work that could not have been produced solely by the resource ally or the community partner.

Examples of innovative resources include, but are not limited to, participatory action research, data collection, evaluation; graphic, architectural, or community design services; community planning; or mapping projects.

The selection committee will prioritize those submissions where the partners include a grassroots organization and a resource organization. In addition, the committee will prioritize those projects that advance a specific set of organizing or advocacy goals.

To submit a proposal, please answer the following questions:

Name of Lead Organization (coalitions are welcome to apply but a lead organization should still be listed):

Name of Partner Organization(s):

Project Contact

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Where the lead organization is based:

(Please limit your response to each question to 250 words or fewer)

1. Please explain the collaborative project. What was produced? Who was involved in designing and executing the project?
2. What was innovative about the collaboration?
3. In what ways was the collaboration participatory? Did it involve community members? If so, how?
4. What added value did the partnership create? Was the organization/coalition able to produce more through the partnership than on its own? If so, please explain.
5. What resources were put into this project? (this can include funding, in-kind resources, staff time, volunteer time, etc.)
6. How have you used these tools in your organizing, movement building or advocacy work?
7. What were biggest challenges in completing the collaborative project?

The Selection Process:

A committee consisting of community organizations, resource organizations, and funders will convene to select the winning ideas based on four criteria:

1. Innovation
2. Connection to the community
3. Support of organizing, movement building and advocacy
4. Collaborative nature of project

How to Submit:

Please submit your answers to the questions above in the form of a single PDF document not to exceed 3 MB. Your proposal should be submitted via email to **Ben Palmquist** at **bpalmquist@urbanjustice.org**. Proposals are due on **Monday, February 25th at 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time**.

Please include in the PDF documentation of any final products you created through this partnership as well as any images you think represent the collaboration.

if you have questions about the *Partnering for Impact* conference or RFP, please contact **Ben Palmquist** at **bpalmquist@urbanjustice.org** or (347) 450-9220.

This conference and exhibit are being produced with generous support from the Surdna Foundation.