

## **Request for Statements of Interest for Capacity Building Incubator**

Overview: The Osborne Association will be awarding annual grants of \$20,000 per year for three years to three local organizations in the West Harlem area (a total of \$60,000 per organization) that are working to build up the local community. Grantees will also receive monthly training and technical assistance to support their growth and organizational development. The topics of these training will include contracting, budgeting, data systems, and performance management. This funding is part of the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative (CJII). The Manhattan District Attorney's Office established CJII in 2015 to invest funds in impactful projects that will improve public safety and promote a fair and efficient criminal justice system.

Purpose: The purpose of this request is to provide information and a timeline to select the organizations to participate in the capacity-building incubator. Recipients will receive the grants of \$20,000 per year for three years and training and technical assistance for their organizational development.

### Timeline:

- Capacity-Building Incubator Request for Statements of Interest Release: Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Capacity-Building Incubator Briefing: Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 2:00pm on zoom. RSVP to [tryer@osborneny.org](mailto:tryer@osborneny.org) by Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to receive the link for the meeting
- **Deadline to submit Statement of Interest: Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 no later than 5:00PM EST**
- Notification of applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal will be notified in late November 2020
- Round Two: Full Proposal Application Deadline: 5:00pm EST on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Interviews for finalist: Anticipated Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Announcement of Capacity-Building Incubator Awards: January 2021

Goal: The goal of this capacity-building incubator is to strengthen the capacity of organizations in West Harlem that contribute to building the resources of the local community, specifically in the areas of Manhattanville Houses, Grant Houses, and Manhattan Avenue.

Inquiries: To ensure a timely and appropriate response to all inquiries, please send questions about the capacity building incubator to [tryer@osborneny.org](mailto:tryer@osborneny.org) by November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **Background**

In June 2014, Manhattan District Attorney's Office and NYPD conducted a significant law enforcement intervention that resulted in the arrest of 103 people. The intervention was focused on

the Manhattanville and Grant Houses and surrounding area, Manhattan Ave from 110<sup>th</sup> Street to 124<sup>th</sup> Street, which had been experiencing high rates of violence. The majority of individuals charged in this indictment were sentenced to jail or prison or placed on probation because of their participation in violence. Those indicted ranged in age from 15-37, with the average age being 20 years old. Manhattan District Attorney's initiative under CJII has awarded \$3 million to The Osborne Association as leading contractor in partnership with the Tayshana Chicken Murphy Foundation (TCMF) and the Living Redemption Youth Opportunity Hub (LRYOH). The majority of these funds will be used to provide direct services in the community such as restorative justice and credible messenger services. The restorative justice approach is led by TCMF and the LRYOH, who will use a variety of restorative approaches for the individuals and families living in this community. The credible messenger services offered by TCMF and LRYOH provide individualized and group reentry support to the individuals returning home. Additionally, Osborne will also be administering the capacity-building incubator for local community organizations.

### **CJII Background:**

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. established the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative (CJII) in 2015 to invest \$250 million seized in international financial crime prosecutions to strengthen and support communities in New York City. Guided by the principle of prevention as a cornerstone of a 21st century crime-fighting strategy, CJII invests in efforts that cut across systems to increase public safety and promote a fair and efficient justice system.

## **Application Process**

### **Eligible Organizations**

- The Capacity Building Incubator invites non-profit or for profit entities to submit an application. Organizations that should apply are groups that provide services to support the West Harlem community. Formal organizational status is not required. As part of the technical assistance process, we can provide assistance in formalizing 501c3 status or other recognized organizational status.
- Organizations must be doing work to support the local West Harlem community. Some examples include organizations that provide employment to formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, social service providers, educational supports, housing

providers, wellness services, trauma informed services, mentoring programs, or violence interrupters. Eligible organizations are not limited to these categories. Any organization or company that can describe how their work contributes to the community is welcome and encouraged to apply.

- Organizations with an annual budget under \$500,000 are eligible to apply, and preference will be given to smaller organizations.

### **Statement of Interest**

**Any organization interested in applying must first submit a statement of interest by Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to Thomas Ryer (tryer@osborneny.org).** The Statement of Interest or voice/video recording should briefly answer the following questions. The submission should be no more than 2-4 pages, or, if submitting a recording, a video or voice recording of no more than ten (10) minutes.

Here are the questions to answer in your interest statement (in order of priority):

- 1) Tell us about your connection to the West Harlem community. Do your staff or volunteers live in West Harlem? Do you have a physical location in West Harlem? Do you have existing clients in West Harlem or ongoing activities in that community? Do you have a particular connection to the Grant Houses, Manhattanville Houses, and/or Manhattan Avenue neighborhoods?
- 2) What would you use the grant funds for? How does your idea for this grant build up the West Harlem community by increasing healing, wellness, resources, or safety?
- 3) Tell us about how your experience or background will enable you to successfully follow-through on your project idea. For instance, is this project scaling up work that you are already doing, or have done in the past?
- 4) Tell us about your organization. What is your mission and goal? What is the size of your total agency budget this year?

### **Capacity-Building Incubator Briefing**

All applicants are encouraged to attend an optional briefing as an opportunity to discuss the opportunity and address questions from potential applicants on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 2:00 pm on zoom. RSVP to [tryer@osborneny.org](mailto:tryer@osborneny.org) by Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to receive the link for the meeting.

**Deadline to submit Statement of Interest: Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** In addition to the capacity-building incubator briefing, we welcome your direct contact with any questions you may have about the criteria, guidelines, or application process for the Capacity Building Incubator.

### **Round Two Proposal Format**

If invited to apply (following the receipt of the statement of interest), organizations will be contacted with guidance on what is requested in the full proposal.

### **Technical Assistance for the Round Two Proposals**

Applicants who are selected to submit a full proposal based on their statements of interest will all be offered technical assistance in completing the proposal. Technical assistance is offered in order to ensure that organizations who have limited or no experience submitting proposals can have the resources needed to apply for this funding. **Technical assistance will be offered free of charge for up to four hours.** This assistance can include brainstorming project details, drafting the initial proposal, or editing drafts of the proposal. Technical assistance is optional, and applicants may choose to decline it.

### **Reporting requirements**

The reporting requirements and deadlines will be stated in the Statements of Agreement between the grantees and the Osborne Association after the awards are issued.