

Application Instructions and Framework

I. LMB Background

Local Management Boards (Boards) were established in the 1990s as part of a State/local collaboration committed to improving the well-being of Maryland's children, youth, and families. The Boards were created to promote improved, coordinated local decision-making that focuses on results and accountability. The premise was, and continues to be, that health, education, economic, and social outcomes are more likely to be improved if decisions about programs and strategies are made by local jurisdictions with the funding, support, guidelines, and accountability managed by the State. The jurisdictions, through their Boards, bring the knowledge of local needs, resources, and strengths. The Boards bring together public and private agencies, local government, faith-based and civic organizations, families, youth, and community members to develop, implement, and review a community plan. The plan includes strategies to improve outcomes for one or more of the State's Child Well-being Results¹:

- Babies Born Healthy
- Healthy Children
- Children Enter School Ready to Learn
- Children are Successful in School
- Youth will Complete School
- Youth Have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness
- Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families
- Families are Safe and Economically Stable

II. Community Background

Allegany and Garrett Counties are the two most western jurisdictions in Maryland. Located in Central Appalachia both communities are mountainous and rural and share similar demographics and a regional economy with surrounding areas in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Allegany County has a population of 75,000 and Garrett 30,000. Relative to the country and Maryland, the population is aging and has a lower median household income, \$37,952 and \$45,340 respectively.

There are 3,525 children under age of 5 in Allegany and 1,462 in Garrett. The child poverty rate in Allegany is 25% and 23% in Garrett. The child poverty rate grew in Allegany over the past three years. Geographically disparate and economically struggling, poverty rates for families exceed 20% (11% nationwide), educational attainment is low with more than 40% of residents only possessing a high school diploma (28% nationwide), and unemployment rates consistently exceed the state and national level by more than a whole percentage point.

The regional decline of the natural resource and manufacturing based economies has drastically reduced the availability of "good paying," livable wage jobs providing benefits that can permit individuals and families to thrive. Multi-generational poverty is still common. Lower wage jobs

¹ For more information on the Results and Indicators, please see the Local Management Board Policies and Procedures Manual (July 1, 2015) available at: <http://goc.maryland.gov/lmb/>

create a cast of “working poor” residents commonly working 2 to 3 jobs to make ends meet. This strains community and family social orders.

Children who grow up in poverty suffer more persistent, frequent, and severe health problems. Many infants born into poverty have a low birth weight, which is associated with many preventable mental and physical disabilities. Not only are these poor infants more likely to be irritable or sickly, they are also more likely to die before their first birthday. Children raised in poverty tend to miss school more often because of illness. Children in poverty also experience higher rate of accidents. They are twice as likely to have impaired vision and hearing, iron deficiency anemia, and higher than normal levels of lead in their blood, which can impair brain function.

Levels of stress in the family have also been shown to correlate with economic circumstances. Studies during economic recessions indicate that job loss and subsequent poverty are associated with violence in families, including child and elder abuse. Besides financial uncertainty, families in poverty are more likely to be exposed to negative events and “bad luck,” including illness, depression, eviction, job loss, criminal victimization, and family death. Families and individuals lacking the economic means, the educational level, and/or job skills level are not able to relocate to pursue other opportunities. Those remaining often need and can benefit from access to greater educational attainment and career coach/ladder services.

Organizations working to help individuals in poverty struggle to find the financial resources to address individual’s needs, as most human service funding is program or need specific. Most often, people in poverty, have multiple needs that are interconnected. Addressing needs in programmatic silo format may alleviate an impending crisis, but it doesn’t address the root causes of poverty nor provide the support individuals need to achieve a level of economic security and thrive. In the end, a getting by versus getting ahead situation is created-- one of dependency.

To address these challenges, Allegany and Garrett Counties have adopted a vision for a Two Generation approach to services includes working along three channels: macro- economic (good paying jobs available in the community); community capacity building (partners are critically impacting the community); and families and individuals (because people want to succeed but sometimes need a helping hand). Core Services are provided to the children, families and parents in an integrated manner. Children receive an individualized educational experience including health services. Family Economic Success Services for the parents include financial education and coaching, budget and financial counseling, asset building and career advance. Integrated support services such as childcare, transportation, housing and energy assistance bundled in a way to support the family as they move to economic independence. The integrating mechanism for the core services is the families Pathway Plan. Goals and action steps outline the families plan and collecting child and family outcomes and interpreting the data are key to identifying what programs and supports are most needed and continuous quality improvement.

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The Local Management Boards of Allegany and Garrett Counties have identified a need for technical assistance for community capacity building around a two generation approach to services. Specifically, funding is requested to hire a consultant to provide training and follow-up coaching to LMB vendors and community stakeholders in Allegany and Garrett Counties on using Data to Guide and Improve Child and Family Outcomes.

This training has been identified as a need in both counties as organizations regularly track data but readily admit that do not always have staff with the knowledge and capacity to analyze and interpret the data. Effective data management plays an important role in improving the performance of an organization and the outcomes for children and families it serves. Collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and acting on data for specific performance measures allows organizations to identify where systems are falling short, to make corrective adjustments, and to track outcomes.

II. Application Requirements

A. Eligible Applicants

Non-profit, governmental organizations, or private consultants that provide services in Allegany County, Maryland and can meet the scope of services and required timeline are eligible to apply for these funds.

In partnership with families, youth, public agencies, and private providers in its jurisdiction, each non-profit or governmental organization is invited to review the criteria described in this Notice of Funding Availability and to apply for funding on behalf of those programs that best meet its jurisdiction’s needs, and can best utilize the available resources.

The Local Management Board of Allegany and Garrett County shall ensure that selection of proposed programs is based on both the documented needs of children and families within the community and the ability to identify partners to provide the services for which funding is sought.

B. Availability of Funds

The total base funding available for this Notice is \$15,000 for FY18.

Available Funds
\$15,000

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Timeline:

Timeline	Activity
July 2017	LMB Leadership from Allegany and Garrett County meet to develop an RFP for a consultant.
August 7, 2017	LMB Releases RFP for consultant
August 21, 2017	Proposals due to LMB
August 28, 2017	LMB selects a consultant after reviewing proposals and meeting with perspective consultants
September 2017	Venue for training selected; Invitations for training distributed
October 2017	Initial Training
November, December 2017 and January 2018	Monthly coaching calls with LMB vendors and community stakeholders
February 2018	Follow-up Training
March, April, May, June 2018	Monthly coaching calls with LMB vendors and community stakeholders

C. Issuing Office

The point of contact for the Local Management Board of Allegany County for the purposes of this Notice of Funding Availability is the Issuing Office contact below:

Courtney A. Thomas
125 Virginia Avenue
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-777-5970
cthomas@alleganyhrdc.org

E. Questions and Inquiries

Questions and inquiries from potential applicants will be accepted via email to Courtney Thomas at cthomas@alleganyhrdc.org from Monday, August 7th through 5pm Friday, August 18, 2017. All proposals should be sent electronically to cthomas@alleganyhrdc.org by 5pm on Monday, August 21, 2017.

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Questions submitted that are deemed by the Issuing Office to be substantive, will be answered in writing by the Issuing Office and distributed to all organizations requesting information through their officially-designated points of contact.

H. Application Submission

Plan

This section shall describe the planning process that the Consultant/Organization would use to complete the required action steps.

Background/Experience

This section should highlight the organization or consultant's familiarity with 2 Generation approaches to services and their experience providing **training and follow-up coaching to vendors and community stakeholders on using Data to Guide and Improve Child and Family Outcomes.**

Overall Budget Summary

The applicant shall submit a line item budget outlining how funds under this NOFA will be spent.

Proposals should not exceed three pages and must be submitted electronically by 5pm on Monday, August 21, 2017 to cthomas@alleganyhrdc.org

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