

ROCHESTER-MONROE ANTI-POVERTY INITIATIVE

Goal

The Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) is an unprecedented community-wide effort to reduce poverty in the Rochester and Monroe County region by 50 percent over the next 15 years.

About RMAPI

RMAPI is a community-informed strategy developed to coordinate and align resources, policies and practices in an effort to reduce poverty in the Rochester and Monroe County region.

This community-wide initiative is a result of collaboration from local leaders, local and state government, service providers, the faith community, volunteers and people impacted by poverty.

2017 IMPLEMENTATION

ADULT MENTORING

Adult mentoring roll-out to sustain livable wage employment:

Connect local adults with mentors to help them set career goals, find a job, and overcome personal barriers that may be holding them back from getting or keeping employment.

- Start with 25 families to pilot initial efforts
- Enroll 300 families in the program by 2nd Quarter

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Develop early childhood implementation team strategy: Identify needs of the families connected to the adults/parents receiving mentoring services. Begin planning for coordination, integration and implementation to address these needs by early 2017.

SYSTEMS CHANGE AND INTEGRATION

Begin systems change and integration work: Identify shared goals, values and resources for sustainable, long-term solutions with our current disparate human services systems. Align and coordinate community-wide efforts to ensure a “no wrong door” person-centered approach to helping people in need.

POLICY

Advance policy impact statement: Work with NYS to confirm all projects that apply for funding address the poverty impact statement to support programs that are collaboratively working toward common goals of poverty reduction.

Guiding Principles: Mobilizing our Community to Achieve Self-Sufficiency

Hundreds of people from across the community developed a set of shared values that will serve as the foundation of our work to reduce poverty. To reach our goals, we must all understand and embrace these shared values:

Build and support our community: Help to rebuild struggling neighborhoods with quality support services, for example businesses, healthcare, childcare and strong community schools, to make them safe, healthy and livable.

Address structural racism: End the activities and actions that continue racial inequality in public policies, institutional practices and other cultural norms.

Address trauma: Help to heal people and neighborhoods that are suffering from repeated experiences with trauma; provide support and services that are sensitive to traumatic experiences like abuse, addiction and violence.

Collaborative Community Partners

City of Rochester
Connected Communities
Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS)
Pathways to Prosperity
ROC the Future

A YEAR IN REVIEW:

Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative Accomplishments to Date

(2016 EOY)

Poverty Impact Statement

RMAPI, in conjunction with the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council (FLREDC) crafted and applied a Poverty Impact Statement to be completed by all applicants seeking state funding to define how their proposed project aligned with the community's goals around poverty reduction.

Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI)

NYS has committed \$2.75 million to support RMAPI's transition from planning to implementation. These funds will be coordinated by RMAPI and targeted towards the work of System Integration, in concert with the implementation of pilot projects around Adult Mentoring and Early Childhood Supports.

Grant awards

RMAPI has been awarded or has served as the coordinator for state and private grants to support activities, recommendations and initiatives related to poverty reduction in our community, including:

- \$250,000 to support adult mentoring and home visitation services
- \$370,000 grant to move the RMAPI process to a collective impact model
- \$4 million for the Strengthening Working Families Initiative (supporting role)
- \$8 million for the Health Professional Opportunity Grant (HRSA) (supporting role)

Community Advisory Council

RMAPI established the first county-wide council with representation from residents in the target neighborhoods, people impacted by poverty in neighborhoods and towns to ensure that program implementation and RMAPI's strategic direction is responsive to those most impacted by our local poverty challenges.

Local economic development promises 100+ jobs for people living in poverty

RMAPI is working with the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to hire people who are impacted by poverty.

City of Rochester puts RMAPI workgroup recommendations into effect.

- **City and RTS Vanpool partnership:** RMAPI Transportation workgroup recommendation to provide better access to the area's public transportation.
- **Market-driven community co-op:** RMAPI Jobs & Workforce Development workgroup recommendation to support local businesses and increase available jobs.

Funding alignment

Community grant makers and funders have adopted RMAPI guiding principles for funding applications and for future grant considerations.

Personal and small business investments from financial institutions

Local banks are making investments in the RMAPI pilot neighborhoods by incentivizing small businesses, supporting financial literacy and helping those without established bank relationships gain access to personal accounts, credit support and mortgage grants.

500+ people have adopted the RMAPI principles

The community is collectively addressing how to combat structural racism, acknowledge trauma and make it possible to build stronger neighborhoods and communities.