

Rochester Area Nonprofit Consortium
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2018

1. Q: What is the Consortium and when did it begin?

A: In early 2017, a work group of the Greater Rochester Nonprofit Partners (GRNPP) began exploring the concept of developing shared services to increase operational efficiency. They hosted a forum and a few subsequent meetings. As GRNPP stopped convening in 2017, the work group members developed the Consortium to continue this exploration.

2. Q: What is the Executive Committee and how was it formed?

A: The Executive Committee stemmed from the GRNPP work group mentioned above. The five organizations represented on the work group jointly applied for and received Bremer Foundation funding to further explore developing shared services by funding a Strategist's time. They did this with the recognition that in order to move the work forward, they needed additional staff time. Upon hiring the Strategist, the original representatives assessed their membership and invited three additional organizations of varying sizes and services to round out the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee serves as the convener and guiding body of the Consortium. Members include: *Zumbro Valley Health Center, Families First, IMAA, Channel One Regional Food Bank, NAMI SE MN, Family Service Rochester, Ability Building Center, and the Diversity Council.*

3. Q: What geography does the Consortium include?

A: At this time, the Consortium will support organizations with locations in Olmsted County, Minnesota. Research indicates it is important to have a clearly defined geographic focus that is not too broad. Additional conversations with community organizations will inform the exact geographic coverage.

4. Q: What is the proposed timeline for making progress?

A: The Executive Committee and Strategist created a timeline (subject to adjustment) as follows:

- May – July 2018 (review of national models)
- August – September 2018 (community assessment, presentation of findings, and prioritization)
- October – December 2018 (action plan development)
- January 2019 (action plan review)
- February 2019 and beyond (action plan implementation)

5. Q: How many operational functions will become priorities? Have any been selected yet?

A: No decisions will be made about which operational functions will be priorities until a broad cross-section of interested organizations have weighed in. The Executive Committee anticipates prioritizing 2 to 3 functions as a starting point for the action plan development through the current Bremer grant. They plan to apply for additional funding to cover staff time towards ongoing work. Note that because of the substantial resources and time required to develop a shared space, some early work is occurring to identify options.

6. Q: What size organizations can benefit from getting involved in the Consortium?

A: It is the intent of the Consortium that nonprofit organizations of all sizes - whether one employee or 1,000 - can benefit from this work. The Executive Committee recognizes that not all priorities will

appeal to all organizations. The Executive Committee is looking closely at models in other communities that allow organizations to get involved where it makes sense and works for them.

7. Q: How can interested nonprofits get involved?

A: There are numerous ways to get involved! From surveys and strategy sessions to action groups, we invite you to contribute your expertise and perspective. More information is forthcoming.

- Mid-August: Community Survey
- Late August: Small Group Strategy Sessions
- Mid- to Late September: Large Community Forum
- October – December: Priority-specific Action Groups
- January 2019: Large Community Forum

8. Q: Who is the contact person for the Consortium?

A: Brooke Carlson (President of North Sky Health Consulting) is the Consortium's Strategist. Contact Brooke at brooke@northskyhealth.com or 612.387.1183.