Reinventing Our Communities
Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative
September 22, 2017
Poverty in Rochester, NY

2015 Community Report

- 10th poorest U.S. city in top 75
- 2nd highest poverty rate among mid-size cities in America
- More than 50% of our children live in poverty
- Highest % of people living below half of federal poverty level
New York State Taskforce Announcement

MARCH 5, 2015 | Albany, NY

Governor Cuomo Announces Rochester Anti-Poverty Task Force Holds First Meeting

Opportunity Agenda
Anti-poverty initiative leader named

Leonard Brock, who grew up in one of the neighborhoods that forms Rochester’s crescent of poverty and went on to earn a doctorate in education in executive leadership, was announced Tuesday as the director of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative.

Additionally, the initiative also named 150 members of six work groups. Each group has at least five members who are working poor, the first aspect of poverty that the initiative will address. Roughly 300 people applied to serve on the groups.
Rochester Community Workgroups

Workgroups’ focus

- Education
- Health & Nutrition
- Housing
- Jobs
- Justice System
- Safe Neighborhoods
- Childcare
- Transportation

Workgroups were charged with identifying assets and barriers that currently exist in the community, developing recommendations for their specific area of focus, and establishing key success measures.
IBM Smarter Cities Challenge Award

The challenge

“...if we are going to have peace in Rochester, we must have justice... and the scales of justice must balance. We must do that by eliminating the greatest injustice of all — poverty.”

— Mayor Warren

Rochester, USA
Smarter Cities Challenge report

IBM.
RMAPI Report to the Community

A Roadmap for Change

- Local poverty data
- Process and planning
- Guiding principles
- Recommendations and priorities
Rochester Region Gets $500 Million in Upstate Revitalization

Economic development awards ceremony
December 10, 2015
Albany, NY

• Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle
• New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo
• University of Rochester President Joel Seligman

Photo: AP
Community Input – Town Hall Sessions
# Guiding Principles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>COMMUNITY BUILDING</strong></th>
<th><strong>STRUCTURAL RACISM</strong></th>
<th><strong>TRAUMA</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A common theme expressed by people impacted by poverty is the desire to continue residing in their current neighborhoods, on the condition that the neighborhoods meet their needs with enhanced supports to improve the vitality of the communities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural racism can be defined as a system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity. The ongoing effects of structural racism and bias continue as a major barrier for people of color as they attempt to break free of poverty.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies confirm that ongoing and continuous stress arising from threats to well-being negatively affects cognitive function; in some cases this can result in barriers to performance, developmental progress and goal achievement. For people of color who are living in poverty, structural racism and trauma compound one another, and the impact is exponential.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IBM Smarter Cities Recommendations

Unified eligibility criteria
Preventative and proactive actions
Neighborhood healing
Incentives
Social-engagement program
Leverage data
Data hub
Governance
Communications plan
Alignment of services
Outcome-based metrics
Coordinate services
Elevate community
Urban Village
Neighborhood leadership
Single view of the person
Gov. Cuomo Announces Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI)

January 7, 2016
Albany, NY

Photo: AP
Rochester Selected for Invest Health Grant

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016

50 Cities Selected for Invest Health

Philadelphia, May 17, 2016 — Reinvestment Fund and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) today announced $3 million in awards across 50 mid-size cities in 31 states for Invest Health, an initiative aimed at transforming how city leaders work together to help low-income communities thrive, with specific attention to community features that drive health such as access to safe and affordable housing, places to play and exercise, and quality jobs.

More than 180 teams from 170 communities applied for grants of $60,000 each, which were available to cities with populations between 50,000 and 400,000. Applicants were required to form five-member teams including representatives from the public sector, community development, and an anchor institution, preferably academic or health-related. Selected teams also include members from public school districts, community organizations, and local philanthropies.
RMAPI Guiding Principles Report

Putting Principles Into Practice

- Create dialogue
- Give examples
- Share experiences
- Provide tools for changing behaviors and building capacity
Establishing an adult mentor/navigator role across the systems of support that helps working poor individuals to overcome barriers and acquire the resources, knowledge and skills necessary to attain and retain a living wage job and break the cycle of poverty.
Early Childhood Support

Ensuring early childhood support that provides both high-quality, affordable, accessible and flexible childcare that parents need to engage in community, economic mobility, and wellness-related activities, and in-home parent training proven to give new parents the skills to succeed as their children’s first teachers.
Systems Design & Collective Impact

SYSTEMS DESIGN

Designing a comprehensive, integrated system of social supports, in coordination with the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge planning effort.
Poverty Impact Statement

Aligning with FLREDC Funding Priorities

Projects applying for State funds will be given extra consideration and may be eligible for additional grant incentives if they take measures that meet certain anti-poverty goals.

Questionnaire examples:

- How project will impact poverty
- How many low-income individuals will be hired or benefit
- How will project address the barriers low-income individuals face to initial or continuous employment
- How does proposal address/recognize structural racism and trauma
- How does the proposal help create opportunities for growth and career advancement for poverty-impacted populations
Brewery expansion with poverty impact

Expansion plans 128 new jobs for Rochester; half promised to people living in poverty.
Community Advisory Council

Community Engagement

- 25 members
- Connecting dots between key stakeholders
- Contributing to decisions and actions
- Includes citizens from across the region, including people impacted by poverty in the pilot neighborhoods