Making Collaboration Work: Customized Implementation Support

Presented on Behalf of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading in Partnership with Community Wealth Partners
The Campaign is committed to providing access to technical assistance that meets your needs.

- *Making Collaboration Work* is the result of a year long development process listening to communities about their needs.

- Communities requested customized, expert guidance to build stronger local coalitions of stakeholders committed to working together towards their coalition’s goals.

- *Making Collaboration Work* is being offered first to the Pacesetter and 2012 All-American City Award Finalists, who are poised for population-level change.

- The Campaign and Annie E. Casey Foundation are underwriting the majority of costs for this program.
The NCSC functions as a hub, broker and accelerator that supports communities in producing results.

Network Communities Support Center (NCSC)

“Hub” by serving as the curator of communities of practice and as the navigator for the distribution channel

“Broker” by offering communities access to tools, experts and information needed to develop the capacities (leadership, resources and skills) to execute their plans.

“Accelerator” by finding and creating catalytic events, awards and other opportunities designed to increase the scope and pace of change.

2016 Results
Who is Community Wealth Partners?

At Community Wealth Partners our goal is to support change agents like you to solve social problems at the magnitude they exist.

- Proven track record of working with leaders and communities small and large to ensure that coalitions move beyond good intentions to dramatic results.

- Experience with strategy and implementation support for coalitions trying to achieve a bold goal in education, employment, health, and housing.
Who has Community Wealth Partners worked with in the past?
The program is designed to strengthen the overall functioning of your coalition.
The program has been designed to achieve two overarching outcomes.

1. To support a cohort of leaders in building their capacity to accelerate progress towards community solutions for school readiness, chronic absence, and summer learning loss not only locally, but across the national GLR network.

2. To create a trusted peer cohort that deepens learning and collaboration.

Each year, the program will serve a new subset of the GLR network, growing the network’s capacity and peer learning exchange in order to move the needle on GLR outcomes nationally.
What is the focus of the program?

FOCUS

GLR communities will focus on highest priority capacity needs within the following two areas:

CAPACITY AREAS OF FOCUS

• Collaborative Structure & Accountability
• Stakeholder Engagement

Collaborative Structure & Accountability and Stakeholder Engagement are the core foundation for success of any collaborative initiative. The program will focus on strengthening this foundation to accelerate your community’s progress in developing solutions for school readiness, chronic absence, and summer learning loss.
Why should your GLR community invest in the program?

The program is designed to:

- Meet your community where you are now (100% customized), enabling you to self-direct the focus of the support
- Provide a confidential, thought partner
- Focus on implementation in order to help you accelerate results
- Provide access to proven and customizable tools to accelerate decision-making and progress
- Remain flexible to your schedule (no set meeting calendar)
What is involved with the program?

Community Wealth Partners works with a cohort of GLR Communities to build capacity in selected areas through:

- Customized Thought Partnership
- Exclusive Peer Learning Opportunities
- Research Support
What are the expected program components?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Customized Thought Partnership</td>
<td><em><em>Six, customized 2-hour</em> individual phone sessions</em>*</td>
<td>With support from a dedicated thought partner, your community will take steps to strengthen your coalition to be better positioned to make decisions related to campaign management, coalition building, and implementation of community-level solutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Learning</td>
<td><strong>Three, 2-hour peer learning sessions</strong></td>
<td>Your community will become part of a close network of trusted peers, deepening your peer-to-peer learning and collaboration within the cohort.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Support</td>
<td><strong>18 hours of dedicated research time</strong></td>
<td>Your community will have access to data through targeted research needed to increase the effectiveness of decision-making and accelerate your community's progress.</td>
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* Communities have the option of having a higher number of shorter calls, or a fewer number of longer calls, if desired i.e., 12, 1-hour calls; 4, 3-hour calls

Note: Customized thought partnership and peer learning sessions will be led by a dedicated thought partner from Community Wealth Partners with experience helping leaders and communities facilitate change.
Examples of Dedicated Thought Partners

- **Amy Farley:** Core expertise in partnering with leaders to accelerate outcomes through employing stakeholder engagement and collaboration strategies, and taking action.

- **Idalia Fernandez:** Decades of executive experience in education with expertise in supporting leaders to make change with key stakeholders.

- **Alix Wilson:** Facilitated communities of diverse stakeholders to achieve greater measurable impact around grade-level reading initiatives.
What are examples of outcomes we may achieve in collaborative structure & accountability?

- Development and implementation of a collaborative structure that promotes *mutual accountability and decision-making*.

- Delineation of the *distinct roles and responsibilities* of stakeholders/stakeholder groups.

- Defined *strategy for collaboration* among stakeholders working on specific solution areas (school readiness, chronic absence, and summer learning loss).

- Development and implementation of a *clear action plan* for effective implementation against goals.
What are examples of outcomes we may achieve in stakeholder engagement?

- **Defined strategy for securing** *buy-in and participation and establishing trust* from the most critical stakeholders/stakeholder groups already engaged with and/or external to the campaign.

- **Alignment of the work** of our GLR community with related ongoing initiatives and collaborations (e.g., high school graduation initiatives, cradle-to-career continuums).

- **Coordination and connection of resources** of stakeholders/stakeholder groups that already exist (e.g., programs, technical assistance), including coordination to secure *collective funding*. 
Is the program right for our community?

You are encouraged to apply for the program if you want to strengthen your coalition internally:

- You’ve been meeting regularly as a GLR community, but have found it hard to translate conversation into action
- There is lack of clarity about your community’s decision-making structure
- Roles and responsibilities of community members are not clearly defined or collectively understood
- You feel like you don't have all the right people participating as needed in the campaign
Is the program right for our community?

You are encouraged to apply for the program if you want to learn from others:

- You are thirsty for hands-on thought partnership in the management of all of the stakeholders in your campaign
- You would benefit from a thought partner to think through how to build a stronger culture of accountability and trust within your community
- You desire to connect with your peers and learn from shared successes and struggles
- You would benefit from having a focused amount of discrete research support from Community Wealth Partners during the program to support decision-making around areas of collaborative management
The Campaign continues to invest heavily in GLR communities through the program.

Underwriting majority of program costs

GLR Communities will be asked to offset program costs = $9,300
What selection criteria will be used to evaluate participation?

Pacesetter and 2012 All-American City Award Finalists are invited to submit a statement of interest

Program Selection Criteria:

• Progress towards setting baseline performance measures
• Progress towards establishing a governance structure
• An ideal minimum of 3-5 separate organizational partners formally collaborating
• Commitment of a small number of community leaders to be program participants, each willing/able to dedicate 2-3 days per month to the program
• A commitment to achieving outcomes
• Willingness and ability to cover program-related fees

Note: these criteria are meant to be a guide and we encourage your community to apply if you feel you have made meaningful progress in a majority of these areas.
What is the selection process?

1. Statement of Interest
   - Your GLR community will complete and submit a written Statement of Interest to Community Wealth Partners
   - Due: April 4th

2. Fundraising (if necessary)
   - Commitments: April 4th
   - Payments due: May 1st
   - Payment plans: July 1st

3. Selection & Notification
   - GLR communities will be selected based on order of submission of the Statement of Interest & fit with the selection criteria
   - Selection & notification: April 25th
How can I find out more information?

- **Ron Fairchild**
  - Director, Network Communities Support Center
  - rfairchild@gradelevelreading.net

- **Lisa Kane**
  - Senior Consultant, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
  - lisadkane@gmail.com

- **Sara Brenner**
  - President, Community Wealth Partners
  - sbrenner@communitywealth.com

- **Alix Wilson**
  - Director, Community Wealth Partners
  - awilson@communitywealth.com
Appendix
Together with a dedicated Community Wealth Partners thought partner, your GLR community will define the highest priority objectives related to Collaborative Structure & Accountability and Stakeholder Engagement in the first customized session.

- Goals and objectives will be set to make meaningful progress in these areas within the 6-month duration of the program.

Through the customized thought partnership sessions, your GLR community will have regular access to timely, strategic guidance from your dedicated thought partner in order to build capacity in these areas.

The Community Wealth Partners thought partner will provide tools and resources needed to accelerate your progress against your objectives.
Peer learning session topics will be determined once customized sessions begin in order to address the most common and pressing challenges shared by the cohort of participating communities.

Your GLR community will be connected with other participating communities in specific, strategic ways around those challenges and issues through virtual webinars.

Your GLR community will benefit from exchanging campaign experiences and engaging participating communities in a dialogue throughout the program.
Structure of Research Support

- Your GLR community will have access to up to 18 hours of research and analysis support from a dedicated research associate from Community Wealth Partners to support primary or secondary research and analysis.