



Request for Expressions of Interest
To Become a Financial Opportunity Center

Issue Date: January 14, 2019

Submission Deadline: February 1, 2019

Request to: Community-Based Organizations (Non-Profit)

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A. INTRODUCTION

LISC Peoria is pleased to present this Request for Expression of Interests (REOI) to community-based organizations with experience in providing some level of employment assistance and/or financial assistance to low-to-moderate income families. The purpose of this REOI is to assess the interest of non-profit community organizations who are interested in joining LISC's Financial Opportunity Center network. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation ("LISC") plans to launch a Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) to serve the Peoria area. FOCs are community-based organizations which provide employment, financial, and income support services in a seamlessly integrated delivery. LISC is looking to partner with an organization to offer these three core services in a manner that "moves the needle" and makes a demonstrable difference for its participants. The FOC host organization is expected to be a dynamic forward thinking organization committed to increasing economic empowerment in distressed and under-resourced communities in the Peoria Area. LISC will provide funding and technical assistance support to the organization that demonstrates the capacity and commitment to effectively deliver FOC services using the integrated service delivery model to help participants achieve financial stability. Organizations are not required to currently offer all three services but must have some level of experience in providing employment services and/or financial assistance to low-to-moderate income families. In addition to offering employment assistance and/or financial assistance, the organization must be willing to try a new approach to offering services. LISC will help build the capacity of the right organization. Organizations interested in responding to this request are invited, on a non-binding basis, to express their interest.

Anticipated Schedule

Milestones	Date
Letter of Interests Due	February 1, 2019
Information Session	February 12, 2019
Organizational Readiness Assessments of Candidate Organizations	March 25, 2019
Publish Competitive RFP	May 17, 2019
RFP Deadline	June 21, 2019
Executed Planning Grant Agreement	September 1, 2019

B. ABOUT THE PROGRAM

FOCs are the LISC implementation of integrated service delivery approach that originated with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Centers for Working Families. In communities across the United States, Financial Opportunity Centers have proven to be effective tools for increasing economic empowerment in distressed and under-resourced communities. FOC sites use integrated service delivery, bundling employment assistance, financial coaching and access to public benefits (often) under one roof. The driver of this approach is the employment/workforce development services. This integrated service delivery strategy is rooted in the philosophy that families' immediate and long-term needs must be addressed simultaneously for maximum impact. Research shows that FOC clients are 50 percent more likely to land a well-paying job than people receiving employment services alone.

In the past ten years, LISC has expanded this approach to launch more than 90 FOCs across the country. LISC Peoria plans to launch a FOC in 2020 to meet the needs of Peoria, Illinois. LISC Peoria will engage a consultant to conduct organizational readiness assessments of candidate organizations it identifies, in order to determine the organization best suited to host its new FOC. The first award will support planning and implementation of the program.

C. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Organizations eligible to apply:

- Must have a 501 c (3) status
- Must provide some level of employment assistance and/or financial assistance
- The mission must align with advancing families economically

INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR REOI RESPONDENTS

Greater Peoria LISC will host an information session for REOI respondents on **February 12, 2019**, at Peoria Main Public Library at 3:00 pm. **Please RSVP by contacting Fred Stewart at fstewart@lisc.org by February 6, 2019.**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- Overview of Financial Opportunity Center model
- Organizational Assessment
- Planning grant for 3-6 months
- Multiple year funding
- Sustainability of Initiative
- Questions and Concerns

PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Include the following in your Expression of Interest:

1. Organization History (1 page maximum)

- Mission statement
- A brief history of the organization including years of operation
- Describe the organization's current programs and services

2. Statement of Interest and Experience (2 pages maximum)

- Why is the organization interested in becoming a Financial Opportunity Center?
- What is the organization's experience in providing employment and/or financial services?
- What outcomes does your organization currently track and how are the outcomes measured?

3. Vision (1 page maximum)

Explain how you envision implementing the Financial Opportunity Center initiative in your organization and its potential impact in the community.

4. Financials

- Share experience managing state and federal grant funding.
- Share how you envision using the funding to implement the FOC program.

5. Supporting Documents

1. Biographies of Key Personnel
2. List of Board of Directors
3. IRS Tax Status Determination Letter
4. Articles of Incorporation

Submission Deadline

Expression of Interest (EOI) and attachments must be submitted via email to PeoriaLISC@lisc.org by **Friday, February 1, 2019, at 5 pm**. Organizations may submit their responses prior to that deadline.

D. ABOUT LISC

LISC connects neighborhoods to the resources they need to become stronger and healthier. LISC is a national non-profit community development financial institution, that provides grants, loans, technical assistance, and other resources to partnering organizations to help build up low and moderate-income communities across the country. LISC is a national organization with a community focus. In collaboration with local community development groups, LISC staff helps identify priorities and challenges, delivering the most appropriate support to meet local needs.

LISC is dedicated to helping community residents transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunity — good places to work, do business and raise children.

E. Limitations

This REOI is an inquiry only and no contractual agreement will be entered into as a result of this process. By responding to this request or participating in this process no contractual agreement will be formed and no legal obligation between LISC and the respondents.

LISC is under no obligation as a result of this process and may decide to proceed or not proceed with the partnership based on responses to this REOI.

LISC reserves the right to alter this document, including any conditions and criteria outlined in the REOI which may include, but limited to, deadlines for submissions. LISC reserves the right to cancel this REOI process at any time. Any notifications regarding alterations or cancellations of this document will be posted on www.lisc.org/Peoria.

Respondents should advise LISC of any potential conflict of interest they may have.

LISC Financial Opportunity Center
Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)
INFORMATION FORM

Type in your information below and submit this form as your cover page with REOI submission to:
LISCPeoria@lisc.org

YOUR INFORMATION			
CONTACT NAME			
TITLE			
EMAIL ADDRESS			
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /CEO NAME			
ORGANIZATION			
STREET ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	
POSTAL CODE		TELEPHONE	
YEAR OBTAINED 501 (C) (3) STATUS		DUNS#	

APPLICATION CHECKLIST				
Include:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization History	<input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Interest and Experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Vision	<input type="checkbox"/> Financials	<input type="checkbox"/> [Other Information Relevant to the Program]
Supporting Documents:				
<input type="checkbox"/> For Organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biographies of Key Personnel • List of Board of Directors • IRS Determination Letter or IRS Form Application for Recognition of Exemption under 501 (c) 3 • Articles of Incorporation 				