

Dear Community Partners,

Subject: Strengthening Our Collective Impact – Invitation to Collaborate

As we navigate the complexities of health and social care in our communities, we are reminded daily of the power of collaboration. In the spirit of integration that has guided TogetherNow, an initiative powered by the United Way of Rochester and the Finger Lakes, we are excited to reach out to you with a proposal that reflects our shared commitment to a healthier Monroe County and Finger Lakes region.

Our Commitment to Collective Leadership:

TogetherNow is preparing to apply for the leadership role in the Social Care Network for Region 5: Finger Lakes, an initiative made possible through the New York State 1115 Waiver program. We embark on this journey with a deep appreciation for the diverse strengths and contributions of each community-based organization within our region.

Acknowledging the Landscape:

We recognize that the process to become the lead social care network is competitive, with multiple organizations considering or preparing applications. It is in this context that we wish to extend our hand, not in competition, but in partnership. Regardless of the various paths we may take in applying for this role, our stance remains unwavering: to unite our efforts to forge a better system for the individuals and families we serve.

Our respect for each organization's choice to explore diverse avenues for leadership or participation within the Social Care Network is absolute. **Whether you are part of another application, are considering joining forces with us, or both, we value the opportunity to collaborate and share insights that benefit our collective mission.** Simply put, the challenges we face are too vast, the needs too varied, for any single organization or entity to address alone.

A Unified Vision for Health and Social Care:

The essence of our proposal to you is not just about leading; it's about listening, sharing, and co-creating a network that reflects the comprehensive needs and strengths of our community. These values are inherent to the work that we have done together over the last seven years. We envision a Social Care Network that is built on the foundation of our shared vision, experiences, challenges, and triumphs in serving the most vulnerable Medicaid populations in our region.

Invitation to Connect:

We are convening a series of sessions designed to gather input, share strategies, and explore potential collaboration. These forums will serve as a platform for all voices to be heard and for collective wisdom to guide our way forward.

Meeting Details:

Our intent is to connect with partners across the region over the next two weeks – locations and a sign-up link will be live on our website (www.togethernowny.org) by the end of the day Friday, 3/1/2024.

3/7/2024 – 11-12:30pm

3/8/2024 – 10 -11:30am

3/8/2024 – 1- 2:30pm

3/13/2024 - 10 – 11:30am

3/14/2024 - 10 – 11:30am

In Closing – A United Path Forward:

United in purpose, we stand on the threshold of transforming our care system into one that is not only more efficient but also more inclusive, equitable and deeply compassionate.

We look forward to your partnership in this exciting venture and are eager to hear from you. For further discussions or to confirm your participation in the upcoming sessions, please reach out at contact@togethernowny.org.

Together, we can achieve a vision of health and social care that is truly by the community, for the community.

With appreciation and optimism for our shared future.

Sincerely,



**Laura Gustin
Executive Director
TogetherNow**



**Congressman Joseph D. Morelle
Board Chair
TogetherNow**