



# REALIZING POTENTIAL

OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



## Our Donors invest in education, health, housing stability, employment and family functioning

Our Donors believe in teaching and empowering people who have the ability and desire to learn and help themselves. Pursuing education, gaining meaningful employment, finding stable housing, improving mental and physical health and strengthening families are all steps on the journey toward economic self-sufficiency.

## Eligible Target Populations

- Our Donors define economic self-sufficiency as the point at which a youth or parent can consistently cover his or her basic costs of living without government subsidy or financial aid. Within the US, the benchmark for economic self-sufficiency is 300% of FPL or the approximate equivalent of 110% of average state-wide Median Household Income. In Canada, the benchmark is 200% of LICO or MBM for a given location. Under extraordinary circumstances, an applicant can articulate another relevant measure to verify the target population being served has yet to attain economic self-sufficiency.
  - Applicants should articulate the process by which income is verified.
  - Applicants should be able to verify at least 80% of those served have not yet attained economic self-sufficiency.
  - Savings and assets are encouraged. Populations only become ineligible when savings and assets exceed the equivalent of three months of income at the FPL/LICO thresholds noted above.
  - In special circumstances, when a higher income threshold is appropriate, or an alternate measure is being used, applicants should provide a clear rationale for doing so.

## Eligible Target Populations *(continued)*

- Children are 17 years or younger.
  - Youth are 18 to 30 years of age.
  - Parents are the person or persons actively caring for a child or children, which can include guardians, custodians, foster parents and others not related to the child.
  - Families are one or two parents or guardians with dependent children age 18 and younger; pregnant mothers; and, when family reunification is a focus, parents who have lost custody of their children.
  - Efforts designed to benefit a universal audience or target population other than listed here are not eligible for Donor support.
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## Donor Priority Areas

### Academic Success

Education has the power to unlock many doors. Our Donors believe a successful education begins with healthy development and the avoidance of toxic stress in early childhood. It includes school readiness, access to print materials and enrichment activities as well as social and emotional health, grade-level reading, attendance, core competencies, high school graduation and other strategies that drive to successful post-secondary education completion. Access to quality education and out-of-school learning opportunities are critical.

### Health

Overall wellness includes positive mental and physical health. Health includes dental health, sexual health and initiatives designed to change patterns of high-risk behaviours. It also includes the provision of psychological counselling and the treatment of addiction. Positive health promotion includes good nutrition and physical activity (sport, recreation, play and outdoor adventure). Subsidized access to enrichment opportunities that promote health is crucial in leveling the playing field for low-income children, youth and families. Our Donors believe good health is a vital part of everyone's path toward economic self-sufficiency.

### Stable Housing

People need housing to reach their full potential. Parents who are stably housed are more likely to be employed and better able to care for their children. Children who are stably housed are more likely to do well in school. Our Donors believe in a housing continuum, from prevention of homelessness to home ownership, and are interested in those programs that build the capacity of residents to maintain stability.

### Economic Security

Achieving economic self-sufficiency is not always easy. Youth and parents who seek employment may face many barriers. Our Donors believe every step on the ladder – from pre-employment programs to job skills training to credentials and placement to asset building – lead to a more successful future. When people have enough money to pay their bills (without government subsidy or support) and save for a brighter future, they have reached economic security.

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## Sample Outputs

- The organization will have increased its endowment, adding \$2.5 million in new investments to increase the number of camperships for economically disadvantaged youth it is able to provide by 100, from 50 to at least 150 in 2019 and in perpetuity.
- the organization will have created three new program training modules to encourage physical literacy among adolescents.
- The organization will have provided its program to 200 economically disadvantaged students.

## Sample Outcomes

- 200 families will be stably housed with 98% of those families paying rent in full and on-time every month.
- 180 of 200 economically disadvantaged students will have improved average attendance rates, missing only six days in the school year.
- 190 of 200 families will have remained stably housed for an additional 12 months, recording zero changes in residence or schools.