**O R P E H U M A N R I G H T S A D V O C A T E S**

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**To:**

**Re:**  Request for Support/Partnership

**Nature of the Project:** Growth Opportunities for Justice- involved youth adults, and veterans, and at-risk youth

Date:

The Orpe Human Rights Advocates was established in 2017 and incorporated in Maryland. Its original mission has focused on serving youth adults, homeless, veterans and other dislocated workers, as well as nontraditional minority adult students and under-employed workers looking for stable employment. It advocates for the causes of those who cannot assert their own fundamental rights. It provides a second chance of education and trainings and workforce experience. Within the scope of this proposal, we intend to prepare approximately 200 justice-involved youth adults, veterans, and other targeted population for employment and commit them in the path of becoming economically self-sufficient through education and training, paid work experiences, mentorship, and leadership development, and contributes to community violence intervention among young and youth adults. This project target youth adults of 16-28 of ages. The project will be implemented in partnership with the United States Institute of Leadership and Diplomacy (USILD) [see MOU] and will take place at OHRA Campus located at 6701 Baymeadow Drive, Suite B; Glen Burnie, MD 21060. This is a- 10,600 square feet cutting- edged facility with modern infrastructures, including a private dedicated optic fiber circuit that provide high performing bandwidths with secured and dedicated internet and data transmission. The facility houses 7 classrooms; 1 large auditorium of about 2,500 SF; 1 library of about 2000 skills building books and materials; 1 media room, 14 operating offices, 2 receptions rooms, 1 board meeting room, 1 large kitchen with large eating area that include eating tables and chairs; security check at the entrance; and 2 computer labs of 24 computers each; and 2 restrooms: women, and men.

This proposal **targets** the entire Baltimore and Anne Arundel regions. In the Baltimore and Anne Arundel regions, careers in Allied Health fields, IT, computer networking, administrative, executive and leadership skills are projected to grow 10% to 25% through 2025. OHRA seeks to meet these industry needs by engaging 200 pilot students throughout the first cycle of the program. This first cycle is expected to strengthen workers’ skills in the above stated fields. To that end, OHRA program, in collaboration with workforce partners, is enhancing the above stated programs of study to offer certificates for on-demand occupational industry, AAS degrees in computer networking, IT, executive and leadership and an AS degree in allied health with a nursing concentration. The project has bachelor and master levels certificates and degree component in the fields of executive and leadership, social and international studies. OHRA team is implementing these programs consisting of two main, integrated interventions: (1) student supports, which consist of an arrangement of career advising, completion coaching, case management, and other support options for students; and (2) training programs, including nursing, IT, computer networking, entrepreneurship, executive and leadership development curricula, which provide access to programs of study oriented to address the needs of youth adults and related targeted population. We have formed partnership Agreement with Baltimore Washington Medical Center of the University of Maryland (see MOU/Letter of Support). We have partner with the AA Health Department (AAHD). We also intend to submit a partnership request to the AA County Detention Center located at Ordinance Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060. This Center is located about 0.6 miles away from OHRA location where the educational and training programs will be administered. A MOU is also underway with the AA Police Department, and the Office of the Attorney General in Baltimore. Exist a MOU with Summit Ministry Center (SMC). SMC is a faith-based organization which deliver culturally competent outreach to individuals with a high-risk of committing violence. We’ve signed MOUs with employers who have accepted to provide targeted people with paid work experience, on-job-training, and pre-apprenticeship programs. Our goal is to foster a commitment that will provide targeted population acquire professional skills, vocational skills, academic credentials, executive and leadership skills, entrepreneurship skills and workforce experience so they may pursue or advance in an educational or career pathways. Project also has a goal fostering a commitment that provide pro-social friendships, strong interpersonal skills, identifies skill of self-efficacy, and reassert a sense of hope in their future.

Curriculums reserve psychological training components and are tailored to respond to the need of developing the skills in the areas of self-control, self-cognizance, self-efficacy, elevate consciousness and moral traits, intellectual and professional skills, executive and leadership skills that furthering change towards self-sufficiency. Project takes into consideration social factors and provides ongoing support in the following areas: housing counseling, personal financial planning, healthcare, referrals, legal aid services, transportation. We will be providing Wraparound service. Our case management staff will be working individually with our students to create goals and action plans to improve many facets of self-sufficiency, including increasing income and skills acquisition. The case managers will refer participants to organization partners that specialize in certain types of assistance or mentoring. Maryland has highest rate of youth adults’ crime and as such we are implementing this program to counter criminal behaviors in youths.

The project aims to reduce recidivism among youth ex-offenders, enhance the safety of communities, and enhance the capacity of local partnerships to address the needs of youth ex-offenders returning to their communities. 65% of program participants will come from a justice system or mandatory prevention partners with prior involvement in the criminal justice system or school expulsion. Up to 10% of participants will come from outside the targeted area. In compliance with the 38 U.S. U.S.C. 4215, this project provides priority of services to veterans and spouse of certain veterans for the receipt of employment, education and training, and employment services. The activities to be promoted throughout this project involve one-on-one mentoring sessions, group mentoring sessions, education and training, professional skills building, executive and leadership skills development, workshops on psychology of behavioral change, employment services and job placement, and referrals to needed social services such as housing, financial assistance. We intend to measure the progress of our programs by using an evidence-based model. We will be looking at the number of programs and the number of positive outcomes for our participants and mentees such as the number of program youths who exhibit an improvement in behavior, family relationships, reduced recidivism, substance use, rate of graduation, and rate of continued participation in the programs.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Moises,

Project Director.