Community1st Alliance

Strengthening Faith-Based Organization (FBO)
Capacity to Deliver

[INTRODUCTION]

Socio-economic factors also negatively impact an individuals' economic activity, including a lack of education, poverty, cultural and religious discrimination, overpopulation, unemployment, and corruption. Individuals and families across our country are struggling to make ends meet. Last year, about 40% of American families reported hardship in trying to meet at least one of their essential needs, such as paying for food, health care, housing, or utilities. The struggle is real for individuals living in historically underserved communities facing considerable challenges achieving successful life experiences. The impact of poverty and related conditions is known to have dire consequences on academic achievement, employment, nutrition and health outcomes, stable housing, exposure to crime and other environmental factors, all of which undermine one's quality of life.

Decades of research demonstrate the cyclical nature of poverty, where these lifelong barriers result in negative impacts passing on from one generation to the next. There are clear gaps in access to the opportunities necessary to survive for millions of Americans – let alone thrive – representing a massive pool of untapped potential and talent. Access and choice has a significant impact on the livability, sustainability, and prosperity of communities that make up our boroughs, parishes, towns, counties, and cities.

For the better part of the last fifty years, a major function of the nation's federal, state, and local governments – alongside numerous privately-funded entities – has been to assist individuals in overcoming these barriers. However, as the data reveals, existing government services and practices have not successfully moved the needle to produce meaningful and measurable outcomes.

Taking a closer look at many of the traditional interventions put in place years ago – most have not changed much over time. The existing approaches continue to rely heavily on service

agencies and community organizations that use program-centric models to establish eligibility and provide direct service delivery. These approaches fall short in impacting the needed behavioral change and scale to meet well-being and financial goals. They offer solutions that focus on individual gain and do little to narrow the persistent health and economic disparities by race, education, and geography that impact underserved and at-risk communities.

Historically, FBOs have been particularly prominent in providing food, clothing, and shelter to people in need. The importance of faith-based organizations in our communities must become a significant component of plans from now on. They have the energy, advocacy, experience, and commitment required to build and strengthen families and communities' cohesion. Faith-based organizations are viable organizations doing important work and are well-positioned to do even more.

The *"Community1st"* approach empowers FBOs to collectively work together across their local communities to identify and address the barriers and threats related to community resilience and sustainability.

[COMMUNITY 1st PROGRAM OVERVIEW]

FBOs represent the third largest component of the nonprofit sector in the U.S., after health and education. These organizations are too important to ignore, especially considering the sheer number of FBOs coupled with the reality that FBOs are among the most vital institutions in disadvantaged communities. We believe that FBOs must play a prominent role in the community-based response to the pandemic and other threats to community resilience and sustainability.

The *Community 1st Program* provides FBOs during and after COVID-19 with the capacity to empower their communities as they revive neighborhoods and strengthen community resilience to poverty and inequality, health-related emergencies, social exclusion, violence, and fragility. Ultimately, Community1st Program provides FBOs, regardless of size or location capacity, to: (1) connect community members and families in need to a network of community-based service providers or the *Community1st Alliance*; (2) through an innovative technology platform, scale FBO partner advocacy services to aid vulnerable individuals and families; and (3) workforce skilling to equip individuals with the skills needed to facilitate their empowerment, with self-advocacy being the ultimate goal.

[COMMUNITY 1st ALLIANCE]

The Community1st Alliance is a national network of members dedicated to solving the most significant socio-economic challenges facing at-risk and underserved communities in cities and counties across the United States. With more than 50 years combined using technology and innovation to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable populations across the United

States, the Community1st Alliance is committed to taking action now and meeting FBOs "where they are!"

The Community1st Alliance is uniquely positioned to partner with FBOs to redesign and advance a future-state for social service delivery in communities across the United States. Together we will empower communities through advanced technology and data to shape the behaviors needed to facilitate individual empowerment, with self-advocacy being the ultimate goal. A critical outcome is helping FBOs adhere to the mandatory industry-standard performance reporting requirements while ensuring accountable, transparent, and trusted services. Our goal is to provide FBOs with the administrative capacity and infrastructure to directly serve their communities and access current and proposed federal, state, and local resources.

[OUR MEMBERS]

Our commitment to our partner, FBOs' success, would not be possible without the contributions of our cadre of highly skilled professionals and subject matter experts that share a passion for the use of technology for social good. The Community1st Alliance comprises nationally recognized nonprofit organizations, companies, and subject matter experts that look like you! Together we will empower FBOs, through advanced technology solutions, capitalize on their longstanding and trusted position in at-risk and underserved communities and position them prominently the most critical element for improving cohesion of neighborhoods and the well-being of our communities.

LabLINQ is a comprehensive clinical laboratory dedicated to improving patient health and lives since 2004. Our mobile capabilities change the way that care is delivered. We connect you with innovative equipment, efficient workflows, and expert analysis for unprecedented turnaround. This delivery speed is critical to isolating COVID. In partnership with SRS Inc, we LINQ communities, employers, and healthcare providers with breakthrough microbiological detection products, processes, and services. Keeping people and organizations on track is what sets **LabLINQ** apart.

SRS Inc. From its inception, SRS has rapidly expanded into one of the pre-eminent Program Management, Facilities Support Services, Construction Management, and Disaster Recovery organizations in the United States that happens to be Minority-owned and managed. SRS will compliment, support, and increase your capacity. SRS began operations in November of 2001 by merging three previously distinct and diverse business backgrounds to forge a strong and versatile executive partnership. SRS's executive leadership has over 200 cumulative years of project management, disaster recovery services, construction, business management, and customer service experience. SRS has invested heavily in state of the art technology, equipment, people, and processes to become an industry leader in many facets.

Adsystech, Inc - is a privately-owned software development company founded in 1987. Today, Adsystech is proud of its 32 years of experience in engineering, deployment, and management of agile software development solutions. Our market-leading Enterprise Case Management (ECM) tool supports a wide range of capabilities required by cities and counties to deliver health and human services in a manner compliant with Federal, State, and Local funded Programs. These programs provide services to the homeless, supportive housing, youth development, workforce development, public health, mental health, seniors, and veterans' services. Each module is designed to help meet the challenges faced by government agencies, community, and faith-based organizations across the United States.

SmarTech Nexus Foundation - is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Baltimore, Maryland, founded to disrupt the traditional means of community engagement in cities and counties across the United States. We rethink service delivery using "SmarTech," data science, artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), geospatial information systems (GIS), robotics process automation (RPA), and broadband communications. We believe that untapped potential exists in our communities. Put merely, Individuals are not maximizing their abilities, businesses are not leveraging their full capacity, institutions are not coordinating service delivery, and communities are not thriving. Through innovation (IPs), STN is committed to empowering communities to drive improvements in critical infrastructure, logistics, and human services for the people that live and work in them. Ultimately, STN will strengthen communities by tapping into two of its most underutilized resources: (1) people with great potential but little knowledge about reaching it and (2) enhancing collaboration between faith-based and nonprofit organization IT-based tools to optimize a workflow of information. Our goal is to reduce the number of disconnected young people in underserved communities by 500,000 over five years. Central to our work is the support of a network of private-sector innovation partners, non-partisan affiliates, and advocates that provide the necessary infrastructure to support communities in their efforts to become environmentally sustainable and resilient to social, economic, and natural disasters.

Other Alliance Partners

HBCUs, Trade Associations, Community Development Organizations…