



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Mobility is seeking proposals from organizations interested in considering a rigorous (randomized controlled trial) evaluation of their program. Mobility will work with each selected organization to complete an analysis of its readiness for such an evaluation, including the factors that may support or hinder achieving impact, and provide recommendations on next steps. As part of the assessment process, Mobility will examine program data, review relevant evaluation literature, conduct staff interviews, and, to the extent feasible, make site visits. *Selected organizations will be asked to commit \$10,000 to the cost of the assessment, which will be matched 1:1 by Mobility.* Up to five organizations will be selected.

Nonprofit organizations are under increasing pressure to provide evidence of their effectiveness. Foundations, government agencies, and innovative financing strategies (such as Pay for Success) are all demanding that organizations focus on performance. While there are many ways of demonstrating effectiveness, the gold-standard is a randomized controlled trial evaluation, which randomly assigns eligible participants to either a program group or a control group and compares the outcomes of the two groups to determine the program's impact. Demonstrating impact in such a rigorous evaluation is difficult—most randomized controlled trial studies have shown little or no statistically significant impact.

Mobility has considerable experience identifying programs that are likely to achieve impact and structuring evaluations for the greatest likelihood of success. Indeed, the last five organizations that we recommended undertake randomized controlled trial evaluations (Per Scholas, JVS Boston, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, Year Up, and Project QUEST) have all shown large, statistically significant impacts. Mobility also helps leading practitioners—such as Year Up, Per Scholas, DC Central Kitchen, and the Center for Employment Opportunities—use data to improve their program performance. Mobility is a 501(c)(3) organization based in New York City and its staff has more than twenty years of experience providing technical assistance to and conducting evaluations of innovative programs, including over a decade of work at Public/Private Ventures prior to Mobility's 2007 launch.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant must be a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.
- Program to be evaluated must have been operating for at least three years.
- Program must serve at least 100 people annually.
- Applicant must be willing and able to share individual-level program data (with personal identifiers removed).
- The primary program goal must be improved earnings, post-secondary education, or asset- or credit-building.

## Application Requirements

### A. Narrative (must total no more than three pages):

1. Organizational description, including history, achievements, and leadership
2. Program overview, including detailed description of principal and secondary goals, strategies for achieving these goals, length of operation, description of participants (age, income, race, education level), and program intensity
3. Description of any prior evaluations of the program
4. Explanation of why this is a good time to consider a rigorous evaluation of this program
5. Program outcomes (last three years)

	Year 1 (most recently completed)	Year 2	Year 3
Number enrolled			
Number who completed program			
Primary goal (specify)			
Number who attained primary goal			

6. Current program year projected outcomes

	Current Year
Number who will enroll	
Number who will complete program	
Primary goal (specify)	
Number who will attain primary goal	

7. Description of what information is tracked about participants' characteristics, service receipt, and outcomes, and what software is used for client tracking (e.g., Excel, ETO, Salesforce)
8. Interest of any current or prospective funders in supporting an evaluation of the program

B. Attachments (not included in the three-page limit):

1. Any prior evaluation reports, if available
2. Current budget for both the organization and the program, including funding sources for each
3. A letter signed by the organization's president committing to the \$10,000 contribution, if organization is selected
4. A cover sheet with organization's name, address and key contacts, including email and telephone numbers

**Selection Process and Timeline**

The table below provides details on the selection process and timeline.

<b>Stage of application process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Prospective applicants submit proposals addressing the requirements listed above	By April 15, 2019
Mobility notifies applicants whether they are invited to take part in a phone interview with Mobility team members	By May 15, 2019
Mobility conducts phone interviews with selected finalists	May 16-31, 2019
Mobility notifies finalists whether they have been selected and works with each selected organization to schedule the assessment	June 2019

Mobility will work with each organization to develop a timetable for the assessment based on its needs and our capacity. We expect to complete all of the assessments within four to six months once organizations are selected. Mobility will enter a contract with each organization prior to beginning the assessment.

Please submit questions and proposals to [info@economicmobilitycorp.org](mailto:info@economicmobilitycorp.org). We will post responses to questions on our website as we receive them.