

Date: October 19, 2018

This year, the Ruth Mott Foundation (RMF) is excited to announce that we are partnering with community-based organizations and neighborhood groups serving north Flint residents to engage youth and young adults (ages 14 to 23 years old) in a youth development and youth leadership program that will provide opportunities to build their confidence and capacity to become active community leaders. RMF defines north Flint as the city limits on the west, north, and east, and Flushing Road/5th Avenue/Longway Boulevard corridor to the south. This collaborative effort will provide monthly group activities for young people to assist fellow residents of north Flint in amplifying community voice and shaping solutions to strengthen their neighborhoods.

In 2017, RMF engaged more than 100 north Flint youth through focus groups and a youth survey to gather information about what motivates them to participate in community change, the type of community change activities they like to engage in, and the barriers that prevent them from getting involved. We heard that young people need youth development and leadership supports, skills training, learn by doing projects to apply the skills they learn, and community collaboration to address specific community concerns/issues.

We are now accepting applications for membership on the north Flint Youth Initiative Group. RMF and north Flint community partners are looking for youth and young adults (ages 14 to 23), who live in north Flint, and are interested in becoming more involved in their community. Youth members will initiate and plan the direction of monthly meeting activities and have shared decision-making with adults to strengthen youth-adult partnerships in north Flint. The youth development process will prepare young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences designed to help them become more socially, morally, emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent. The Foundation will work with community partners to identify mentors from within the groups/agencies to provide youth with an opportunity to build a consistent, healthy relationship with adults whom they trust.

If you are interested in applying or know a young person that would like to build their confidence and capacity to become a leader in their community, please complete the 2018 Youth Initiative Application. If you have questions contact Tryphena Clarke, Community Engagement Officer at 810.396.3416 or tclarke@ruthmott.org.

Sincerely,

Tryphena Clarke

Tryphena Clarke

Community Engagement Officer