

## About NYEC

The National Youth Employment Coalition improves the lives of the nearly 5 million young people who are out of school and out of work. We do this by improving the effectiveness of the organizations, and the systems, that serve these "opportunity youth." We collect, study, and support the implementation of best practices, all with a strong equity focus.

1. NYEC keeps the field up to date on recent innovations in practice and the latest research on service models.
2. NYEC builds its members' capacity on two levels: professional development for youth workers and organizational development for agencies.
3. NYEC is a unique line of communication between practitioners and policymakers. NYEC regularly solicits the views of members on how policy affects their service to youth, conducts original analyses, and works with partners to advance policy solutions that move the youth-development field forward.
4. As an aggregator and curator of proven, emerging, and promising practices, NYEC promotes models supported by members and the research base.

## What is PEPNet?

PEPNet, the Promising and Effective Practices Network, is a system for enhancing the quality of programs that link young people to work and education to promote a successful transition to adulthood. By "young people," PEPNet means youth anywhere from ages 12-25. PEPNet is comprised of pieces that work together: the PEPNet Standards are the goals for programs to aim towards; the PEPNet Tools are resources and supports to help achieve these goals and the PEPNet People are the network of nationally-recognized programs and other professionals who share practical strategies, examples and lessons about successful efforts with youth.

PEPNet provides the most up-to-date information from research and the field about what works in youth programming; organizes that information into a practical framework and offers user-friendly tools to help programs implement quality practices, measure and document results and develop strategies for continuous improvement.

PEPNet is a project of the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC). The PEPNet system was developed in the mid-1990s by practitioners, researchers and policymakers to capture what was known to work in programs that linked youth to employment and education to promote successful transition to adulthood. After several years of nationwide implementation, a loss of funding and federal support led to a hiatus.

## **Consultant Qualifications**

We seek a consultant who will help us assess the current need and market opportunity for a contemporary and revised PEPNet 3.0, including outlining what resources and efforts might be needed to bring that to fruition, should that pathway be determined to be viable. The consultant will work with NYEC staff and a working group comprised of NYEC members, as well as practitioners beyond the NYEC community, so a consultant with knowledge of the youth or workforce development arenas is preferred.

## **Scope of Services**

NYEC's goals in this project are to determine 1) whether there's a compelling contemporary case for pursuing a PEPNet 3.0, 2) key decision points for such an effort (risks/opportunities), and 3) key variables that must be considered. Thus, we are looking for a consultant to:

- Conduct a landscape analysis of quality-standards efforts in the youth-employment space;
- Assess level of interest in the field for a revised PEPNet, including what would make the standards appealing or prioritized;
- Consider different revenue models for a revised PEPNet;
- Assess what level of effort is needed to bring PEPNet 3.0 to life;
- Compare what's needed in a PEPNet 3.0 with the original PEPNet; and
- Looking at the broader human services field, compare a PEPNet 3.0 with contemporary quality-standards efforts.

Potential activities for this project include:

- Develop a work plan and timeline (including roles, tasks, deliverables, deadlines, meetings, and decision-making and approval processes)
- Conduct a SWOT analyses for NYEC with regard to pursuing PEPNet 3.0: if viable, is NYEC the right entity to bring it to life in 2018-2019? What conditions are required for it to be successful? Are they realistically attainable?
- Conduct a key stakeholder analysis (staff, board members, grantee-partners, institutional and individual donors, peer organizations, etc.) and identify their needs and level of interest in something like PEPNet3.0
- Develop an overall budget for a potential PEPNet3.0

## Requirements

NYEC is inviting interested consultants or firms to prepare a brief proposal outlining your capabilities to undertake the following work over the next three months (roughly October through December).

Please provide:

- Resume or curriculum vitae of relevant experience;
- Letter of interest;
- Given our terms of reference, provide a proposal, work-plan or timeline, and budget for the project; and
- References of organizations with which you have conducted comparable consultancy projects.

## Timeline

Please submit proposals to [Kristal.romero@nyec.org](mailto:Kristal.romero@nyec.org) by December 31, 2017.