



WHAT IS THE RWU COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS CENTER?

The Roger Williams University (RWU) Community Partnerships Center (CPC) provides project-based assistance to nonprofit organizations and government agencies in communities in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. Our mission is to undertake and complete projects that will benefit the local community while providing RWU students with experience in real-world projects that deepen their academic experiences.

CPC projects draw upon students and faculty from RWU programs in areas such as:

- Accounting
- Architecture
- Business
- Communication
- Community Development
- Construction Management
- Digital Media
- Education
- Engineering
- Environmental science and sustainability
- Finance
- Graphic Design
- History & American Studies
- Historic preservation
- Justice studies
- Law
- Management
- Marketing
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Public Relations
- Urban Design
- Visual Arts
- Web Development
- Writing Studies

The Center has completed projects ranging from; market research and planning, historical research, mill redevelopment feasibility studies, urban policy analysis, design projects for affordable housing and education facilities, community business district revitalization, neighborhood revitalization plans, museum exhibit design, historic building rehabilitation studies, social services research, website and graphic design, environmental sustainability planning, and survey development.

CPC project services are performed by students in support of their educational experience. Applicants shall understand that any deliverables generated through an accepted project are intended to provide conceptual information only to assist in design and planning and as such are not intended, nor should they be used for, construction or other project implementation. Professional and/or other services may be needed to ultimately implement a sponsor's desired goals.

HOW CAN YOUR ORGANIZATION PARTNER WITH THE RWU CPC?

As we prepare for upcoming semesters, we are seeking new projects that can benefit local communities while providing our student/faculty teams with opportunities to apply their learning, engage the community, and create final products that provide benefits to all.

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis and held for consideration until scheduled CPC Review Committee meetings - generally held in early May and early October. Projects may be considered for upcoming spring, summer and fall academic semesters.

Every effort will be made to process applications that are received in a timely manner prior to the next CPC Review Committee Meeting. Please note it may take between 90-120 days to decide on applications following the initial CPC Review Committee meeting. This time allows us to find the best fit for project requests within courses, programs, and leadership organizations at the University.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Arnold Robinson
Phone: (401) 254-3307
arobinson@rwu.edu

RWU Community Partnerships Center
Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI 02809-2921 | Website: <http://cpc.rwu.edu>



Application for CPC Project Assistance

Instructions: We encourage non-profit organizations and municipal agencies to contact the CPC with ideas for projects that can benefit the community while providing meaningful service-learning for RWU students. Please fill out the Application for Project Assistance, answering all applicable questions and including all supporting documents.

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis and held for consideration until scheduled CPC Review Committee meetings - generally held in early May and early October. Projects may be considered for upcoming spring, summer and fall academic semesters.

Email: arobinson@rwu.edu
Fax: (401) 254-3307
Mail: RWU Community Partnerships Center
Roger Williams University
One Old Ferry Road
Bristol, RI 02809-2921

Any questions regarding the application process can be directed to Arnold at (401) 254-3307.

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SECTION 1: Organization Information

Name of Organization: Beat the Streets Providence

Mailing Address: PO Box: 2464, Providence RI, 02906

Name of Project Contact Person(s): William Watterson

Contact Information:

Phone: 917-903-3949 Fax:

E-mail: beatthestreetspvd@gmail.com

Type of Organization

- Public (town, city, municipality, special district, government agency)
- Private (citizen, non-profit)
- Other (please explain)

Description of Organization and Mission:

Beat the Streets Providence is committed to starting scholastic wrestling teams in order to inspire at-risk youth and provide them with the support they need to succeed in school and in life.

Providence is struggling with inequity and underperforming schools. At the same time schools sports have been cut from Providence Middle Schools due to budget cuts. School sports are a proven and cost effective means to combat the very problems which plague Providence public schools. Beat the Streets Providence seeks to solve this problem by starting interscholastic wrestling teams in partnership with the city and community. We use co-educational wrestling to engage

struggling students in the after-school, connect them to strong mentors, provide academic support, and with a reason and incentives to attend school. Through high quality outcomes we believe we can be the catalyst to bring all sports back to Providence schools and in doing so help ensure every Providence student can find their pathway to success. Our vision is to bring school sports to every school in RI. This begins by having a Beat the Streets wrestling team in every school in Providence where sport has fallen victim to budget cuts. By funding and providing a high quality school sports program with high quality measurement we will be able to prove that for a relatively small investment school sports can have a powerful impact on the urban school system. Our goal is to use this evidence and our model to catalyze the return of school sports to all RI schools. These programs will be a crucial part of a larger RI community that leaves no one without access to the opportunities to realize their potential, both inside and outside the classroom. Currently Beat the Streets runs programs in five Providence schools where we have reached 200+ students and improved attendance, health, and social emotional outcomes. Next year we will be in 10 schools and reach 500 students.

On average, how many individuals does your organization serve per year? 500

DSD

How did you hear about the CPC? Social Enterprise Greenhouse

SECTION 2: Project Description

Title of the Project: Academic Programming Evaluation

Project Location (Address, City, State, and Zip):

Nathanael Greene Middle School,
721 Chalkstone Ave
Providence RI

General Project Description (*you may attach a longer narrative if necessary*):

A key part of our program is the academic support we provide to our students. Providence schools are struggling with academic performance. Our program is in the unique position where we are able to draw some of our schools most at-risk students and engage them in academic programming as a requirement of being on the wrestling team. We spend forty-five minutes before every wrestling practice engaging in homework help with volunteers. In it of itself this is having an impact because ~50% of Providence Middle School students do 30 minutes or less of homework in a week. However, at the same time we want to ensure that this is academic programming is not only working, but that it is the best use of this time period.

We would like to recruit Roger Williams education students to observe and evaluate our current academic programming. Based on their analysis of what we are already doing we would expect them either to develop and improved curriculum or training to enhance our current programming or recommend a new use of our academic programming period. Their evaluation and recommendations should be based in education pedagogy, best practices, and research to ensure that our academic programming is the cutting edge programming that our students need and deserve.

Potential Scope of Work/Tasks for RWU CPC¹ (*you may attach a longer narrative if necessary*):

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Current Academic Program Observation and Evaluation:

Students will begin by observing and evaluating our current program. Before students even visit the schools they will be expected to develop their own evaluation materials and criteria to determine the effectiveness of our programming so that when they do enter the school they will be able to make both qualitative and quantitative judgements on our academic program. Based on this observation and evaluation students will develop a rigorous report on the impacts and failures of our current program.

Academic Program Plan:

Based on their evaluation of our programming students will develop a new academic programming plan. This report will either recommend improvements to the current programming (curriculum additions, volunteer training, improved evaluation system, etc.) or replacement of the current academic program with a new model. These recommendations should both be based in established best practices and thorough research. Further, these recommendations should have a clear implementation plan that is efficient and possible with our resources, staff, and the rest of our program.

New Program Evaluation:

In the final part of the semester students will again evaluate the success of academic programming, but this time with the improved or new program model implemented.

What will be the final product output for this project? (*survey, website, design plans, drawings, etc.*)

Current Program Evaluation:

This report will be based in qualitative and quantitative data showing how our current academic program is succeeding and where it is weak. This report will be based both on research, observation, and qualitative/quantitative data taken from our students. This report will, thus, enable us to see the impact of our current program.

New Program Implementation Plan and Research Brief:

This report will be an actionable plan for how to improve our academic programming. It will include specific recommendations, down to the fine details of program implementation, as well as the research and rationale behind these recommendations. This plan will include curriculum, professional development, pedagogy, and impact evaluation.

New Program Evaluation:

Students will observe and evaluate, based on the same metrics developed earlier in the semester, the success of the new program model that is implemented. They will write a report showing the effects that this program has on students and what if any are its weaknesses and areas for improvement.

Proposed Project Schedule (when the tasks/project needs to be completed):

Program Observation: Start of semester

As soon as school returns to session our winter program will also be taking off. We would want students to begin program observation immediately.

Program Evaluation: March 1st

Program observation will continue until the end of the Beat the Streets winter session on March 1st. At that point students will be expected to provide an evaluation of the current program.

Program Implementation Plan and Research Brief: April 10th

By completing this report by April 10th we will be able to pilot immediately in our spring program.

New Program Model Evaluation: April 20th – May 20th

Please provide the names and contact information for any staff members or volunteers who will be playing a primary role in the proposed CPC project.

William Watterson, Executive Director

Phone: 917-903-3949

Email: beatthestreetspvd@gmail.com

Ed German, Program Director

Phone: 401-499-8607

Email: mredgerman@yahoo.com

Silas Murray, Head Coach of Nathanael Greene Middle School
Phone: 401-355-3272
Email: Sw.murray@hotmail.com

What resources/previous work would the CPC be building upon that you already have completed? (Please select all items that are applicable)

- Strategic Plan
- Marketing & Communication Plans
- Additional organizational documents
- Preliminary photos of the site/project
- Maps
- Previous research
- Survey results
- Architectural or building plans

What active support would your organization be able to contribute should your project be selected?

- Funding
- Volunteers
- Staff time
- Consultants
- Other (please list)

SECTION 3: Project Outcomes

Please describe how this project will benefit your organization and the advancement of your mission:

We are an education program first and a sports program second. For Beat the Streets wrestling is only the hook to improve students' chance of success in the classroom and in life. Academic success is integral to that success and to turning around the statistics in Providence schools.

This is a key part of our mission: "to start scholastic wrestling teams in order to inspire at-risk youth and provide them with the support they need to succeed in the **classroom** and in life."

This project will ensure that we are providing our students with the best academic support possible. We only have forty-five minutes every day to work with our students academically. If we are to hope that those forty five minutes will translate into success in the classroom we need to make sure we are using them as effectively as possible. We hope our partnership with Roger Williams will enable us to determine whether or not we are doing this. If it can it will advance our mission in a powerful way. Even if we are already running the best type of academic program for our organization and students this audit of that program will provide us with the academic backing to prove that it works and also enable us to refine this model so it has the biggest impact on our students. If it does not we will have the research and plan we need to implement a stronger academic model that will have a greater impact on our students success in the classroom.

Please describe how this project might benefit the overall community, including specific groups that could benefit from this project (i.e. target populations, neighborhoods, specific town/city/region).

Providence schools are struggling with underachievement. The statistics tell a sad story of inequity and underperformance and in a state with the third highest opportunity gap all compare poorly to the state as a whole:

- 35% of Students Chronically Absent
- 15% Drop Out Rate
- 71% Graduating in Four Years
- 34% Average NECAP Proficiency
- 8300 Incidents of Suspension
- 80% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch
- 20% of students ESL

At the same time over the past decade sports have been cut from Providence Middle School budgets and diminished at the high-school level. As a result, only 22% of RI students are engaged in after-school programs. This small percentage

of students has been proven to see the greatest gains in school while for the most part the rest, approximately 50% of Providence students, will leave school and be unsupervised from 3-6 pm. The loss of sports represents an important missed opportunity to reengage failing students in school. Research has proven that student athletes are more likely to attend school, feel more connected to school, report higher grades, experience better overall health, and are more likely to graduate and attend college.

This program would directly impact the academic success of 500 of the most at-risk Providence Middle School students. We target students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch, chronically absent, demonstrating at-risk behaviors, and performing poorly in their classes. Turning around the success of those 500 students in the classroom would have a powerful impact on the Providence community.

Please explain why you have chosen to seek assistance from the RWU CPC with your project request, instead of undertaking the project using fee-for-services from a paid professional:

We are a start-up non-profit in only our third year and are doubling the size of program in the coming school year. As a result, the majority of our funding goes directly to providing services for our students. Investing large amounts of funds in program redesign would detract from what we can provide to our students in the short term. Further, it is not clear that our program needs to be redesigned. Before we contract with a paid professional to do so we need to make sure that it is a necessity for the long term success of our program.

Please describe how this project will benefit RWU students.

This project will provide RWU education students the opportunity to work in a school and put what they have learned in the classroom to real world use. These students will use their knowledge of education to design a real curriculum that will be used in Providence schools. Further, they will have the extraordinarily rewarding experience of making a difference in the lives of youth who need their support.

SECTION 4: Financial Information

What is your organization's annual operating budget? Please include a copy of your most recent budget with the application.

\$200,000

What are your major sources of funding?

- Individual Donors
- Providence After School Alliance
- Providence Public Schools
- Games4Good Foundation
- Otto York Foundation
- Rhode Island Foundation

How much funding from your annual operating budget is set aside for this project (if any)?

None

SECTION 5: Private Sector Involvement

Have you or your organization discussed the project with practicing professionals (e.g. architect, engineer, planner, consultants, etc.)? (please circle one): **Yes / No**

Edgeworks Consultants

If no, please explain why:

SECTION 6: Supporting Documents

Please include the following items when submitting your application:

- Budget for the current fiscal year
- List of current Board members
- Copies of supporting resources identified in section 2 as needed to support your application