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PMIEF and the True Colors Fund Address Youth Homelessness Using Project Management

Grant Equips True Colors Fund Staff and Community Coalitions With Critical Tools & Techniques

The Project Management Institute Educational Foundation (PMIEF) has awarded a \$150,000 two-year grant to the True Colors Fund to support its work in ending homelessness among the country's most marginalized youth, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ), racial/ethnic minorities, immigrants, and at-risk as defined by juvenile justice and foster care systems. Over the course of grant, the True Colors Fund will develop new project management focused resources that will be used to train and support communities across the United States as they create strategic plans to prevent and end LGBTQ youth homelessness.

These resources include:

- A Project Management for Communities Toolkit – to be released Spring 2018.
- A Project Management for Communities online course – to be released Spring 2019.

Each year, up to 1.6 million youth experience homelessness in the United States, and 40% of them identify as LGBTQ. In fact, a new brief from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago states that LGBTQ young people are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than their non-LGBTQ peers — and they are at greater risk for negative outcomes before and during homelessness. The PMIEF grant equips both True Colors Fund staff and community coalitions across the U.S. with project management competencies that can be applied towards addressing this critical issue. Specifically, the funding has delivered project management fundamentals training to True Colors Fund staff, which has enhanced their internal processes and prepared them to transfer that knowledge to communities.

“We’re so thankful for the support of PMIEF, and excited to be bringing project management knowledge to communities across the country,” said Joe Moran, PMP, Chief Creative Officer & Chief of Staff of the True Colors Fund. “The training our staff received due to this grant has revolutionized the way we work, and we can’t wait to see the impact it’ll have on the national movement to end youth homelessness.”

Using a train-the-trainer model, the True Colors Fund will offer free project management trainings and technical assistance to communities participating in True Colors Community Initiatives, in which local coalitions develop strategic plans to end youth homelessness and provide safe and affirming care for LGBTQ youth seeking support. These Community Initiatives foster collaboration

across various sectors including service providers, educators, advocates, government officials, funders, business owners, and – most importantly – youth themselves.

Strategic plans developed by Community Initiatives may include launching an innovative new program, constructing a shelter, or developing a new community partnership. Coalition members who receive these trainings are encouraged to bring this knowledge to their own organizations and agencies, thereby spreading awareness of project management methodologies and ultimately increasing efficiency and reducing waste. Trainings begin this year in Pinellas County, Florida; Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Dallas, Texas; with more communities to be announced in the future.

“Our partnership with the True Colors Fund exemplifies the power of project management to make a meaningful difference in people’s lives,” said Jeannette L. Barr, PMIEF Executive Director. “Not only has the True Colors Fund become a project management-capable organization that can more effectively and efficiently problem-solve youth homelessness, but it is empowering communities around the country with project management competencies so they can do the same.”

True Colors Fund Co-founder Cyndi Lauper also recorded a special message thanking PMIEF for its support. Watch the video at <http://www.pmief.org>.

About the True Colors Fund

Co-founded by Cyndi Lauper, the True Colors Fund works to end homelessness among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. Through a broad continuum of training and education, youth collaboration, and advocacy programs, the True Colors Fund is creating a world where all young people can be their true selves. www.truecolorsfund.org

About the Project Management Institute Educational Foundation

The PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) is a 501(c)(3) supporting organization of Project Management Institute (PMI), the world's leading not-for-profit professional membership association for the project, program, and portfolio management profession. Founded in 1990, PMIEF develops, implements, and delivers innovative initiatives to leverage project management for social good globally. These include grants, scholarships, and awards as well as educational resources that strengthen project management knowledge of teachers, youth, and nonprofit organizations. PMIEF's vision that “all people worldwide have a better tomorrow by applying project management skills in their daily lives” comes to the life through the generosity of individual and corporate donors as well as the PMI community. For additional information, visit www.pmief.org.