



TOOLKIT FOR INCREASING UPWARD MOBILITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Sample Invite Letter to New Coalition Members

This worksheet is part of the Upward Mobility Initiative's [Toolkit for Increasing Upward Mobility in Your Community](#). Use it to draft outreach letters to invite potential partners to your Mobility Coalition.

Dear Tamika,

Rationale for the ask: The Pawnee Community Foundation has decided to launch a new cross-sector, cross-domain partnership focused on boosting mobility from poverty and advancing equity for residents with low incomes and residents of color. Though efforts to boost mobility have been going on for decades in the city, recent data from the Urban Institute show that over 50 percent of our residents have debt in collections and our median incomes are the lowest among cities of a similar size. What's more, only 40 percent of 3- and 4-year-olds are enrolled in nursery school or preschool. This problem is particularly acute for children of color.

The ask: These data are proof that what we've been trying isn't working. It's time to reset our work to better align initiatives among the various organizations working in Pawnee, focus on changing systems and ending structural racism, and become more coordinated in applying for the resources we need to do this work. We recognize the Pawnee Community Foundation has a lot more work to do on this front, so we wanted to invite you to join our new Mobility Coalition, which aims to boost mobility from poverty and advance equity over the next five years. We are specifically interested in having Homes for Vets as part of our team because of your exemplary work—we've seen how you have used data-informed decisionmaking in locating homeless services and have heard you have some of the best supportive services available. We and others in the coalition have a lot to learn from you.

What resources or support will you give them, and how will you share power?: We know you already have a lot of work on your plate, and we value what you might bring to this partnership. We are proposing to give your organization \$25,000 per year for your participation. We have also been thinking about how to make sure this effort is a true partnership. Although the Pawnee Community Foundation will serve as the backbone organization to coordinate and manage the work, we will be asking various partners to lead subgroups, present their work, and provide practical expertise to ensure the identified solutions fit the communities that need them.

Next steps: We are looking forward to hearing what you all think about this opportunity for partnership; we are available if you'd like to hop on a call to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Pawnee Community Foundation President