# Letter of Intent: Applicant and Media Contact Form

Created Friday, February 01, 2013

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## Page 1

**All applicants seeking to establish a charter school authorized by the Board of Regents to open in 2014 must submit a Letter of Intent to Apply, which requires completion of this applicant and media contact form, and an upload of your 5 page Letter of Intent to Apply as outlined on pages 14 of the 2013 RFP and Application Kit. Please submit these tasks by 5:00 PM on February 1, 2013. Applicants who do not submit a complete Letter of Intent to Apply by this deadline will not be permitted to submit a Full Application.**

### a. Proposed Charter School Name

(Please write out the formal and full name for the school you proposed, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name).

*ReSolve Charter School 1*

**Whether submitting an application in Round 1 or Round 2, all new charter school applicants seeking public space in New York City must fill out a "Request for DOE Space" by January 31, 2013. The Request Form can be found at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dHNTYVFueWd4RWhmLW5CNHBqV .**

### b. Preferred school location.

Select the preferred geographical area on the left and then select the preferred school district or community school district on the right.

*NYC CSD-Queens: CSD 24*

Select a second geographical area on left and then select the school district or community school district on right.

*NYC CSD-Brooklyn: CSD 17*

If necessary, select a third geographical area on left and then select the school district or community school district on right.

*NYC CSD-Bronx: CSD 7*

### c. Applicant(s) information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address, and information establishing that the applicant(s) is a parent, teacher, school administrator or community resident.

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

| | First and Last Name | Best Phone Number (###-###-####) | Email Address | Street Address, City, State, Zip |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lead Applicant | Eddie Fergus | 212-998-5253 | eddie.fergus@esinyc.org | [redacted] |
| Co-Applicant | | | | |

## As the Lead Applicant(s), I (we) can best be described as a:

(Multiple responses permitted)

- Parent
- Current or former Teacher

## d. Media Contact: please provide a phone number and/or email address to which public inquires about the proposed charter school may be addressed.

| | First and Last Name | Best Phone Number (###-###-####) | Email Address | URL (type web address or the word "none") |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Media Contact | Eddie Fergus | 212-998-5253 | eddie.fergus@esinyc.org | none |

## e. Planned grades and enrollment in each year of the proposed charter term.

| | Ages (or age ranges) | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1st | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3rd | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4th | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5th | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6th | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7th | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8th | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9th | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| 10th | 0 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| 11th | 0 | 0 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| 12th | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| Ungraded | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 150 | 225 | 300 | 300 | 300 |

## f. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.

(See pages 36-39 of the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "significant" partnerships should be listed here).

| | |
|---|---|
| f. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner. \| Proposed Management Company | None |
| f. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner. \| Partner Organization 1 | None |
| f. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner. \| Partner Organization 2 | None |

Thank you for completing the Applicant and Media Contact Form which will be duplicative of some information contained in your letter of intent. Having information in this form allows the Department to merge applicant contact information into our existing data system. Please proceed to upload your signed and dated 5 page Letter of Intent to Apply.

**To:** NYSED Charter School Office
**From:** ReSolve Charter Schools Founding Group
**Date:** January 31, 2013
**Re:** Letter of Intent

The ReSolve Charter Schools Founding Group intends to submit four applications for new charter schools to open in 2014. Below please find the information requested in the 2013 Request for Proposals to Establish Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents.

## I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

a. **Applicant information:** Dr. Edward Fergus-Arcia, [redacted]
Tel: 212-998-5253, eddie.fergus@esinyc.org. Dr. Fergus-Arcia is a parent and a teacher.

b. **Media contact:** eddie.fergus@esinyc.org

c. **Applicant founding group:** ReSolve Schools grows out of the work of the Expanded Success Initiative (ESI), which is an educational component of the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) supported by the Open Society Foundations and Bloomberg Philanthropies. The ESI Working Group described below steers the initiative as a whole and has guided the design of the ReSolve model and development of the charter school application.

- **Vanda Belusic Vollor, Executive Director of the Office of Postsecondary Readiness (OPSR), NYCDOE.** Vanda was the founding principal of South Brooklyn Community High School and mentor principal for the network of transfer schools spawned by Good Shepherd Services as replications of South Brooklyn High. She also served as the Executive Director of the Office of Multiple Pathways to Graduation in the NYCDOE, and as a consultant to the formation of the High School for Excellence and Innovation for overage middle school students.
- **Julian Cohen, Deputy Executive Director of OPSR, NYCDOE**. Julian was a founding teacher at Central Park East Secondary School (CPESS), a pioneering small school and flagship for the Coalition of Essential Schools. Julian has served as the Director of New Schools in the DOE Office of Portfolio, and was the founding Director of School Innovation for the DOE's Innovation Zone. Julian has been a thought partner to the design of several new school models, including NYCiSchool and Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH).
- **John Duval, Deputy Executive Director of OPSR, NYCDOE.** John oversees research, development, and operations in the Office of Postsecondary Readiness. He currently manages the office's annual operating budget of approximately $60M in local, federal, and private funding, including the Expanded Success Initiative. Additionally, he oversees all longitudinal research to assess the return on investment for the Multiple Pathways and CTE portfolios and leads policy development in these areas.
- **Shawn Dove, Campaign Manager, Campaign for Black Male Achievement, Open Society Foundation.** Shawn has more than two decades of leadership experience in youth development, education, and community building. Previously, Shawn served as one of the founding directors of New York City's Beacon School movement in the early 1990s while working with the Harlem Children's Zone. As New York Vice President for Mentor/National Mentoring Partnership he initiated a strategic response to the lack of African American and Latino male mentors by creating The Male Mentoring Project.

- **Melanie Hartzog, Family Services Coordinator in the New York City Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services**. Mel oversees several city agencies responsible for the delivery of social services and justice programs. Mel is also the Project Director for the Young Men's Initiative. Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, Mel served as Deputy Commissioner for early childhood services at New York City's Administration for Children's Services. Mel is a proposed Board Member
- **Ron Walker, Executive Director, Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COSEBOC).** Ron is the founding director of COSEBOC and has been instrumental in developing standards for schools educating young men of color. He was awarded the Black Educators Award for Professional Service in Education and was a principal in the Cambridge public school system.
- **Paul Forbes, Director, Expanded Success Initiative, NYCDOE.** Paul is the founding director of ESI, leading the DOE's strategy to increase college and career success among Black and Latino young men. Prior to joining OPSR, Paul was the Director of Safety and Suspension for a network of schools, has been a school dean and long-time advocate for young Black and Latino men.
- **Hector Calderon, Director of Organizational Learning, ESI, NYCDOE.** Hector leads the initiative's focus on professional and adult learning. Hector was the principal of El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice and began his teaching career at the school. He is a member of the New Leaders for New Schools founding cohort.

d. **Proposed initial board of trustees:**

- **Dr. Edward Fergus-Arcia** will serve as the lead applicant for ReSolve Charter Schools. Eddie currently serves as the Deputy Director of Metropolitan Center for Urban Education, Steinhardt School of Education, New York University (NYU). He is a research professor who teaches courses on Latinos in Urban Schools, and is a co-author of three books related to the experiences of Black and Latino males.

- **Meena Nankani** is a Vice President at Marathon. She supports the Investor Relations team who is dedicated to providing client services on behalf of the Marathon Family of Funds. Prior to joining Marathon, Ms. Nankani worked at Moody's Investors Services as a part of the Alternative Investment Group. She has also worked as a Research Analyst for Coronat Capital Management, LLC and as a Project Coordinator/Budget Analyst for John Snow, Inc., a public health consulting firm.

- **Rosanna Castro** is currently the director of special projects at Uncommon Charter High School. She will experience with charter school operations as well as board governance, having served on Providence Public School district board and a fellow at the Broad Institute for School Board members. As a program manager for the National College Advising Corp, Rosanna brings depth of commitment to the task of college readiness for Black and Latino students.

- **Rashid Shabazz:** Rashid is a program manager for the Campaign for Black Male Achievement at the Open Society Foundation. His experience is in the field of media and communications where he has been involved in youth development advocacy and campaigns against the school to prison pipeline. Rashid was previously an NYU Public Policy Social Justice fellow.

- **Melanie Hartzog:** See above

e. **Replication or network information:** This school is proposed to be part of a network of new schools that will be comprised of four new charter and four new district high schools. These schools will collaborate on academic program development and share economies of scale with regards to operations. The applicant group is not involved in other charter schools.

f. **Application history:** This founding group has never before applied for a charter.

## II. PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

a. **Proposed school name:** ReSolve Charter School 1.

b. **Proposed school location:** The DOE is working to locate space for ReSolve Schools in the high need communities of East New York, Brownsville, South Bronx, Jamaica and East Harlem.

c. **Planned grades and enrollment:**

| Grade | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **9** | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| **10** | | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| **11** | | | 71 | 71 | 71 |
| **12** | | | | 68 | 68 |
| **Total** | 75 | 143 | 221 | 289 | 289 |

d. **Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s):** The ReSolve Charter Schools are an innovative partnership with the New York City Department of Education and the Open Society Foundation as part of the Expanded Success Initiative (ESI).

e. **Proposed school mission:** The mission of ReSolve Schools is to eliminate the opportunity gap for Black and Latino young men and women by providing educational experiences that prepare them to complete at least two years of college or two years of success in a job apprenticeship program.

f. **School overview:** The Expanded Success Initiative (ESI) is a research and development program designed to invest deeply in a targeted group of schools in order to test and refine best practices and then disseminate them system-wide. The three key elements of ESI are 1) Innovating in 40 existing schools to strengthen and improve their academics, youth development and school culture practices and set a new bar of college and career readiness; 2) Scaling up college advisement training across all high schools; and 3) Developing leading-edge educational models and opening new schools that dramatically increase college and career readiness for all students. ESI intends to create eight new high schools—four district and four charter schools—that close the opportunity gap and seamlessly prepare students for college and careers.

Our approach is informed by lessons learned from the implementation of numerous small schools and transfer schools in New York City. Based on research and effective practices, the ReSolve model is predicated on ten foundational elements:

1. A culturally responsive mastery framework of standards, curriculum and instruction that is aligned to the Common Core and college and career readiness benchmarks.
2. An assessment system aligned to the framework that provides frequent feedback.
3. A digital pathway in which each student can access resources and assessments in order to personalize their learning.
4. A data management system that enables adults to flexibly personalize curriculum and instruction.

5. A sequence of workplace learning experiences implemented through an apprenticeship infrastructure with industry and community partners.
6. A sequence of early college experiences implemented through college access programs that include family engagement and financial planning.
7. A teaching and instructional delivery model that supports the mastery framework and college and career experiences by redefining adult roles in ways that are responsive to personalized student learning.
8. A flexible staffing strategy that includes redefining leadership roles and recruiting and developing culturally competent human capital, including adults with ELL and SWD expertise.
9. Rites of passage experiences, guidance and youth development supports that define school culture around college and career readiness benchmarks.
10. An operating system for nimble start-up that can sustain and support the management of the model with fidelity within and across schools.

A key component of ReSolve Schools is that they launch simultaneously and operate as a collaborative to share practices and leverage economies of scale. The four charter schools will be governed by a single board of trustees to ensure collaboration and adherence to the mission and vision. The four district schools will operate within a single Children First Network (CFN). All of the schools will benefit from the expertise of the ESI Working Group.

In order to build out this new high school model, the Expanded Success Initiative has initiated a School Design Fellowship. The fellowship will bring together a diverse cadre from which the leaders of the new schools will be drawn. These individuals will be immersed in learning, collaborative planning and school implementation support over a 14-month period as they build out the elements that define the model. Funding for the fellowship has already been secured via the Fund for Public Schools.

g. **Target population and the community:** The Mayor's Young Men's Initiative was created to tackle the broad disparities slowing the advancement of Black and Latino young men relative to their peers. ReSolve Schools will be co-educational and draw students from some of the geographic neighborhoods that historically flow the school-to-prison pipeline in New York City. We anticipate that the majority of our students will be Black and Latino young men and women and many will be living in poverty.

## III. ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, AND STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR THE FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM

a. **Strategies to attract and recruit students:** ESI already works with 40 schools that serve the target population and has experience recruiting these students. Given the open enrollment policy for high schools in New York City, ReSolve Schools will undertake a city-wide campaign to inform eligible middle school students and their families of the opportunity to apply and enter the lottery for enrollment. While information will be disseminated city-wide, the communities where the schools will be located and underserved Black and Latino youth in particular will be specifically targeted with promotional materials, applications and information sessions. Fellows will take the lead during the planning year to contact individuals, organizations and agencies that work directly with the target population, including mentoring, tutoring and after-school programs and sports leagues.

b. **Strategies to retain students:** The leadership of the schools will be oriented towards ensuring that 100% of the students achieve the mission of successful completion of two

years of college or career apprenticeship. Our high schools are specifically designed to prepare students for college and careers through culturally relevant teaching and learning, comprehensive support systems, and a nurturing but demanding school culture.

- **Black and Latino young men and women:** ReSolve schools are co-ed and the curriculum and programs will be designed with gender in mind to ensure students develop the skills and attitudes necessary to operate in a co-ed world. For example, single-sex advisory and mentoring programs will address issues of becoming a responsible man or woman.
- **Students with disabilities:** Our approach to personalized learning is particularly well suited to the Response to Intervention (RTI) and inclusion models. With constant monitoring of student progress through assessment and adult relationships, the schools will place students in appropriate classes, use technology to deliver self-paced instruction, and provide targeted supports and interventions, including advising and mentoring. Staff teams will meet regularly to analyze student growth and work with parents and the Committees on Special Education to address students' needs.
- **English Language learners:** We intend to enroll English language learners at a rate at least commensurate with the district in which individual schools are located, and will have programs in place to meet a range of needs. For students who enter speaking little English our schools will provide direct ESL instruction as well as support for learning core content. For more advanced students language arts and subject matter instruction will be taught in English using appropriate instructional support strategies.
- **Low-income students:** ESI youth development strategies emphasize building student resilience, commitment to productive lives after high school, and approaches to school discipline that prevent negative outcomes, like suspension. As part of these approaches, teachers and guidance counselors provide help on issues beyond academics and advise students and their families on graduation requirements, behavioral expectations and standards for college and career readiness.

## IV. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

ReSolve Schools has already secured funding for the School Design Fellowship and a commitment of support from the Young Men's Initiative. To date the proposal for a new school model has been presented to the YMI Advisory Board, whose members include representatives of Children's Aid Society, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, New York Immigration Coalition, Mentoring USA , Advocates for Children and the Carnegie Foundation. The fellowship opportunity has been publicly posted on the NYCDOE website (http://schools.nyc.gov/esi). Information has been sent to over 8,000 individual participants representing community organizations, non-profits, DOE vendors and school-based employees. In addition, all DOE deputy chancellors and Deputy Mayor Gibbs have been briefed about the model. The ReSolve project has also been discussed with leaders of the 40 current ESI schools, many of whom provided feedback and articulated support. The interest in the programs and services affiliated with ESI suggest ReSolve Schools will be fully enrolled.

This Letter of Intent is submitted by:

| | |
|---|---|
| Edward Fergus-Arcia | February 1, 2013 |
| Name | Date |
| | |
| Signature | |