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STRIVE International Selected as Grant Recipient of Inaugural Pathways to Progress Youth Financial Capability Fund to Support Young People on the Path to Economic Success

The \$2 million commitment by the Citi Foundation in partnership with Prosperity Now, is helping maximize the impact of Youth Employment and Financial Inclusion Efforts across the country

New York, NY (NOVEMBER 8, 2017) – The [Citi Foundation](#), in partnership with [Prosperity Now](#), has awarded STRIVE International a major grant from its Pathways to Progress Youth Financial Capability Fund, a new initiative to help nonprofit organizations integrate financial empowerment services into existing employment programming. These efforts will help the young people that STRIVE serves connect with the financial mainstream and develop sound money management skills in support of a strong financial future.

The Youth Financial Capability Fund is part of the Citi Foundation's [Pathways to Progress](#) initiative, which supports organizations around the globe that are helping empower urban youth, ages 16 to 24, and are connecting them to opportunities that prepare them for a competitive job market.

STRIVE is one of five organizations in the U.S. selected to receive a \$160,000 grant, in addition to technical assistance, to build financial empowerment services into its existing workforce model for justice-involved youth. Known as STRIVE Future Leaders, the program assists young people, ages 18-24, enter the workforce and succeed in life. Developed in collaboration with MDRC and the Youth Development Institute, STRIVE Future Leaders is operating at 10 STRIVE affiliate sites around the nation through support from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Through the Youth Financial Capability Fund, STRIVE will develop a targeted strategy for providing financial education, coaching, and access to appropriate financial products and will then pilot these services with 150 youth participating in programming across three STRIVE affiliate sites: New York, NY, Hartford, CT and Baltimore, MD. STRIVE will also participate in a learning community to deepen its knowledge about successful approaches, organize data collection and research, and help develop a series of publications designed to promote this collective work among policymakers.

“Helping our nation’s youth achieve a lifetime of financial security requires both a good career and good financial habits,” says Phil Weinberg, President & CEO of STRIVE. “STRIVE is thrilled and excited that through this grant, we will develop new ways to support our young adults in building a strong and enduring financial future.”

"The chance to earn a first paycheck is also the perfect opportunity to learn key money-management lessons that can set young people up for financial success down the road," said [Brandee McHale](#), **president of the Citi Foundation**. "Local NGO partners are on the forefront of preparing young people for the world of work. We are proud to support these innovative community changemakers through the Pathways to Progress Youth Financial Capability Fund".

Prosperity Now will deliver tailored technical assistance and training to help STRIVE identify the financial needs and goals of the young people served and will advise on the design of timely and relevant financial capability program services that will enable them to build the financial skills and confidence necessary to succeed.

"For years, we've found that financial capability services that meet people where they are can be transformational," said **Prosperity Now President [Andrea Levere](#)**. "But more and more, we're finding that this is especially true when it comes to our young people. We are so thrilled to work with STRIVE as they meet young people where they are with the knowledge, skills and services they need to look forward to a lifetime of financial security."

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About STRIVE

STRIVE is a leading workforce development organization, headquartered in New York City, with 20 U.S. based Affiliates. STRIVE's mission is to help individuals acquire the life-changing skills and attitudes needed to overcome challenging circumstances, find sustained employment, and become valuable contributors to their families, their employers, and their communities.

For more information, visit www.striveinternational.org.

About the Citi Foundation

The **Citi Foundation** works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyze job opportunities for youth, and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant cities. The Citi Foundation's "More than Philanthropy" approach leverages the enormous expertise of Citi and its people to fulfill our mission and drive thought leadership and innovation. For more information, visit www.citifoundation.com.

About Prosperity Now

Prosperity Now (formerly CFED) believes that everyone deserves a chance to prosper. Since 1979, we have helped make it possible for millions of people, especially people of color and those of limited incomes, to achieve financial security, stability and, ultimately, prosperity. We offer a unique combination of scalable practical solutions, in-depth research and proven policy solutions, all aimed at building wealth for those who need it most.