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## **Prospero! Award Program to Help Hundreds of Young Men of Color Secure Quality Job Opportunities**

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM** – The City of Albuquerque, in partnership with Albuquerque Community Foundation announces a request for proposals for nonprofit organizations to skill-up and connect young men of color (YMOC) to quality job opportunities in the community.

The grant opportunity, Prospero!, is a first-of-its-kind for organizations that are working to provide access to economic opportunities leading to long-term employment for young men of color. With financial support from My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBK Alliance), the City of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Community Foundation will award a total of \$100,000 to four to five organizations working in the Greater Albuquerque area. The minimum grant size will be \$20,000 for programming that accelerates job placement and/or job creation for young men of color. Additionally, technical support has generously been donated by two Albuquerque firms and will be provided as part of this grant. MediaDesk NM, a creative communications firm and SINC, a nonprofit incubator will each offer pro bono consulting session for all award recipients.

MBK Alliance is an independent, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) born out of President Obama's call to action to ensure all of our nation's boys and young men of color (BYMOC) have equal opportunity to live up to their full potential. Its presence in Albuquerque has been considerable, given the numerous events the city has either hosted or participated in in support of the organization's focus.

In prior years, Mayor Berry partnered with the University of New Mexico (UNM), Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) and Mission: Graduate to host a "Young Men of Color Action Forum" to develop strategies to change the life trajectories of young men of color. The January 2015 event was attended by over 200 young men from throughout the city and an additional 100 adults who were committed to creating an environment where young men of color can succeed. Later that year, the Department of Energy initiated "MBK Day at the Lab" at several national laboratories. Albuquerque's event hosted approximately 50 students from the Boys and Girls Club, the Native American Community Academy (NACA), and the Black Leadership Committee's HM Tech Program. The day was spent encouraging YMOC to explore what Sandia National Labs (SNL) has to offer and to understand the logistics behind a STEM career.

Last April, the City of Albuquerque sponsored the nation's first Native American hackathon. The #NativeMBK Hackathon marked a collaborative outreach to help engage and connect the Native American community to technology and innovation. About 60 students between the ages of 12 and 20 pitched their ideas to solve real

challenges, followed by adult volunteers voting on the best 10. Throughout the event, a group of professionals taught condensed classes on web development, coding and what it meant to create a minimal viable product.

The inaugural MBK Alliance Youth Summit named “Empowering & Equipping Tomorrow’s Native Leaders” was held this past April. In collaboration with MBK ABQ, MBK Alliance and the Gathering of the Nations, a roundtable discussion was led by nearly 100 Native youth focused on key issues impacting youth in Native communities.

“Albuquerque is a city with great diversity and tremendous potential for growth,” said Mayor Richard Berry. “Prospero! recognizes that economic opportunity should be available to all, especially those who have been historically marginalized.”

Organizations providing educational support, job training, mentorship, job readiness and small business support are encouraged to apply. Those who are interested may submit their online proposals through [Share New Mexico](#) before midnight on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. The grant period is from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

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*To learn more about MBK alliance please visit: <https://www.mbkalliance.org/>*