



## Media Release

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# County Executive Ryan McMahon & Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh Announce Joint Poverty Initiative

*RFP issued for pilot program called “Hire Ground Workforce Development”*

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** – County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II and Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh announced today a joint initiative to help address the issue of poverty in our community. The pilot program, called “Hire Ground Workforce Development”, will offer work experience and connections to needed services for homeless persons who panhandle and those that are difficult to reach and serve in the Syracuse community. A Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified partners was issued Monday morning.

County Executive McMahon said, “From day one, my administration has put a laser-like focus on the issue of poverty in our community. Poverty is not just an urban issue, but a rural and suburban one as well. We can no longer stereotype what poverty looks like in our community and we will have to tackle the issue from all angles.” McMahon continued, “Just as important, it will take all of us as a community coming together, private, public, faith-based and non-profit sectors, to make a difference. Thank you to Mayor Walsh and his team for their leadership and attention to this important issue.”

Mayor Ben Walsh said, “Providing some of the most vulnerable in our community a path out of poverty that is rooted in economic viability and support services has been a priority of my administration. This pilot program works towards that goal and my team stands ready to help in any way possible to ensure its success.” Walsh continued, “Strong partnership’s and collaboration are the backbone of any successful to address poverty and I thank County Executive McMahon, as well as all of our community partners, for coming together around this important issue.”

The RFP calls for the selected partner to arrange transportation for up to eight local panhandlers and/or homeless individuals per day to take to specific city/county identified work-site(s) three times per week. The program will determine designated pick up sites according to community need. Staff will engage with the workers to establish relationships and identify needed services. Ultimately, the goal of this program is to connect hard to reach and serve individuals to needed services through a work experience while promoting dignity in working.

Proposals are due by 4:00P.M. on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

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