

# Niagara Poverty Reduction Network

## Policies and Procedures

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### I. INTRODUCTION

One of the three goals of Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN) is to engage and include all individuals in the community. We recognize that it is essential that low income citizens be at the decision making table, including the NPRN meetings, its working groups or sub-committees, and other network activities.

### II. PURPOSE

To directly address the cost of transportation for people interested in attending NPRN meetings for whom this cost is a barrier to participating in NPRN-related meeting and activities.

### III. FACILITATING INCLUSION: BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

- Beginning in 2015, this pilot will allocate \$1,000 for the calendar year to transportation costs to reduce the barrier of participation
- The budget per individual will be up to \$100/6 months period for 5 participants. If more than 5 participants request funds, the maximum amount will be prorated.
- Budgets are reviewed after 6 months to adjust funding allocation according to demand.
- A maximum of \$50 per meeting can be used including to and from the meeting.
- Receipts for transportation costs are not required.
- NPRN members must submit their name to the Secretariat to receive transportation support.
- It will be assumed that anyone requesting financial support needs it, thereby eliminating the need for a financial assessment.
- The fund holder /distributor will record the distribution of funds to report to the Co-ordinating Committee but the names of recipients will remain confidential.
- Community members can access funding to attend NPRN meetings, sub-committee meetings and working groups. Transportation costs for NPRN-related activities will be addressed through the planning of each activity.

- Transportation Supports may include payment for taxi services, bus tickets, and other transportation supports as required at the discretion of the participant.
- Where possible, transportation supports will be provided in advance of the meeting or event to facilitate involvement.
- This policy will be reviewed every 6 months