

**Partnership Agreement
between
YWCA of Greater Cleveland
and
Open Doors Academy (ODA)**

Definition and Goals

The YWCA of Greater Cleveland and Open Doors Academy have formed a working partnership in order to implement the Community Connectors mentoring program for ODA high school students in Cleveland Heights/University Heights, and secondarily, for ODA high school students in the Cleveland Metropolitan and Euclid School Districts.

The goals of the program are to “strengthen communities, encourage mentoring opportunities, and create new pathways for civic engagement that will result in higher educational achievement, higher levels of well-being and health, and workforce readiness.” The initiative utilizes social connectedness to “impact school performance and economic productivity while creating new ways for schools to promote a positive, goal-oriented, and hopeful atmosphere for success.”

The other partners in the Open Doors Academy Community Connectors program are the Cleveland Heights High School, the Heights-Hillcrest Chamber of Commerce (representing 300 businesses), and Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights. The partners constitute the ODA Community Connectors Leadership Team.

The partnership will go into effect dependent on receipt of funding from the Ohio Department of Education, and will remain in effect for the allotted three years of state funding, to be renegotiated, as agreed by all parties, for an additional period of time after the initial three years.

Commitments: Open Doors Academy

Under this Partnership Agreement, Open Doors Academy is responsible for the following tasks or duties.

1. Direct programmatic, administrative, and financial management of all aspects of the Community Connectors program, serving as the lead applicant.
2. Convening quarterly meetings of the ODA Community Connectors Leadership Team for purposes of program review and consultation.
3. Providing the YWCA of Greater Cleveland access to all necessary program data and notes, in order to support design and implementation of an evaluation protocol.
4. Administering, as requested by the YWCA of Greater Cleveland, all evaluation instruments designed for the ODA Community Connectors program.
5. Facilitating access to program students, parents, mentors, and other partners for the purposes of interviewing or focus groups.
6. Sharing all evaluation data/findings with members of the ODA Community Connectors Leadership Team.
7. Between meetings, providing members of the Leadership Team with regular updates about program events, progress, challenges, and needs.

8. Compensating the YWCA of Greater Cleveland \$20,000 in the first year, for overall design and implementation of an evaluation protocol, and \$10,000 annually in each of the subsequent two years of the grant, for ongoing refinement and continuous administration of the evaluation protocol of the ODA Community Connectors program.

Commitments: YWCA of Greater Cleveland

Under this Partnership Agreement, the YWCA of Greater Cleveland is responsible for the following tasks or duties.

1. Ensuring attendance at quarterly ODA Community Connectors Leadership Team meetings by YWCA CEO Martha Mitchell or her designee.
2. Designing, within the first six months of the first year, a comprehensive evaluation protocol and related instruments that will effectively assess the success of the ODA Community Connectors program in achieving its stated objectives, and assisting in the administration of that protocol.
3. Implementing, in years two and three of the grant, continuous evaluation, as needed by the ODA Community Connectors program.

Commitments: Joint

Under this Memorandum of Understanding, Open Doors Academy and the YWCA of Greater Cleveland are jointly responsible for the following tasks or duties.

1. Be knowledgeable about the goals and objectives of the Ohio Department of Education Community Connectors Initiative.
2. Advocate the program to the community.
3. Assist with evaluation activities related to administration of the grant and implementation on the program.

Management, Dispute Resolution, Duration

1. The length of this Partnership Agreement shall be the three years of the Community Connectors initiative.
2. In the event of a dispute or disagreement, all parties will make every effort to resolve the dispute or disagreement through direct dialogue.
3. Should either party wish to dissolve the Partnership Agreement, he or she will communicate that wish to the other party, first verbally, to be followed by a written statement to that effect.
4. Notice of desire to terminate the Partnership Agreement shall be given at least 60 days in advance of the intended date of termination.

Signatures, Dates



Margaret Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer
YWCA of Greater Cleveland
Cleveland, Ohio
3/3/15



Annemarie Grassi, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Open Doors Academy
Cleveland, Ohio