FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2019
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Taking Action to Develop Shared Services for Nonprofits
*Rochester Area Nonprofit Consortium moves from planning to action*

Rochester, MN — The Rochester Area Nonprofit Consortium finalized its planning efforts during a community forum on February 15, 2019 at the Rochester Area Foundation and is ready to take action to develop shared services to increase operational efficiencies among local nonprofits.

The forum “Taking Action to Develop Shared Services: Part II” built on a previous forum in November at which over 40 nonprofit professionals and community leaders agreed that the Consortium should pursue three initial priorities: information technology, joint purchasing, and health insurance. Subsequently, groups comprised of experts and nonprofit leaders developed priority-specific action plans. During the forum, these action plans were presented for review and received crucial community feedback required to launch into implementation in spring 2019.

“The Rochester area is home to many non-profit organizations that are providing crucial services to help every individual in our community thrive. We all face economic realities and want to put as much money into our missions and program work as possible. Working together is going to increase our capacity for the betterment of our clients and the community.” Virginia Merriit, Executive Director of Channel One Regional Food Bank.

During implementation, the Consortium will test various models for shared services such as shared staffing and jointly negotiated vendor contracts to determine feasibility. There will also be a focus on increased networking and creating a “culture of knowledge sharing” among local nonprofits. For more information, contact Consortium Strategist, Brooke Carlson.

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**About the Consortium**: Funded by the Otto Bremer Trust and Mayo Clinic, the Consortium was established by local non-profit executive directors in 2017 to explore developing shared services to increase operational efficiencies among area nonprofits. The Consortium is led by an Executive Committee including: *Ability Building Center, Channel One Regional Food Bank, Diversity Council, Families First, Family Service Rochester, IMAA, and Zumbro Valley Health Center.* [https://www.diversitycouncil.org/rochester-area-nonprofit-consortium](https://www.diversitycouncil.org/rochester-area-nonprofit-consortium)