

MEET THE GRANTMAKERS

Funding for Youth & Education Programs

June 8, 2009

ORGANIZATION/FOUNDATION NAME:

ROBIN HOOD
TARGETING POVERTY IN NEW YORK CITY



PANELIST NAME & TITLE:

Julie Asher, *Senior Program Officer, Early Childhood & Youth*

ADDRESS:

826 Broadway, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10003

INTERESTS: (e.g., Fields of interest, areas funded, types of support or service, geographic region, exclusions, etc.)

Robin Hood holds steadfast to a single mission: fight poverty in New York City. Robin Hood finds, funds and creates programs and schools that generate measurable outcomes for families in New York City's poorest neighborhoods. Robin Hood makes grants to organizations exclusively in the five boroughs of New York City providing direct services within the following four issue areas: Early Childhood, Education, Jobs and Economic Security, and Survival. Robin Hood has a continuing commitment to community-based programs and strong leaders in the city's poorest neighborhoods. Robin Hood seeks to fund programs that provide comprehensive and intensive services, and work with people over long periods of time with measurable poverty-fighting results.

Early Childhood: Robin Hood supports organizations that help children from birth to age five as well as pregnant women. Social, educational and medical support helps to ensure good health, nurturing parents and school readiness.

Education: Robin Hood invests in superior schools and after-school programs in the city's poorest neighborhoods as well as programs that help young adults struggling to make a successful transition to adulthood, particularly those emerging from the foster care, child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Jobs & Economic Security: The programs and initiatives in Jobs & Economic Security help people get jobs, loans and services as well as giving working families access to public benefits and tax credits.

Survival: The programs in Survival provide services basic to human life—housing for the homeless, shelter for victims of violence, food for the hungry and health care for the uninsured—as well as assistance to immigrants.

OVER

Evaluation: Robin Hood views program outcome evaluation as an important tool for learning and for improving services and is interested in the impact of programs on individuals and specific gains made by program participants. Robin Hood requires that all grant recipients be willing to work with an independent third-party evaluator selected and funded by Robin Hood, or provide evidence of a strong alternative means of evaluation.

Robin Hood uses metrics to evaluate the poverty-fighting value of its investments. To estimate benefit/cost ratios, Robin Hood monetizes the value of the outcomes of our grants. Robin Hood's program staff looks to make grants to programs that yield high benefit/cost ratios. Robin Hood bases these monetized values—linking outcomes of our grants to the well-being of poor individuals—on published research and on in-house research (based on the experience of Robin Hood grantees).

Management assistance: Robin Hood's in-house professionals, pro bono corporate partners and top-tier paid vendors provide grantees with consulting services to address many organizational challenges.

Restrictions: In general, Robin Hood does not fund technical assistance providers, other funders, advocacy programs, or organizations that are part of nation-wide affiliations even if the applicant is located in New York City.

CONTRIBUTIONS/SERVICE SUMMARY:

(e.g., 2008 disbursements, average grant size or range, summary of technical assistance, etc.)

Total Grants 2008: 248 grants for \$100 million

First time grants typically run between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

Term of grants is one year.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Julie Asher joined Robin Hood in June 2007 as a program officer in the Early Childhood and Youth portfolio and manages Robin Hood's early childhood grantmaking. Preceding her position at Robin Hood, Julie worked at the city's Administration for Children's Services (A.C.S.). There she served as a policy analyst for child care and child welfare programs and Child Care & Head Start. Previously, Julie worked on early care and education and child welfare issues in California and Massachusetts for government agencies and community-based organizations. She earned a B.S. in Human Development from Cornell University and a Masters in Public Policy from UC Berkeley.