

YOUTH JUSTICE REFORM PROJECT(S) LED BY YOUTH AND/OR YOUNG ADULTS

Frequently Asked Questions

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

The questions and responses below relate to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's request for proposals for youth justice reform project(s) led by youth and/or young adults, described here: [Foundations Seeks Proposals for Juvenile Justice Reform Projects Led by Young People](#). Proposals are due on May 27, 2022. Many of the questions were raised by attendees of the pre-bid conference. A recording of that conference is available at <https://youtu.be/OkF5Y8vliC0>.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GRANT(S)

What difference is the Youth Advisory Council looking to make with this grant initiative?

The Foundation's [Juvenile Justice Strategy Group](#) (JJSG) and [Youth Advisory Council](#) alumni aim to support the expansion of resources, research and solutions, while elevating youth leadership and youth-adult partnerships in youth justice reform work.

Will the grant be a one-time award, or multiple years?

The assumption is that the award will be a one-time grant, but that doesn't preclude the possibility of funding the project past the initial grant period.

Will you accept indirect costs within the budget?

Yes. The Foundation provides 25% overhead for organizations with annual budgets of less than \$5 million, 20% for organizations with annual budgets between \$5 million and \$100 million and 15% for organizations with annual budgets more than \$100 million.

How many grants will be granted?

Up to four grants will be awarded. The number will depend on the amounts requested in the selected proposals.

Is the grant funding a reimbursement model?

No, the full grant is awarded at the time of the grant agreement.

Are you looking for specific measurable outcomes?

This will be based on what the project is. We've intentionally not placed too many restrictions on proposals to encourage creative and innovative problem solving. Each grant will have a defined scope of work and performance measures, which are generally quantifiable. These will be tailored to each grant. For example, one grant's performance measures may be programmatic, while another might be policy related.

Is this the first round of funding for this type of project, or do you have past projects that can be shared as examples?

This is the first time we've done something like this, so do not have past examples to share.

What if a proposal asks for more than \$50,000?

It would be unlikely, but not impossible, that we would provide grants over \$50,000.

Are there expectations for the level of compensation for youth leaders?

At least \$15 per hour.

What expenses are allowable and unallowable? Can funds be used to support staff positions that work with youth to lead this initiative?

Funds could go towards staff costs.

Are non-youth staff considered in-kind for this grant or can they be paid out of this grant?

Grant funds can be used for staff who are not youth and for stipends for youth who have not been system-involved.

What type of reporting will be required throughout the grant period? Program reporting, financial or both? And how often?

A narrative and financial report will be required at the end of the grant period. However, if the grant goes beyond 12 months, we'll ask for reports at the 12-month mark and at the end of the grant period.

Do the youth leaders need to be identified prior to the time of application?

Proposals don't need to identify the young leaders, but proposals that do identify them will be given priority.

What level of youth leadership is expected?

We expect there to be youth leadership in the planning and design of the project.

Will Casey's JJSG Youth Advisory Council alumni be reading and scoring the applications?

Most of the reviewers will be young people, including youth council alumni. The panel will include some JJSG staff members as well.

Can you specify what's meant by area of focus? Is it identifying which areas of youth justice reform we will focus on?

The priority areas identified in the RFP are [restorative justice](#) and practices; prevention practices that [divert youth](#) from initial contact with the juvenile justice system; expansion of community-based support for young people already engaged in the juvenile justice system; or solutions identified by youth or community members with direct experience with the justice system. Proposals related to focus area(s) will be given priority over proposals that are not, although those will be considered, too.

How will the youth leadership on the JJSG team be engaged throughout the duration of the grant?

The leadership team will connect with the grantee(s) during quarterly check-ins and be available for guidance and technical assistance.

Do the youth have to be hired by our organization, or can they receive a stipend from the grant funds?

Either, as long as they youth are getting paid at least \$15 per hour.

Will proof have to be provided that a youth has been justice involved?

No.

Can more than two youth lead the project?

Yes, we encourage more than two youth in leadership roles.

Is it okay to have four youth leaders, two who have system involvement and two that do not?

Yes.

Can you elaborate on or give examples of the approaches to solutions?

The RFP offered the following examples of approaches but they are only suggestions. We encourage you and the young people to be creative.

- developing a set of trainings;
- developing and publishing resources;
- mapping community assets;
- advancing a legislative or policy change, building evidence or research;
- developing leadership capacity; or
- launching a pilot program

How do you define sustainability for the project?

Sustainability can mean future funding and organizational capacity to maintain the solution past the initial grant period and/or how well it could translate to or be replicated in other jurisdictions beyond your own.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CRITERIA

Can applicants partner with other youth-serving organizations?

Yes.

Does the project have to be a new initiative? Can it be an existing project that fits with your RFP?

It can be an existing project as long as the project falls within the parameters of the RFP.

Would it be permissible to allocate the entire budget towards wrap-around support for youth leaving the juvenile detention center?

The project must have a strategy and sustainable model for the future. There would need to be young people leading a program or long-term approach, beyond simply releasing funds.

Would you consider a mentor/mentee program?

Yes, but sustainability of that program over time would be our main consideration. The program must also be developed, guided and implemented by at least two young people with system experience. The two young leaders could not just participate as mentors or mentees.

How do you define contact with the justice system?

For purposes of defining the youth leaders for the project, juvenile justice system contact can range from arrest to probation to incarceration and could also include a juvenile charged an adult.

We plan to hire two part-time facilitators for this funding opportunity. Would it be acceptable to conduct this project from August 1, 2022 through the end of the Spring semester of 2023 and advertise the positions as college internships?

You may advertise the roles as internships. In your proposal, please articulate how youth with juvenile justice experience would be involved in the development and framing of the project, not just as beneficiaries, and how it would be sustained. The project could extend from August 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Will you accept proposals that include terms like "criminal legal system," or would you prefer that proposals include "criminal justice system"?

Either is fine.

Is there a minimum number of young people that need to benefit from the service or program awarded a grant?

The project doesn't necessarily need to be a service or program that directly serves young people. There's no minimum number of youth served, but the scope of impact in the field and sustainability of the project are part of the evaluation and review criteria.

Would having youth facilitate restorative circles fit within the RFP?

Yes, but only if youth leaders are involved in the actual development of the programming and curriculum for the restorative justice circles.

If an organization is already connected to or funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, are they able to apply?

Yes.

Can smaller non-profits apply for the grant? Would start-up non-profits be eligible to submit a proposal?

Yes, if they have 501(c)(3) status or a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status.

Is a youth court diversion program eligible?

Yes, prevention is a priority area for this grant. As long as youth are playing a leadership role in the development and implementation of the project, it would be eligible.

Are colleges and universities eligible to apply? Our college has a foundation with 501(c)(3) status.

Yes.

If youth leaders turn 26 within the grant period, but fit the age criteria at the time of submission, will they still be considered?

Yes. Youth leaders must not have surpassed the age requirements by the start of the grant period. However, if they turn 27 during the grant period, the proposal will still qualify.

Our program serves as an alternative to drugs, alcohol, tobacco use, criminal activity and other high-risk behaviors. Will we be eligible to apply?

As long as the organization has 501(c)(3) status or has a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status and the project meets the RFP's requirements, then yes.

Does partnering with two youth who have had ankle monitoring fit in your description of "justice involved?"

Yes, assuming the ankle monitors are due to court supervision, such as awaiting processing or trial.

Does the project have to be led by a young person or can it be led by an older person who was justice-involved when they were between 15 and 26?

A person older than 26 can be involved, but the project must be led by at least two young people currently between the ages of 15 and 26.

May young people who were involved in the adult criminal legal system while in the 15-26 age range qualify as youth leaders on the project?

Yes, if they are between the ages of 15 and 26 now and were charged as an adult while still a juvenile.

The organization we work with partners with youth and law enforcement to divert more youth. Is that considered youth led?

It qualifies only if youth are leading the development and implementation of the project. If the project at the partner organization serves young people but is being led solely by adults, it does not qualify.

May projects be led by youth who are affected by the criminal legal system through the incarceration of a parent?

No, not unless the youth have also had juvenile system involvement.

Must both youth leaders have prior court involvement?

Not necessarily court involvement, but contact with the legal system, which may be law enforcement.

Will a program supporting youth aging out of foster care count as "justice involved" for this grant?

Not unless the youth aging out of foster care also have experience with the legal system.

Can youth who are already detained be considered youth with system experience, and could they be the ones to lead the program or project?

Yes. In addition, a project could be led by youth currently in secure juvenile facilities, but the proposal would need to explain how you intend to meaningfully involve them and the arrangements you have established or would establish with the facility operators.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INTENT TO APPLY AND PROPOSAL

What information should be included in the initial Intent to Apply?

The name of the organization and the name of and email address for a contact person.

Should the proposal be single- or double-spaced? Does it need a bibliography? If so, does it count as one of the 10 pages?

The proposal should be single-spaced. We don't require a bibliography, but if you choose to include one it must be within the ten pages.

As for the proposal itself, what structure should we follow? Should we answer the questions outlined in whatever way we see fit?

It would be best to structure the proposal in the same sequence as the topics are listed in the RFP.