



## Youth Justice Reform Project(s) Led by Youth and/or Young Adults

### Summary

The Juvenile Justice Strategy Group (JJSG) at the Annie E. Casey Foundation is seeking to fund two to four projects that pursue youth justice reform. Priority areas for projects 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; and/or solutions identified by youth or community members with direct experience with the justice system. The projects funded shall be led by two or more young people between the ages of 15 and 26 who have been involved in the juvenile justice system. Only nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status or with a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply.

### Eligibility

Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status or with a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status are eligible. JJSG is seeking grantees with the demonstrated organizational capacity and the relevant expertise and knowledge to carry out a youth-led project. Selected grantees should be able to demonstrate youth leadership and authentic youth–adult partnership throughout their work, such as the ability to partner with young people in decision making and project development, as well as a clear commitment to the professional and personal development of young people.

### Description of Project

#### Background

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a national philanthropy that creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. We believe that fostering an environment where equity and excellence are core to the effectiveness of an organization and where strategies for achieving equitable results are applied leads to greater well-being for kids, families and communities.

JJSG works with partners to transform youth justice at the state and local levels, especially for youth of color. The team's strategies are aimed at:

- significantly shrinking the footprint of the system;
- reducing the use of detention and out-of-home placement;
- increasing community-based opportunities and support for youth and families;
- promoting healing and rehabilitation for youth with the most serious offense histories; and
- advancing changes in community investments that prioritize prevention and youth development over investments in youth carceral systems.

JJSG operated a Youth Advisory Council from 2015 to 2021 to include and elevate the voices of young people with legal-system experience in juvenile justice reform efforts nationwide. This grant opportunity evolved from an initiative led by Youth Advisory Council members to identify and execute a solution to address an underdeveloped or overlooked area of JJSG's work. Alumni of the council framed the RFP and will join Casey staff to select the projects to be funded.

### **Project**

JJSG is seeking to fund projects that seek to address specific areas of youth justice reform, outlined below. The projects funded shall be led by two or more young people between the ages of 15 and 26 who have been involved in the juvenile justice system. Staff of grantee organizations may or may not also be engaged with the project.

The scope of projects can be local, statewide or national. Alumni of the JJSG Youth Advisory Council identified the following areas of youth justice reform for preference in the selection process:

- 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; and
- other solutions identified by youth or community members with direct experience with the justice system.

The approach or solution may include but is not limited to the following activities:

- 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.

Grantees should build off past and present efforts to address the issue or achieve a solution and should identify system and community partners to support the sustainability of their project's proposed solution.

### **Award**

- Grant amounts may range from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- Two to four grants will be awarded.

### Timeline for Completing the Work

Projects may start as soon as August 1, 2022, and no later than December 1, 2022, and may range in length between six and 18 months.

### Proposal Specifications

#### Format

- Proposals should be no more than 10 pages in at least 11-point Arial font with one-inch margins. The Foundation will accept the following file types: Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel.

#### Contents of proposal

- Please identify the following:
  - Organizational name of the lead applicant
  - Name of the proposed project
  - Co-applicants/partners
  - Designated lead point of contact and contact information
- Specify your area of focus, your proposed approach or solution and the eventual outcomes you are seeking to achieve, including the rationale for your selection.
- Provide an implementation plan with a detailed timeline.
- Describe what makes your organization the best fit for completing the scope of work, including your experience with youth justice issues and/or work with youth and young adults involved in the justice system.
- Describe how you plan to identify, engage and support the young people who will be leading the project and the number of young people to be involved. The age range for youth leaders is 15 to 26.
- Describe your organizational capacity and relevant work demonstrating capacity to carry out this project, including:
  - experience with previous projects led by youth and young adults;
  - organizational commitment and work related to racial and ethnic equity; and
  - experience with engaging the voices and perspectives of people who are often excluded from decision making and lack access to power.
- Provide one or two examples of similar projects you have developed in the past, including their outcomes.
- Describe the qualifications and related expertise of the team responsible for the project, including the young leaders who will lead and/or be engaged in the project.
- Provide a detailed project budget including the total being requested as well as other funding or in-kind support. The Foundation provides 25% for overhead (indirect costs) for organizations with annual budgets of less than \$5 million and 20% for organizations with annual budgets between \$5 million and \$100 million.
- Affirm your agreement to provide monthly written updates to JJSG youth advisors and staff on the progress of the project and participate in quarterly conversations to get feedback from JJSG advisors as well as other grantees.

## KEY DATES

- Pre-bid conference: 2 p.m. ET on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Register at <https://cvent.me/PvmdLe>
- Due date for intent to apply: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 (submit intent via email to David Brown at [debrown@aecf.org](mailto:debrown@aecf.org))
- Due date for proposals: Friday, May 27, 2022 (submit proposal via email to David Brown at [debrown@aecf.org](mailto:debrown@aecf.org))
- Decisions will be announced by Tuesday, July 26, 2022.
- The selected project may start as soon as August 1, 2022, and no later than December 1, 2022.

## CONTACT FOR APPLICANTS' QUESTIONS

David Brown at [debrown@aecf.org](mailto:debrown@aecf.org)

## DISCLAIMER

The Foundation maintains the right to:

- reject any or all proposals submitted;
- reject a proposal that doesn't include all required elements;
- adjust program guidelines, including submission deadlines; and/or
- contact the applicant to discuss the proposal and/or request additional information.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

<u>Section</u>	<u>Points</u>
Level of leadership by young people ages 15 to 26 proposed (see appendix)	20
Programmatically strong nonprofit organization familiar with youth justice issues and partnering with youth and community members with direct experience with the justice system	20
Organizational capacity to implement the proposed work	15
Addresses a priority issue	15
Strong, specific and achievable plan for implementing the proposed work	20
Budget and costs	10
<b>Total points:</b>	<b>100</b>

## APPENDIX

This chart describes levels at which organizations engage with young people. Your organization may exhibit multiple and varying levels of engagement across different projects and units.

<b>LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Youth initiated, shared decisions with adults</b>	Projects or programs are initiated by young people, and decision-making is shared between young people and adults. These projects empower young people while at the same time enabling them to access and learn from the life experience and expertise of adults.
<b>Youth initiated and directed</b>	Projects where young people initiate and direct a project or program. Adults are involved only in a supportive role.
<b>Adult initiated, shared decisions with young people</b>	Projects or programs are initiated by adults, but the decision making is shared with young people.
<b>Young people are consulted and informed</b>	Projects where young people give advice on projects or programs designed and run by adults. The young people are informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of the decisions made by adults.
<b>Young people are assigned and informed</b>	Projects where young people are assigned a specific role and informed about how and why they are being involved.
<b>Tokenism</b>	Projects where young people appear to be given a voice, but in fact have little or no choice about what they do or how they participate.
<b>Decoration</b>	Projects where young people are used to help or bolster a cause in a relatively indirect way, although adults do not pretend that the cause is inspired by young people.
<b>Manipulation</b>	Projects where adults use young people to support causes and pretend that the causes are inspired by young people.

Adapted from Hart, R. A. (1992). Children's participation: From tokenism to citizenship. Florence, Italy: United Nations Children's Fund International Child Development Centre. Retrieved from [https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/childrens\\_participation.pdf#page=8](https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/childrens_participation.pdf#page=8)