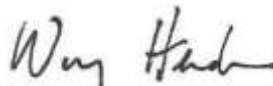


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
Division Administrator



Re: Notice of Available Funding: Youth Justice Innovation Grants

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform counties of an opportunity to pursue innovative youth justice projects at the local level. Utilizing underspending in Calendar Year (CY) 2020 Youth Aids, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is offering another round of Youth Justice (YJ) Innovation Grants. YJ Innovation Grants are a competitive opportunity for county human service agencies to implement new, creative, evidence-informed practices or programs with short-term start-up funding from DCF. All proposed projects must serve the overall purpose of “improving community-based juvenile delinquency-related services” and should meet requirements of one of the following topic areas: **Matching Services to Needs, Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.) Reduction, School-Justice Partnership, or Continuation.**

BACKGROUND

Under [Wis. Stats. sec. 48.526\(3\)\(e\)](#), DCF can carry forward unused Youth Aids funds (underspending) from one calendar year to the next two calendar years. Greater than expected underspending in CY 2016 and a desire to bolster the state’s [Youth Justice Vision and Strategic Planning](#) work, prompted DCF to invite applicants for the first round of YJ Innovation Grant funding in fall of 2017.

In the first four cycles of this grant program, 37 counties have received YJ Innovation Grant funding. In addition to the provision of direct services to over 350 youth statewide, projects have engaged parents and families through family case management, created safe and supportive drop-in centers, produced hundreds of hours of community service opportunities, developed

pro-social skills in entrepreneurship, art, music, robotics, and outdoor leadership, and most importantly, youth at risk of being placed in detention or removed from their communities have safely remained in school and at home.

The impact of YJ Innovation Grant projects extends beyond the individual youth and families served. Collaboration is a key area of focus for YJ Innovation Grant projects. Many of the projects unite human services, the legal system, schools, law enforcement, and community leaders to discuss new, evidence-informed approaches to delinquency that emphasize approaching youth from a position of support rather than punishment.

A list of prior recipients and descriptions of past YJ Innovation Grant projects are available in the [Youth Justice Innovation Grants Final Report for 2017-2019](#).

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Only Wisconsin county human service agencies are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. Counties may only apply for one YJ Innovation Grant in 2021. Complete information about how to apply is in the attached application packet.

As this program is entering its fifth cycle, counties who satisfy one of the following requirements are eligible to apply for an **Initial YJ Innovation Grant**:

- 1. Counties who have never been awarded a YJ Innovation Grant** (including those who may have previously applied but did not receive funding).
- 2. Counties who were awarded an initial YJ Innovation Grant before Fall 2019** (including counties who may have been awarded a grant as part of a consortium), so long as this year's application is for a new project. Counties who received grants (initial or continuation) in the 2020-21 cycle are not eligible to apply for an initial grant.

Initial Innovation Grant applicants can request a \$50,000, \$100,000, or \$150,000 grant in one of three topic areas: Matching Services to Needs, R.E.D. Reduction, and School-Justice Partnership. Grants will be awarded through a competitive process. Successful applicants will be notified in September 2021. Initial YJ Innovation Grant funds will be available starting October 1, 2021 and must be spent by December 31, 2022.

Counties who satisfy the following requirement are eligible to apply for a second year of YJ Innovation Grant funding (Continuation):

- 1. Counties who were awarded an initial YJ Innovation Grant in Fall 2020.**

Continuation grant counties can request 50% or 75% of the initial grant amount awarded in fall 2020. Counties requesting 75% of initial funding should be prepared to justify why DCF funding beyond 50% of initial award is necessary. Grants will be awarded through a competitive process. Successful applicants will be notified in September 2021. Continuation YJ Innovation Grant funds will be available starting January 1, 2022 and must be spent by December 31, 2022.

Counties eligible for continuation funding are not eligible to apply for an initial YJ Innovation Grant in 2021. Counties *currently* receiving continuation funding (awarded an initial grant Fall 2019 or part of a consortium awarded an initial grant in Fall 2019) are not eligible to apply for YJ Innovation Grant funds in 2021.

The attached packet provides information needed to apply for these funds, which must serve the overall purpose of Youth Aids funds to purchase or provide “community-based juvenile delinquency-related services,” and must meet all requirements for selected topic area.

An optional Zoom Question and Answer (Q&A) Session will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm to answer any questions. Interested counties are encouraged to attend.

Zoom Connection Information:

<https://dcfwi.zoom.us/j/4384037798>

Meeting ID: 438 403 7798

Applications must be completed and emailed to DCFYJ@wisconsin.gov, no later than **5:00pm on Wednesday, August 11, 2021**.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Youth Justice Policy Coordinator
Bureau of Youth Services
(608) 333-2440
DCFYJ@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

ATTACHMENTS: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/yj> (Notification tab)
2021-22 Youth Justice Innovation Grants Application
Packet