



Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Informational Memo Series 2023-11i

June 2, 2023

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
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
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 CY 2021 Youth Aids, DCF is offering another round of Youth Justice (YJ) Innovation Grants. Youth Justice (YJ) Innovation Grants are a competitive opportunity for county human service agencies (counties) to implement new evidence-informed practices or programs with short-term start-up funding from the Department of Children and Families (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: reducing YJ referrals, pre-court diversion, or post-dispositional services.

BACKGROUND

Innovation Grants are funded by unused Youth Aids funds, which under [Wis. Stats. sec. 48.526\(3\)\(e\)](#), DCF can carry forward two calendar years. A list of prior recipients and descriptions of past YJ Innovation Grant projects is available in the [Youth Justice Innovation Grants Final Report for 2017-2019](#) and in the [2022-23 Youth Justice Innovation Grants Project Summaries](#).

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Only Wisconsin county human service agencies are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. Counties may apply in partnership with other counties or tribes; all participating partners should be listed on the application. Counties may only apply for one YJ Innovation Grant in 2023. Grant instructions and the application are linked as an attachment at the end of this memo.





Counties receiving a Youth Justice Innovation Grant must:

- Participate in periodic grantee conference calls, site visits, and presentation requests.
- Regularly collect program data and report out on outcomes. Counties will be asked to review and track specific measures related to racial and ethnic disparities using data from eWISACWIS.

All proposed projects must satisfy the following requirements:

- Will provide “community-based juvenile delinquency-related services” within the scope of services allowable under [Youth Aids](#).
- Will not contribute to “net widening” or expanding YJ system involvement of youth whose primary needs would be best addressed in another system.
- Will serve a target population age 10 and over.
- Will be used to initiate or significantly expand an evidence-informed program or practice (Innovation grants should not be used to fund existing programs or initiatives).

Initial Grant Eligibility

Initial grants are reserved for counties starting a new evidence-informed practice or program. Counties awarded a grant (initial or continuation) in 2022 are not eligible to apply for an initial grant in 2023.

Continuation Grant Eligibility

Counties who were awarded a YJ Innovation Grant (initial or continuation) in fall 2022 are eligible to apply for a second or third year of YJ Innovation Grant funding (continuation):

- Counties Awarded an Initial Grant in 2022 may apply for a second year of continuation funding – Green, Jefferson, Marathon, Oconto, Oneida, Washburn, Walworth, Waushara
- Counties Awarded a Continuation Grant in 2022 may apply for a third year of continuation funding – Ashland, Crawford, Dane, Jackson, Pierce, Washington, Eau Claire, Outagamie

Applications must be submitted electronically to DCFYJ@wisconsin.gov no later than July 20, 2023, at 5:00pm CST. An email will be sent out on July 21, 2023, confirming receipt of application.

An optional Zoom Q&A will be held on June 28, 2023, at 2:00pm. Please register using this link for Zoom access. <https://dcfwi.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsc-yqrDMpH9OumZXH8e1vMtzyaiUQ4o2s>

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)
[2024 Youth Justice Innovation Grants Application Packet](#)