



Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Informational Memo Series 2024-09i

May 31, 2024

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

From: John Elliott
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 2023 Youth Aids, 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 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 youth justice (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, pursuant to [Wis. Stat. § 48.526\(3\)\(e\)](#), DCF can carry forward two calendar years. A list of past YJ Innovation Grant projects is available via the [DCF YJ webpage](#) (Innovative Practice tab).

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 2024. Grant instructions and the application are linked as an attachment at the end of this memo.





Counties receiving a Youth Justice Innovation Grant must:

- Attend and 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 eWReports.
- Amplify life experiences through reflection on engagement practices, create opportunities for youth feedback, and raise awareness of opportunities to share lived experiences.

All proposed projects must satisfy the following requirements:

- Will provide community-based youth justice (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.
- Innovation funds 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 an initial grant in the fall of 2021 are not eligible to apply for an initial grant in 2024.

Applications must be submitted electronically to DCFYJ@wisconsin.gov no later than July 18, 2024, by 11:59pm CST. An email will be sent out on August 2, 2024, confirming receipt of application.

An optional Zoom Q&A will be held on June 20, 2024, at 9:30am and June 27, 2024, at 2:00pm. Please register using either link for Zoom access:

June 20 registration link: https://dcfwi.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtd-hrD4jHta4_lurrRzulCETuV94yWvx

June 27 registration link:

<https://dcfwi.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwodeqgpj4tE9X3BSOutgFk9-QJPrqC6PgB>



REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: DCF Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Youth Justice Policy Coordinator
Bureau of Youth Services
608-422-7013
dcfyj@wisconsin.gov

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

Attachments <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/yj> (Notifications tab)
2025 Youth Justice Innovation Grants Application Packet