

July 20, 2017

Dear County Human and Social Services Directors:

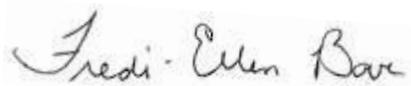
I am writing to inform you about a new opportunity to pursue new, innovative youth justice projects at the local level. Utilizing greater than expected under-spending in CY 2016 Early Intervention Youth Aids, DCF is creating Youth Justice Innovation Grants to support counties in launching new, innovative youth justice projects and practices. To effectively distribute this one-time funding, DCF is inviting counties **currently receiving Early Intervention funds** (CY2017-18 grantees) to apply for either a \$100,000 or \$250,000 grant in one of three topic areas. These grant awards need to be spent between October 2017 and December 31, 2018. Two grants in each amount will be awarded through a competitive process.

This package provides information needed to apply for these funds, which must serve the overall Early Intervention purpose of “improving community-based juvenile delinquency-related services” and must fall within one of the three topic areas described in the attachment. The attachment also describes the required elements for each topic area.

Attached is information about the application process. Applications must be completed and emailed to the Youth Services Policy Coordinator at DCFJJ@wisconsin.gov no later than the end of the day on **August 30, 2017**. An optional conference call will be held on Tuesday, July 25 from 11am-12pm to answer any questions. The call-in number is 1-877-820-7831, and the passcode is 166446#.

Thank you for considering this opportunity and for your continuing efforts to support children, youth, and families in your local jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



Fredi-Ellen Bove
Administrator
Division of Safety and Permanence

cc: John Elliott
Wendy Henderson

Youth Justice Innovation Grants (for Early Intervention Counties)

Information and Application Instructions

Background and Purpose

One-time funding is being distributed with the purpose of supporting counties to implement a new project or practice that they would not otherwise be able to accomplish without a significant amount of seed money. DCF is distributing two \$100,000 grants and two \$250,000 grants with the intention of launching four new projects or practices. By presenting and sharing information with other counties, these projects will provide an opportunity to have an even broader impact.

As this funding is time limited, counties must explain how their projects will be sustained beyond the life of the grant. Projects or practices that require a significant influx of funds at first to get started, but then can be sustained with other existing sources of funding, are appropriate for these grants.

State statute specifies that the overarching purpose for Early Intervention funding is to improve “community-based juvenile delinquency-related services.” Within this overall purpose, the project areas described below reflect key areas of the DCF [Youth Justice \(YJ\) Vision and Strategic Plan](#).

We recommend that applicants refer to the YJ Vision and Strategic Plan, as well as the [Summary of Input Gathered](#), in crafting their applications. Applicants should explain how their proposed project will further an aspect of the vision for the future of youth justice in Wisconsin.

Topic Areas for Projects

1. School-Justice Partnership

The “YJ Vision and Strategic Plan” includes a focus on prevention and diversion. Further, many stakeholders during the [input gathering](#) process identified the need to ensure that schools are not referring youth to the justice system unnecessarily.

Projects proposed in this area must include the following elements: clearly defined roles and regular collaboration between law enforcement, schools, and human services; an array of approaches to school-related misbehavior and/or truancy that minimize the use of exclusionary discipline and referrals to law enforcement; and attention to underlying family system needs.

For example, a project in this area might address truancy by providing family support and after-school tutoring for students at risk of becoming habitual truants. Another possible program might establish a school-based

“The vision for the Wisconsin youth justice system is that it **focuses on prevention and diversion, and provides accountability and services to youth and families in the system that prepares them to thrive**. Across the state, there are already many dedicated people and promising programs moving us forward toward this vision. Our collective challenge is to work together across systems - state, county and tribal agencies, courts, law enforcement, schools, service providers, and many others - to bring to fruition the vision we share.”

- Introduction to Youth Justice Vision and Strategic Plan

restorative justice program for behaviors that were previously referred to law enforcement as a disorderly conduct charge.

2. Robust Case Planning

The “YJ Vision and Strategic Plan” includes the observation that “all those who come into contact with youth and families in the system want to be able to tailor services to risk, needs, and strengths, provide evidence-based or evidence-informed practices and programs, and provide trauma-informed care. They want to connect youth to the supports and skills they need to find a good job or pursue higher education.” Robust case planning can help achieve this vision.

The intent of providing funding in this area is to allow counties to implement a new or enhanced approach to case planning across all youth justice cases. Projects proposed in this area must include the following elements: tailors services to individual needs and strengths; addresses individual, family, and environmental factors underlying behavior; includes skill building and practice; and provides a structured approach to case planning through the life of a case.

For example, a project in this area might train all youth justice case workers in a particular approach to case management, including the purchase of any necessary tools or guides.

3. Alternatives to Detention for Non-Public Safety Reasons

The “YJ Vision and Strategic Plan” includes a “desire to ensure that youth who do enter the system are held accountable in a way that allows them to repair any harm they have caused, and learn from their mistakes.” Further, the vision emerged through the [input gathering](#) process that there should be no use of 72-hour holds or placement in secure detention for reasons other than public safety. This is supported by a significant body of national research.

The intent of providing funding in this area is to allow counties to implement new programs or practices that will reduce their use of detention for reasons other than public safety. This may include new approaches to addressing violations of conditions/rules of supervision. Projects proposed in this area should not include an electronic monitoring component. Projects proposed in this area must include the following elements: provides a specific alternative to use of detention for consequences/sanctions; includes use of incentives; is strength-based, skill-based, and individualized; and includes commitment and regular collaboration of all stakeholders involved in decisions about the use of detention.

For example, a project in this area might set up an after-school center for youth who violate conditions of supervision unrelated to public safety where they are supervised and receive individualized programming to address their needs and build upon their strengths. Another project might establish a rewards and sanctions policy for the county that eliminates the use of detention for reasons other than public safety.

What will my county be required to do if we receive a grant?

Counties will be required to:

- Submit a detailed project plan and budget;
- Report on the progress of the project and use of the funds every six months;
- Participate in periodic grantee conference calls and site visits;

- Upon request, present to other counties each year about their project; and
- Participate in a half-day summit at the conclusion of the grant to present on the project and share lessons learned with other interested counties.

Can my county apply in partnership with another county or tribe?

Counties may apply in partnership with other counties or tribes by submitting one application with one or more partners listed. The lead applicant must submit the application, and must be a current Early Intervention funding recipient. Partners are not required to be current Early Intervention recipients.

What is the timeline for award and use of funds?

Successful applicants will be notified in September 2017, with an anticipated award date of October 2017. The funds must be used by December 31, 2018, with the possibility of a no-cost extension, to be requested and evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Application Instructions:

A county may apply for one grant only.

Complete the set of questions corresponding to the topic area of your proposed project.

Limit your response to five single-spaced pages. Use a minimum of 11 pt. font with 1 inch margins.

Please label your responses to indicate which question and sub-question is being addressed.

Completed applications must be submitted **by the end of the day on August 30, 2017**, to the Youth Services Policy Coordinator at DCFJJ@wisconsin.gov. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

An optional conference call will be held on Tuesday, July 25 from 11am-12pm to answer any questions. The call-in number is 1-877-820-7831, and the passcode is 166446#.

“The work of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families is guided by the [Wisconsin Child Welfare Model for Practice](#) that continually aligns what we do with how and why we do our work, and provides a vision for quality services. The system strives to engage with children, youth, and families to expand healthy connections to supports in their community and tribes and bolster resiliency in families to help them thrive.”

Youth Justice Innovation Grant Application

County: _____

If applying in partnership, please list the partnering county(ies) or tribe(s):

County Mailing Address: _____

Street, City, Zip Code

Contact Person for this Proposal: _____

Name, Title

Contact information for contact person: _____

Email Address, Phone Number

Indicate whether you are applying for a \$100,000 grant or a \$250,000 grant (choose only one).

We are applying for a \$100,000 grant.

We are applying for a \$250,000 grant.

Indicate which topic area your project addresses (choose only one):

School Justice Partnership (Questions on p.6)

Robust Case Planning (Questions on p.7)

Alternatives to Detention (Questions on p.8)

Complete the set of questions that correspond to the area under which your project fits. **You must pick only one.**

Limit your response to five single-spaced pages. Use a minimum of 11 pt. font with 1 inch margins.

Label your responses to indicate which question and sub-question is being addressed.

School Justice Partnership Questions

1. Describe your proposed project. This should include, at a minimum:
 - a. The overall goal of the project and the general outcomes sought;
 - b. The target population the project will serve;
 - c. The key activities or elements of the project;
 - d. How the activities or elements will achieve the goals and outcomes; and
 - e. An overview of how you will use the level of funding you are seeking (\$100,000 or \$250,000) (you do not need to include a detailed budget at this point).

2. Describe how your proposed project meets the required elements of a School Justice Partnership. Specifically, describe how your proposed project will include:
 - a. Clearly defined roles and regular collaboration between law enforcement, schools, and human services;
 - b. An array of approaches to school-related misbehavior and/or truancy that minimize the use of exclusionary discipline and referrals to law enforcement; and
 - c. Attention to underlying family system needs.

3. List your key collaborators and the roles they will serve.

4. Describe how agency leadership and/or project partners will sustain the project beyond the term of the grant. Include the anticipated source(s) of funding for the project.

Robust Case Planning Questions

1. Describe your proposed project. This should include, at a minimum:
 - a. The overall goal of the project and the general outcomes sought;
 - b. The target population the project will serve;
 - c. The key activities or elements of the project;
 - d. How the activities or elements will achieve the goals and outcomes; and
 - e. An overview of how you will use the level of funding you are seeking (\$100,000 or \$250,000) (you do not need to include a detailed budget at this point).
2. Describe how your proposed project meets the required elements of a Robust Case Planning project. Specifically, describe how your proposed project will:
 - a. Tailor services to individual needs and strengths;
 - b. Address individual, family, and environmental factors underlying behavior;
 - c. Include skill building and practice; and
 - d. Provide a structured approach to case planning through the life of a case.
3. Describe how the agency will engage other system stakeholders, including, but not limited to, the courts, district attorneys, public defenders, and any contracted service providers to ensure that they understand the new approach to case planning.
4. Describe how agency leadership and/or project partners will sustain the project beyond the term of the grant. Include the anticipated source(s) of funding for the project.

Alternatives to Detention Questions

1. Describe your proposed project. This should include, at a minimum:
 - a. The overall goal of the project and the general outcomes sought;
 - b. The target population the project will serve;
 - c. The key activities or elements of the project;
 - d. How the activities or elements will achieve the goals and outcomes; and
 - e. An overview of how you will use the level of funding you are seeking (\$100,000 or \$250,000) (you do not need to include a detailed budget at this point).

2. Describe how your proposed project meets the required elements of an Alternatives to Detention project. Specifically, describe how your proposed project will:
 - a. Provide a specific alternative to use of detention for consequences/sanctions;
 - b. Include use of incentives;
 - c. Be strength-based, skill-based, and individualized; and
 - d. Include commitment and regular collaboration of all stakeholders involved in decisions about the use of consequences/sanctions .

3. Describe how agency leadership and/or project partners will sustain the project beyond the term of the grant. Include the anticipated source(s) of funding for the project.

**Eligibility for a Youth Justice Innovation Grant requires consent to the criteria below.
Please check each box to acknowledge your acceptance of these terms.**

- I agree to commit the time of the appropriate team and other necessary staff to present to other counties as required.

- I agree to participate in project evaluation activities.

- I have reviewed and approved the content of this application.

Please sign and date below.

County Human and Social Services Director

Date