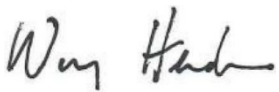


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian 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) 2021 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 CY2016 and a desire to bolster the state’s [Youth Justice Vision and Strategic Plan](#) work prompted DCF to invite applications for the first round of YJ Innovation Grant funding in fall of 2017. 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 on DCF’s [Youth Justice in Wisconsin](#) webpage, under the Innovative Practice tab.

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 2022. The instructions and application are linked at the end of this memo.

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 2020**, 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 2021-22 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 August 2022. Initial YJ Innovation Grant funds will be available starting October 1, 2022 and must be spent by December 31, 2023.

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 2021.**

Continuation grant counties can request 50% or 75% of their total initial grant amount. 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 August 2022. Continuation YJ Innovation Grant funds will be available starting January 1, 2023 and must be spent by December 31, 2023.

Counties eligible for continuation funding are not eligible to apply for an initial YJ Innovation Grant in 2022. Counties currently receiving continuation funding (awarded an initial grant in fall 2020, or part of a consortium awarded an initial grant in fall 2020) are not eligible to apply for YJ Innovation Grant funds in 2022.

The application linked at the end of this memo 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.

Applications must be completed and emailed to DCFYJ@wisconsin.gov no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

An optional Zoom Q&A Session will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Interested counties are encouraged to attend.

<https://dcfwi.zoom.us/j/82728215837?pwd=cSthU2g3bUpMKytxNEhrM0s4S1hSdz09>
Meeting ID: 827 2821 5837
Passcode: 960255

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>

ATTACHMENT LINKS: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/yj>
[2022-23 Youth Justice Innovation Grants Application](#)