

Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA)

2026 Request for Initial Proposal Ideas

JAMS Foundation-ACR Initiative for Students and Youth

The Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) is pleased to announce this Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) and request for initial proposal ideas for the 2026 funding cycle of the JAMS Foundation-ACR Initiative for Students and Youth.

Mission: This JAMS Foundation-ACR Initiative seeks to provide financial support for conflict resolution education and training (CRE) for Pre-K through 12th grade students and youth. The populations to be served by the funding streams will be both (1) youth in Pre-K through 12th grade age range and (2) adults working with these youth populations in ways that directly transfer CRE skills for adults to the youth populations.

Funding Contexts: The contexts for projects may include community, schools, alternative education (online education, charter schools, after school programs), government (juvenile justice facilities, courts) and NGO settings. While some proposals may be able to secure and guarantee access to or cooperation from traditional K-12 school districts/schools, this funding opportunity is intended to provide potential financial support for CRE work in other contexts as well.

2026 Recommended Funding Focus

The focus of the 2026 funding cycle intends to support work at the intersection of culture and conflict. This funding track will implement and evaluate the effectiveness of conflict resolution skills in navigating multicultural environments among middle school youth, grades 5-9 or a subset thereof. Culture is defined as a set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterize an institution or organization. The intent is to foster changes in school or school district policy by employing conflict resolution approaches to improve students' peaceful interactions with their peers (primary), school personnel (secondary) and in their home environment (tertiary).

There are three proposal priorities:

1. Increase in the use of CRE approaches to improve students' communication across cultures, increase their understanding and appreciation of different cultures, and decrease incidents of fighting and bullying. The measurement should document students' knowledge and use of CRE techniques in fostering understanding about the diversity of the cultures in the school or school district, as well as points of shared attitude, value, goal, or practice among these diverse cultures.
2. Increase in the use of non-violent communication by middle school youth that measurably increases bonding and belonging across different cultures represented by other students, faculty and others associated with the school. Measures of this increase

would include the use of self-report surveys and questionnaires that assess students' use of non-violent communication/CRE skills in their interactions with individuals from different cultures, their feeling of emotional and behavioral connection to others across cultures both at school and beyond, and their engagement with a shared culture of school values and norms.

3. Substantial adoption of the use of CRE approaches as system-wide practice, either through formal policy or other means, that increases the use of these approaches by both students and school personnel. Measurement of impact will include the use of CRE practices to bridge cultural divides and address intercultural conflict before the use of other disciplinary remedies with middle school youth, grades 5-9 or a subset thereof.

Selection Parameters and Criteria for the 2026 Funding Cycle

- Requests for Year 1 funding may be up to \$20,000 of the potential two-year funding cycle.
- While the proposed projects are two-year projects, decisions on funding for a second year will be contingent on evidence of benchmark accomplishments at the end of the first year of funding with a focus on the integration of the new service or expansion of the current services. For those who may seek a second year of funding, those requests may be for up to \$40,000.
- ACR seeks to recommend a small number of high-quality projects with likely or proven impact and the potential of regional and national impact upon completion to the JAMS Foundation for their review and selection.
- Preference for funding is given for those that may bring existing programs or exciting new ideas to a level of scalability and sustainability on a regional or national basis.
- Eligible organizations include nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies working in conjunction with nonprofit educational institutions or organizations.

Please Note:

- If the proposal does not include conflict resolution education, training or services in a substantial way, the proposal will not be reviewed.

The Grant Process

An informational conference call will be held on **Monday December 1st, 2025, at 3:30 PM EST**. Day-of registrations may not be accepted and because space is limited, spots are not guaranteed. **Accordingly, attendance is strongly advised but is not mandatory to apply.** You may register by going to the following link: [2026 NOFA Overview](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to last 90 minutes. **This call will not be recorded.**

- Interested organizations or individuals are required to submit a 1--3-page Initial

Project Idea description (using the guidelines on the following page) to ACR no later than 11:59 PM local time of the organization's legal/main location, **Friday, January 9th, 2026**, to grants@acrnet.org.

- The JAMS Foundation - ACR Grant review committee will notify applicants if they have been selected to develop a full proposal for submission and review by **February 20th, 2026**.
- A Full Proposal Submission Webinar will be offered on **March 17th, 2026, at 3:30 PM EST**. The link for attendance will be sent to those applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal. *Please note this date, as attendance is mandatory for this session in order to continue with the application process.*
- Full proposals that are responsive to the application protocol provided upon notification, will be due to the JAMS Foundation - ACR Grant review committee no later than 11:59 PM local time of the organization's legal/main location on **May 4th, 2026**.
- Funding decisions will be approved by the JAMS Foundation Board at its August meeting and all grantees will be notified of their status.
- The selected grantees will be formally announced during ACR's 2026 Annual Conference; location and date to be announced. Selected grant recipients should plan on attending.

Please address questions about the grant program to D.G. Mawn at grants@acrnet.org.

Initial Proposal Ideas Description

Please note, incomplete submissions and those which do not adhere to the specifications contained within this NOFA will not be considered.

MANDATORY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Initial Project Idea Description must be submitted electronically through the Internet. The subject line of the email **must read**: JAMS Foundation/ACR Grant and the name of the submitting organization.

Applications must be submitted **electronically by 11:59 P.M., local time of applicant on January 9th, 2026**, to grants@acrnet.org.

In the body of the email, provide **only** the following information:

1. Name of the organization and the complete mailing address of the organization; and the city and state where the project will take place.
2. Name of the proposed project.
3. Name of the contact person and necessary contact information, including a) telephone number of contact person, and b) electronic mail (email) address of contact person.

4. Indicate if you (the submitter) or someone on your team is a member of ACR

The proposed project description shall be **no more than three pages**, single spaced, 12-point font, in Times New Roman, with 1-inch margins and page numbered. The document must be submitted in **Word**.

Please note, **incomplete submissions and those which do not adhere to the specifications will not be considered**. This includes but is not limited to proposals which do not include conflict resolution education, training, or services in a substantial way.

Project Description: In **your 1-3-page description** of the project please discuss the following:

1. Briefly highlight your previous or present work, or that of your partner, to use conflict resolution skills and trainings to increase youth ability to improve communication across cultures more effectively, leading to less bullying and fighting.
2. Briefly provide an example of your previous or present work, or that of your partner, to assist a public or private institution to create policy and procedure change that embed conflict resolution skills and techniques.
3. Briefly describe your proposed school district's current detention, suspension, and expulsion rates. Include herein, how, if at all, the school district measures youth feelings of bonding and belonging within the school setting. Include with these data points the appropriate citations. Then provide a possible barrier, you would like to address to increasing the use of CRE techniques by both students and school personnel instead of detention, suspension or expulsion rates and how would that increase in usage may impact youth feelings of bonding and belonging.
4. Briefly note how you will measure an increase in: 1) students' knowledge about the diversity of the cultures in the school district and points of shared attitude, value, goal, or practice among these diverse cultures, either district-wide or for middle school students within the district; 2) the connection students make between the fit of the conflict resolution intervention with the cultural norms and context of the youth; 3) use of CRE before the use of other disciplinary remedies with middle school students, grades 5-9 or a subset thereof.
5. Provide an example of a previous project that was grant funded and has been sustained after the original funding ended. Include in this example one to two practices the organization has in place to assure project viability, sustainability, and replicability at the end of a project granted funded term.