

Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA)

2022 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 2022 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.

The 2022 Funding Focus

The pandemic is shifting, and our society is loosening the restrictions put in place. As we transition, we must recognize the challenges in education, housing, economics, food, and health security that remain. Changes have occurred in every area of life, resulting in high levels of uncertainty and stress, especially among high school aged adolescents.

The proposed project would help to increase adolescents' capacity to engage in and respond constructively to these challenging times by providing them opportunities to both be trained in and use conflict resolution skills in one of the following settings:

- domestic violence shelters
- foster care
- homeless shelters
- school/after school programming organization
- youth correctional facilities

These skills will allow the participants to confidently face the issues that have been heightened during the Pandemic both within and outside the setting, and for which there is a need for reconciliation or constructive engagement.

The measures of success will be adolescents reporting increased capacity and opportunity, because of conflict resolution education, training, or services, to:

1. use conflict resolution skills to develop, explore, and make choices in addressing conflict arising regarding issues heightened during the Pandemic, either in the focused setting or in the larger community.
2. engage with other adolescents and adults within a framework of constructive engagement and reconciliation to assist with de-escalation of potentially divisive or violent conflict and increase civic engagement.

This project would focus on youth between the ages of 13 and 18 years old.

Priority will be given to projects in which:

1. youth play a significant or substantive role in the delivery of conflict resolution training, education, or services.
2. youth will develop leadership skills by getting themselves and other young people involved in helping themselves.
3. partnerships with a foster care agency, homeless shelter, the domestic violence shelter, school/after school programming organization or the youth correctional facility currently exists for the applicant.
4. creative means of documenting and demonstrating the project are used so as to inspire other organizations to replicate the project.

Selection Parameters and Criteria for the 2022 Funding Cycle

- Requests for funding may range from \$15,000 to \$40,000 for the first year 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. For those who may seek a second year of funding, those requests may be for no more than \$20,000.00.
- 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.
- 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.
- If the proposal does not offer the opportunity to bring or enhance conflict resolution education, training or services in foster care, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, school/ after school or youth programming, correctional facilities, the proposal will not be reviewed.

The Grant Process

- An informational conference call will be held on **Monday November 22nd, 2021, at 4:00 PM EST**. There is a limited number of spaces for this teleconference, so please register as soon as possible. **Attendance is strongly advised**. You may register by going to the following link:

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sdOqrrz0jG9w6j1vOzQ9kUFHwaQBQymvP>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to last 90 minutes. Plan to attend the entire call. **This call is not 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, **January 14th, 2022** 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 14th, 2022**.
- A Full Proposal Submission Webinar will be offered on **March 2nd, 2022, at 3:30 PM EST**. The link for attendance will be sent to those applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal.
- Full proposals (with a required 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 20, 2022**.
- Funding decisions will be approved by the JAMS Foundation Board at its August 2022 meeting and all grantees will be notified of their status.
- The selected grantees will be formally announced during ACR's 2022 Annual Conference, location, and date to be announced. Selected grant recipients should plan on attending.

Please address questions about 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

Proposal 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 organization.

Applications must be submitted **electronically by 11:59 P.M., local time of applicant on January 14th, 2022** to grants@acrnet.org.

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

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

The proposed project description shall be **no more than three** pages, single spaced, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins. 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.
- Proposals which do not offer the opportunity to bring or enhance conflict resolution education, training or services in foster care, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, school/ after school programming, or youth correctional facilities, the proposal will not be reviewed.

Project Description: In **your 2-3-page description** of the project please discuss the following:

1. Briefly highlight your previous or present work to increase the use of conflict resolution skills by youth ages 13-18 years old and their role in the delivery of the conflict resolution education, training, or services.
2. Describe your previous or present work with one or more of the following institutions, foster care, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, school/ after school programming organization, or youth correctional facilities, and how you have addressed or propose to address the impact of the pandemic on issues of education, housing, economics, food and/or health security.

3. Provide a clear description of the nature of the proposed project idea and how you would utilize adolescents as trainers/implementors learning and promoting conflict resolution education skills that engages them with other adolescents and adults from a framework of constructive engagement and reconciliation that assists with de-escalation of potentially divisive or violent conflict and increase in civic engagement.
4. List the measurable impacts that you anticipate will demonstrate your success in increasing the use of conflict resolution education, services or training which empower adolescents to develop, explore and make their choices, with the use of conflict resolution skills, in how they handle conflict that continue to arise from issues heightened during the Pandemic, in the focused setting or in the larger community.
5. Introduce the capacity of your organization, or an individual who will be connected through this proposal, by providing an example of how either have documented or demonstrated the impact of previous projects that was both creative and inspiring to others to want to replicate your work.