

## **Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA)**

### **2023 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 2023 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 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and youth. The populations to be served by the funding streams will be both (1) youth in Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 2023 Funding Focus**

The 2023 funding track will focus on efforts to increase the resiliency skills in children (ages 5-11) by using conflict resolution education and training to increase their ability to cope with crisis, stress, and lack of hope in the future. Recognizing the importance and long-term impact of a child's early environment, the funding focus is open to conflict resolution practitioners and organizations working with child-based community organizations which provide full childcare for working parents, guardians, or other caregivers, or to organizations providing before- and/or after-school programming.

There are two priorities:

The proposed evidence-based conflict resolution education and training strategies should be designed for children ages 5 - 11 years old, or a subset of that age group, focusing on one or more of the following experiential practices: peer mediation; de-escalation; restorative justice; and/or coaching.

The proposed project should build upon the current work of either the applicant agency or the applicant's community partner specifically aimed to integrate conflict resolution skills in a manner that educates children ages 5 - 11 years old as a means to navigate effectively conflict and develop positive attitudes and behaviors.

Required minimum measures:

- An increase in children's trust in and connection with adults as documented by children reporting being safe in the environment and able to name an adult whom they trust.
- An increase in positive peer-to-peer communication and connection as documented by an increase in social cohesion as observed by adults, and a decrease in reported bullying by children.

**This project will focus on young children between the ages of 5 and 11 years old.**

#### Selection Parameters and Criteria for the 2023 Funding Cycle

- Requests for funding may range from \$20,000 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.
- 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.
- If the proposal does not offer the opportunity to bring or enhance conflict resolution education, training, or services in child-based community organizations which provide full childcare for working parents, guardians, or other caregivers, or with organizations providing before- and/or after-school programming the proposal will not be reviewed.

#### The Grant Process

- An informational conference call will be held on **Monday November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at 4:00 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:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcO6spjwrGtbtE9fZ0AjkM42\\_-N\\_-byu](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcO6spjwrGtbtE9fZ0AjkM42_-N_-byu)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to last 90 minutes. **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, **Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023** to [grants@acrnet.org](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.
- A Full Proposal Submission Webinar will be offered on **March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.
- Funding decisions will be approved by the JAMS Foundation Board at its August 2023 meeting and all grantees will be notified of their status.
- The selected grantees will be formally announced during ACR's 2023 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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023** to [grants@acrnet.org](mailto:grants@acrnet.org).

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

1. Name of organization and complete mailing 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 (email) address of contact person.

The proposed project description shall be **no more than three** pages, single spaced, 12-point font, in Times New Roman, 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 that offer the opportunity to bring or enhance conflict resolution education, training, or services in child-based community organizations which provide full childcare for working parents, guardians, or other caregivers, or with, organizations providing before- and/or after-school programming 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, or that of your partner, to use conflict resolution skills and trainings with children ages 5-11 or a subset of this age group.
2. Briefly highlight your previous work or present work, or that of your partner, with child-based community organizations which provide full childcare for working parents, guardians, or other caregivers, or with organizations providing before- and/or after-school programming.
3. Describe the proposed evidence-based conflict resolution education and training practices you would use with children ages 5 - 11 years old, or a subset of that age group, focusing on one or more of the following experiential practices: peer mediation; de-escalation; restorative justice; and/or coaching that would effectively help these children navigate conflict and develop positive attitudes and behaviors.
4. Briefly note how you may measure both an increase in children's trust in and connection with adults; and in social cohesion among the children.
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.