

## Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA)

### 2025 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 2025 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 2025 Funding Focus

The funding focus for the 2025 funding cycle intends to support:

The development of systemwide educational policies and procedures that integrate in conflict resolution training and education focused on school climate. Educational institutions play a critical role in the socialization of students. These institutions have been greatly impacted from the pandemic which required social distancing, and the use of online learning, both of which served as barriers to engaging with the broader community. The focused work will be to assist these institutions with the development of policy and practices that adopt elements of conflict resolution (Year 1) and then the implementation of these policies (Year 2).

The proposed project will build upon the current work of the school system's current policies and practices regarding youth involved in fights, disruptive behavior, or violating school conduct rules, moving them to become more restorative in nature and focus on resolving the conflict with the least amount of disruption for the student, teacher, peers, and family. Priority will be given to school district applicants where 5% or more of their students in grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8 are learning at a grade level at least one year behind their age group in one or more academic areas of study.

There are three proposal priorities:

1. The proposed project will work with school districts to create policy and procedure

change that embed conflict resolution skills and techniques, in both classroom and interactions among students, and interactions with the administration.

2. This policy and procedure change will reward students' ability to be assertive in a manner that leads to cooperation not degradation, and lessen the reliance on detention, suspension, and expulsion and an expansion of conflict resolution practices district wide. These changes will strive to make normative non-violent communication, cooperation, and self-reflection, affecting all students in their district, or subset population of students.
3. Evaluation measures for the proposed project will include, at a minimum: 1) an increase in applied conflict resolution skills by youth, specifically for **appropriate** interactions with others in a manner that leads to cooperation and 2) a change in school disciplinary policy that adopts a more restorative frame when fights and other anti-social behavior arise among students, and, 3) an integrative, empathetic and responsive setting to meet social-emotional learning needs of students in post-pandemic conditions.

***Priority will be given to school district applicants where 5% or more of their students in grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8 are learning at a grade level at least one year behind their age group in one or more academic areas of study.***

#### Selection Parameters and Criteria for the 2024 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, 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: [NOFA 2025 Registration](#)

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**.
- A Full Proposal Submission Webinar will be offered on **March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 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 **April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.
- 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 2025 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](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**

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, to [grants@acrnet.org](mailto: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.

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.

**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 within a school or school district setting.
2. Briefly highlight 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 in their approach to resolving conflict among their employees or between employees or customers, or between the institution and the public at large.
3. Briefly describe your proposed school district's current detention, suspension, and expulsion rates. Also, include the percentage of students in grade 6, grade 7 and grade 8 who are learning at a grade level at least one year behind their age group in one or more academic areas of study. Include with these data points the appropriate citations.
4. Briefly note how you will measure at a minimum: 1) an increase in applied conflict resolution skills by youth, specifically for **appropriate** interactions with others in a manner that leads to cooperation and 2) a change in school disciplinary policy that adopts a more restorative frame when fights and other anti-social behavior arise among students, and, 3) an integrative, empathetic and responsive setting to meet social-emotional learning needs of students in post-pandemic conditions.
5. Provide an example of a previous project that was grant funded and has been sustained for at least 18 months 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.