

Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA)

2024 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 2024 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 2024 Funding Focus

The funding focus for the 2024 funding cycle is to support efforts to increase the resiliency skills in youth by using conflict resolution education and training intended to increase their ability to 1) cope with violence they may encounter in a school or other gathering places, and 2) de-escalate the violence.

There are three priorities:

1. The proposed project will use evidence-based strategies designed for youth ages 14 - 18 years old, or a subset of that age group, to provide conflict resolution education and training, providing youth with the skills and motivation to reduce violence among high school aged youth at school as well as other gathering spaces (physical and on-line) for their peer group.
2. The proposed project will build upon the current work of applicant organization and will highlight local community connections that demonstrate previous or current integrated work with the focused population or their location. The project will specifically integrate conflict resolution skills of youth within their communities, and develop and implement a public education campaign extolling the benefits of conflict resolution skills in advancing positive interactions.
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 does not lead to physical or verbal violence, and 2) a decrease in reported violence in schools or other spaces where youth gather.

This project will focus on youth between the ages of 14 and 18 years old.

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, November 20th, 2023, 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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkc-GpqjguEtZlogNn5tB-frCz4EYPnb2m>

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 to 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 12th, 2024** 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 16th, 2024**.
- A Full Proposal Submission Webinar will be offered on **March 11th, 2024, 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 20th, 2024**.
- Funding decisions will be approved by the JAMS Foundation Board at its August 2024 meeting and all grantees will be notified of their status.
- The selected grantees will be formally announced during ACR's 2024 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 12th, 2024** 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.

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 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 youth ages 14-18 or a subset of this age group.
2. Briefly highlight your previous work or present work, or that of your partner, with providing youth with the skills and motivation to reduce violence among high school aged youth at school as well as other gathering spaces (physical and on-line) for their peer group.
3. Describe how the proposed project will build upon the current work of the applicant agency highlighting: 1) the local community connections that demonstrate previous or current integrated work with the focused population or their location; 2) how the project will integrate conflict resolution skills of youth within their communities; and, 3) the basic elements of your proposed public education campaign developed to extol the benefits of conflict resolution skills in advancing positive interactions.
4. Briefly note how you will measure both 1) an increase in applied conflict resolution skills by youth, specifically for appropriate interactions with others in a manner that does not lead to physical or verbal violence, and 2) a decrease in reported violence in schools or other spaces where youth gather.
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.