



NOTICE OF SOLICITATION

Request For Proposal: Justice Reinvestment Programming

Just Communities Arizona (JCA) is requesting proposals from community-based organizations to assist in Justice Investment Programming funded through Maricopa County Department of Public Health's (MCDPH) allotment of Justice Reinvestment Funds. Proposals must be submitted electronically via <https://justreinvest.org> no later than **March 20th, 2026 at 11:59pm MST**

1.0 INTENT

In addition to legalizing adult recreational use of marijuana in Arizona, Proposition 207 (passed by voters in 2020) included several justice reform components. It directed the state to create a process to help people with prior criminal convictions for marijuana possession to have their records sealed (expungement) and allocated funding to assist in this process. In addition, it created a Justice Reinvestment Fund.

The Justice Reinvestment Fund receives 10% of all state tax revenues from the sale of recreational marijuana. Thirty-five percent of those funds are allotted to county public health departments, in proportion to the population of each county, "for the purpose of providing justice reinvestment programs or distributing grants to qualified nonprofit organizations to provide justice reinvestment programs in that county."

Under A.R.S. § 36-2863(G) (1-4) Justice Investment Programming is defined as follows:

- 1. Public and behavioral health, including evidence-based and evidence-informed substance use prevention and treatment and substance use early intervention services.*
- 2. Restorative justice, jail diversion, workforce development, industry-specific technical assistance, or mentoring services for economically disadvantaged persons in communities disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration.*
- 3. Addressing the underlying causes of crime, reducing drug-related arrests, and reducing the prison population in this state.*
- 4. Creating or developing technology and programs to assist with the restoration of civil rights and the expungement of criminal records.*

JustReinvest grants are designed to embody the spirit of Justice Reinvestment, which aims to re-invest state resources in the people and communities that have been negatively impacted by the criminalization of personal consumption of cannabis. To this end, the grants prioritize work in communities with high rates of arrest and incarceration and community-based approaches to address violence, spur economic development, increase green space, and enhance health and wellness. In addition, the JustReinvest grant program seeks to invest in the capacity and long-term sustainability of emerging community-based nonprofit organizations to ensure their ability to meet the needs of their communities into the future.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for Justice Reinvestment Grants, applicant organizations must:

- 2.1. Be an Arizona community-based organization (with or without formal 501 c 3 nonprofit status or a Fiscal Sponsor) based in geographic areas of Maricopa County that have high rates of arrest and incarceration. For reference, see Arizona Department of Health Services' "Justice Reinvestment Priority Area Maps," available on the Resources page of justreinvest.org
- 2.2 Have staff, leadership, and governance that is representative of and deeply connected to the communities served.
- 2.3 Have a demonstrated history of serving the community and a generally positive reputation.
- 2.4 Address at least one of the 4 Program Priority Areas (see below)
- 2.5 Have an annual organizational budget under \$2 million
- 2.6 Be willing to work closely with JCA, participate in trainings, and be compliant with grant parameters as part of a cohort of subgrantees
- 2.7 Collect program metrics, as well as financial accounting information to report back to the funder. (JCA will provide CRM at no cost if the organization does not already have software or systems for this purpose).
- 2.8 Colleges and universities are not eligible
- 2.9 Program and /or staff must live/reside in Maricopa County.

3.0 GRANT FUNDING PRIORITY AREAS

Applicants must describe how their work under the grant funds addresses at least one of the following priority areas. *Each applicant must meet at least one of the listed Outcome Measurements*, but are also encouraged to propose additional outcome measurements specific to their project or program.

Priority Area, Program Eligibility & Outcomes Measures

3.1. Community-Based Direct Services: Programs that reduce or prevent violence; decrease rates of recidivism, arrest or incarceration; and/or increase community safety.

3.1.1 Population of Focus: Historically under-resourced neighborhoods; areas that have been impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration; communities with high rates of violence; currently or formerly incarcerated people; Indigenous communities; people experiencing homelessness; LGBTQ+; immigrants/refugees; people who use drugs; people with mental illness or other disabilities.

3.1.2 Possible activities:

- Re-entry
- Supportive or transitional housing
- Diversion, probation, or other alternatives to incarceration
- Individual case management
- Mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice or transformative justice
- Mentoring
- Trauma-informed services

3.2. Programs/projects that strengthen communities through small-scale economic development, increasing access to housing, workforce development, bridging social capital, increasing involvement in community activities, and developing local leaders.

3.2.1 Population of Focus: Historically under-resourced neighborhoods; areas that have been impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration; communities with high rates of violence; currently or formerly incarcerated people; Indigenous communities; people experiencing homelessness; LGBTQ+; immigrants/refugees; people who use drugs; people with mental illness or other disabilities.

3.2.2 Possible activities:

- Small-scale economic development (microlending, social enterprise, support for small business)
- Job training and placement
- Collectives and collaborative programs
- Financial literacy education and assistance
- Programs that help people stay in their homes (rental assistance, low-cost home repair, landlord/tenant mediation)
- Programs that increase access to affordable housing
- Community or cultural events
- Cultural or arts programs

3.3. Increase safety, usability, and accessibility of common outdoor spaces through neighborhood beautification, traffic mitigation, creating or enhancing green spaces, reclaiming vacant or blighted areas, planting gardens, and other improvements.

3.3.1 Areas of Focus: Historically under-resourced neighborhoods, areas that have been impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration, areas experiencing high rates of vacant or blighted properties/lots, “food deserts,” areas with a high heat index in need of climate mitigation.

3.3.2 Possible activities:

- Street cleanups and trash removal
- Improved outdoor lighting
- Tree planting
- Community gardening, small scale agricultural production
- Murals, sculpture, or art projects
- Community bike rides, walks, or outdoor gatherings

3.4. Improve health and wellness of low-income and marginalized populations by reducing stigma and increasing access to medical and behavioral health care and other wellness activities or services.

3.4.1 Population of Focus: Historically under-resourced neighborhoods; areas that have been impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration; communities with high rates of violence; currently or formerly incarcerated people; Indigenous communities; people experiencing homelessness; LGBTQ+; immigrants/refugees; people who suffer from substance use disorders; people with mental illness or other disabilities..

3.4.2 Possible activities:

- Public health outreach, education
- Behavioral health services or programs
- Support groups
- Community or low-cost health clinics
- Healthy food distribution, cooking instruction
- Wellness programs such as exercise, meditation, and yoga
- Acudetox and other alternative therapies
- Harm reduction programs

4.0 RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

4.1 FORMAT

4.1.1 All application materials will be submitted via Google forms or sheets via this webpage: <https://justreinvest.org>

4.2 CONTENT

4.2.1 Organization information

4.2.2 Narrative

4.2.3 Budget: Complete the BUDGET spreadsheet provided

4.2.4 Budget Narrative Explanation/Justification

5.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Meets eligibility requirements.
- Initiative to be implemented addresses at least one of 4 Priority Areas.
- Population(s) to be served reflects communities most impacted by arrest and incarceration.
- Applicant demonstrates history serving the population/community and cultural competency.
- Program design includes measurable outcomes, demonstrates how activities will produce desired outcomes, and how metrics will be collected and reported.
- Budget meets guidelines and aligns with the proposed activities

5.1 **Selection Committee:** JCA will convene a Selection Committee of 5-10 people who are not affiliated with any of the applicant organizations. The committee will be responsible for reviewing the applications and making recommendations for awards. Committee members will be provided with a grant evaluation matrix to objectively score each application based on its adherence to the RFP guidelines, eligibility criteria, and other relevant factors. Committee members will provide their review evaluations and their top three (3) candidates to JCA staff. JCA staff, in consultation with MCDPH, will review the evaluations from the Committee and make the final determination of grant awards.

6.0 SUBMISSION

6.1 All application materials will be submitted via <https://justreinvest.org> and are due by **March 20th, 2026 at 11:59pm MST**

6.2 Questions regarding the grant, process, eligibility, or application may be directed to: DeAnna Ford, Deputy Director: deanna@justcomaz.org

6.3 JCA will also post an updated list of Questions and Answers regarding the grant, resource materials, and instructions on the justreinvest.org webpage.

7.0 AWARD

ALL FINAL AWARD DECISIONS ARE CONTINGENT ON FUNDING APPROVAL BY MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

7.1 A total of \$1,000,000 (renewals and new grants) will be distributed in new JustReinvest Grants in 2026, contingent upon approval by Maricopa County. Maximum grant amount will be \$75,000. The grant term is 12 months.

7.2 JCA will notify applicants of a decision in **June of 2026**. Contracts will be created based on the applicant's proposal and be approved by both parties.

7.3 Grant funding will be distributed in July 2026.