



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 **November 17th, 2023 @ 4pm.**

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.*

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

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

- 2.1. Be a community-based organization (with or without formal 501 c 3 nonprofit status or a Fiscal Sponsor) based in or primarily operating 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 Be willing to work closely with JCA and be compliant with grant parameters as part of a cohort of subgrantees
- 2.6 Collect program metrics as well as financial accounting information to report back to the funder (JCA will provide this at no cost if the organization does not already have software or systems for this purpose).

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: Projects or programs to reduce/prevent violence affecting the most vulnerable people in the community, with a particular focus on people experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ+, immigrants, people with mental illness or other disabilities, currently or formerly incarcerated people, and BIPOC communities.

3.1.1 Population of Focus: "Unhoused individuals" will be defined as individuals who are living outdoors, staying temporarily with friends or family as well as residents of shelters, transitional housing programs, and encampments. "Immigrants" will be defined as individuals without permanent residence or green cards.

3.1.2 Possible activities:

- Supportive housing
- Behavioral health services and treatment for substance use disorder

- Individual case management
- Mentoring
- Trauma-informed services
- Restorative and/or Transformative Justice programs

3.1.3 Outcome Measures:

- 70% of program participants report a decrease in violence and/or greater feelings of safety.
- Additional outcome measures to be developed based on programs awarded.

3.2. Neighborhood Connections: Programs/projects that increase social cohesion in neighborhoods by strengthening relationships between residents, increasing involvement in community activities, bridging social capital, 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.

3.2.2 Possible activities:

- Support groups, mentoring
- Community or cultural events
- Volunteer opportunities
- Mediation or restorative justice
- Cultural or arts programs

3.2.3 Outcome Measures:

- 25% Increased participation in community/neighborhood activities or events
- 70% of participants report feeling more connected to others
- Additional outcome measures to be developed based on programs awarded.

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: Under-resourced neighborhoods with relatively few public parks, 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

3.3.3 Outcome measures:

- 20% Increase in accessible green space or amount of tree cover
- 20% improvement in outdoor areas in the neighborhood (weeds removed, trash cleared, art projects created, use of previously unused space)
- 25% increase in use of outdoor areas by neighborhood residents
- 70% of residents report satisfaction and greater feelings of safety in these areas
- Additional outcome measures to be developed based on programs awarded.

3.4. Improve health and wellness of low-income residents 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: BIPOC communities, individuals and families living at or below poverty; immigrants and refugees; LGBTQ+; people who use drugs; currently or formerly incarcerated people; people with mental illness and/or other disabilities.

3.4.2 Possible activities:

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

3.4.3 Outcome measures:

- 70% of participants received health information or instruction
- 70% of participants received care: medication, treatment, other services
- 70% of participants report improved health outcomes (successful treatment, reduced symptoms)
- 70% of participants report increased feelings of well-being
- Additional outcome measures to be developed based on programs awarded.

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
- Program design demonstrates how activities will produce desired outcomes
- Applicant demonstrates community attachment and cultural competency
- Budget

5.1 Selection Committee: JCA will convene a Selection Committee of 5-10 people who 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 MCPH, 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 **4:00 pm on November 17, 2023**.

6.2 Questions regarding the grant, process, eligibility, or application may be directed to: DeAnna Ford, Justice Reinvestment Program Manager: 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

7.1 A total of \$175,000 will be distributed in JustReinvest Grants in 2024. Maximum grant amount will be \$50,000. The grant term is one year.

7.2 JCA will notify applicants of a decision by **December 18th, 2023**. Contracts will be created based on the applicant's proposal and be approved by both parties.

7.3 Grant funding will be distributed no later than January 15, 2024.