

Request for Funding – January 2026 Juvenile Community Alternatives Grant Program

Project Description:

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) is now accepting applications for the 2026-2028 Juvenile Community Alternatives Grant Program. Established under Indiana Code § 31-40-5-6, the Community Alternatives Grant Program serves the following purposes:

1. Provide cost-effective, research-based alternatives in lieu of the use of secure detention, out-of-home placement, and department of correction facilities in the community.
2. Reduce the use of secure confinement and out-of-home placement.
3. Reduce recidivism and improve positive outcomes for children.

The period of performance for this two (2) year project is July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028. Please note that awards could be a combination of upfront and reimbursement, should funds be requested for program implementation in the application. Proposal submissions must be completed using the ICJI Juvenile Justice System Grants PDF application template provided by ICJI and submitted through IntelliGrants **no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on February 16, 2026.** Proposals received after 11:59 p.m. EST will not be considered. Instructions for accessing IntelliGrants and submitting the PDF application can be found on page 8 of the PDF application.

Applicants should review [Executive Orders](#) issued since January 13, 2025, to ensure proposed programs align with the current Administration's priorities.

Planning:

This grant opportunity **does not** include a separate planning grant. Agencies requiring planning should explain in the application what planning is necessary and include a timeline.

Eligibility:

Public entities, units of state and local government, nonprofit organizations, and nongovernmental organizations who provide services to youth involved in or at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system may apply for funding.

Financial:

This program is funded by the Indiana General Assembly through the state's biennial budget with no guarantee of continued funding. All awards are subject to change. The funding formula is based on county population. Entities are eligible to apply for funds if the county in which services will be provided has funds remaining. To find out how much funding remains in each county, please visit the [funding availability map](#) located on the Youth Services Division's page of the ICJI website. Grant awards are determined by the funding formula based on county population as follows:

County Population Category	Total Funding
< 25,000	\$150,000
25,000-50,000	\$85,000
> 50,000	\$80,000

County population is determined by the 2020 United State Census. To find your county population, please visit the [2020 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer](#). If applicants are applying for funding for multiple counties, ensure all counties are listed in the application. The applicant must state what percentage of services will be provided to each county they plan to serve.

Please note that the total funding available for counties with less than 25,000 people has increased since the previous grant cycle. If all or part of the funds assigned to these counties based on the original funding formula have been utilized, please check the funding map again as the new funding formula amounts have been updated. The funding formula for medium and large size counties remains the same as before. If funds for a medium or large size county were used in prior grant cycles, there is no additional funding available for those counties at this time.

RFF Timeline:

Subject to change

January 12, 2026	RFF Released and IntelliGrants Application Available
January 15, 2026	RFF Webinar
January 21, 2026	RFF Questions Due
February 2, 2026	RFF Answers Posted to ICJI Youth Website
February 16, 2026	RFF Proposal Submissions Due

Note: Proposals received after February 16, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST will not be considered.

June 8, 2026

Notify Applicants of Award Determination

Reporting:

Awardees will be required to submit **monthly** reports to ICJI. Reports will be based on program deliverables identified in the Scope of Work developed by ICJI based on the awardee's application. The [Program Definitions document](#) outlines the required data to be reported. **All fiscal-related documentation such as time sheets, paystubs, receipts, etc. must be retained by the subgrantee for up to three (3) years, free of charge, after the grant closes for auditing purposes. Failure to retain the required documentation could result in the subgrantee being required to return funds to ICJI. Required fiscal documentation can be found in [ICJI's Documentation Policy](#).**

Attachment Requirements:

The following documents must be completed and submitted in the "Attachment" section of IntelliGrants:

- [ICJI Juvenile Justice System Grants Application](#)
- [ICJI Juvenile Justice System Grants Budget Template](#)
- Agency Internal Control Policy/Plan - Formal policy or plan an applicant organization has adopted and utilizes to provide assurances that the organization can comply with all rules, regulations, and laws governing this grant.
- Collaboration Plan - Document detailing the collaborative service planning required by [IC § 31-40-5-5 \(a\)](#). **If an applicant intends to serve multiple counties, the applicant must include a collaborative plan with the entities in each county where services will be provided.**
- Proof of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and/or data sharing agreements (DSA) with all community partners related to this grant that involve sharing of data in order to comply with reporting requirements. (*See Reporting section*) Please attach copies of any and all MOUs or DSAs with community partners related to this grant.
- Job Descriptions for employee(s) included in the personnel section of the application.
- For any contractors included in the project, the applicant must attach a contract or proposal from each contractor describing services to be conducted, time period of agreement, duties of each party, and pricing of goods and/or services (hourly rate, cost per item, etc., as applicable).



Contact:

Technical Assistance with IntelliGrants: CJIHelpDesk@cji.in.gov

Technical Assistance with the forms: Youth@cji.in.gov

Q&A:

All questions regarding this RFF must be submitted via email to Youth@cji.in.gov, **no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on January 21, 2026**. Questions received after 11:59 p.m. EST will not be answered or included in the Q&A document posted on ICJI Youth Services [webpage](#).

Questions received by the due date will be answered by January 21, 2026, and posted to the ICJI Youth Services [webpage](#). All questions and inquiries must be directed ONLY to Youth@cji.in.gov.

Any answers provided to questions outside of the Q&A document to be posted on February 2, 2026 are non-binding.

Evaluation:

The following rubric is for your reference as it indicates the maximum points available for each item required in your proposal. Please ensure each question is fully answered and concise. Bonus points will be applied to the overall score for applicants serving counties with a population of <25,000.

Any extra information provided outside of these sections will result in points deducted from the overall score. Please ensure responses do not exceed the character limit set for each question. No additional attachments other than those requested above will be accepted and/or reviewed during the scoring process.

Evaluation Check List and Scoring Criteria	Applicant Checklist	Maximum Points Available
Contact Information		1
Name of organization and primary program contact information		1
Organization Information		2
Describe your agency and the services you provide. a. Describe what makes your agency unique in working with youth at risk of or involved with the juvenile justice system.		2

b. Describe your agency's mission and areas of focus related to youth at risk of or involved in the juvenile justice system.		
Program Narrative & Program Information		92
1. Describe your proposed program in detail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Describe in detail the plan you are proposing for providing services to youth at risk of or involved in the juvenile justice system. b. How will the program benefit youth at risk of or involved in the juvenile justice system? c. Describe the activities that will be performed. d. Explain the service(s) provided to youth by this program. e. Identify and explain potential barriers to implementing this program and how you plan to address these barriers. 		20
2. Describe how this proposed program will address service gaps in the community.		5
3. Enter the counties you plan to serve		1
4. How many youth do you plan to serve over the life of the grant?		1
5. Will you need any time for planning of your program?		
6. If yes, describe what the planning will consist of.		
7. Describe the timeline of your proposed program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If you selected yes in the question above, include the planning period in your timeline. 		10
8. Describe who will be responsible for implementing/administering the program and all key collaborators and referral sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Internal parties involved in the program b. External key collaborators/partners c. Referral sources 		15
9. How do you plan to share data across partners? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explain the plan for data sharing b. Attach data-sharing agreements in the IntelliGrants attachment section 		15
10. What is the goal of this program?		5
11. What are your anticipated outcomes?		10

a. Provide at least 2 outcomes and ensure they are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely)		
12. What evidence-based or promising programs are you using?		5
13. What is your plan for sustainability of this program?		5
14. Do you need any funds upfront for implementation? a. If so, please give a detailed explanation of what the expenses are, why they are needed for implementation and how much will be needed. (These expenses must be in your budget attachment to be considered).		
Attachments		5
Attach all required documents in IntelliGrants a. ICJI Juvenile Justice System Grants Application b. ICJI Juvenile Justice System Grants Budget Template c. Agency Internal Controls Policy/Plan d. Collaboration Plan e. MOUs and/or DSAs with all Community Partners related to this grant that involve sharing of data f. Job descriptions for employee(s) included in the personnel section g. Contract or Proposal for each contractor in the budget		5
Bonus points for providing services to a small county (less than 25,000 residents)		10
Total maximum points available		110