



COOK COUNTY JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Domestic Violence Intervention & Support Services Initiative



Executive Summary for Cook County's Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services RFQ 1205-NT514

*An American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded initiative designed to
address domestic violence in Cook County, Illinois*

Cook County Justice Advisory Council
FEBRUARY 2023



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Executive Director Statement

In 2021, the federal government announced the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which would bring approximately \$ 1 billion of funding to Cook County. To prepare for this funding, the county began a strategic planning process which incorporated intentional community engagement to understand what was most important to residents. Residents and county leadership were aligned in seeing economic opportunity and community safety as some of the most urgent priorities to address in our communities. County leaders and advocates identified domestic violence (DV) as a particularly urgent area of need in the wake of the COVID1-19 pandemic. The National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice found that nationally, there was an [8% increase](#) in instances of domestic violence in 2020.

In response to heightened levels of gender-based violence, the Cook County Justice Advisory Council (JAC) is designing and overseeing the Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services initiative. The initiative will address four overarching areas of need in the DV services landscape: (1) Counseling, (2) Legal Support, (3) Advocacy Support, or (4) Housing.

The mission of the Justice Advisory Council (JAC) is to promote equitable, human-centered, community-driven justice system innovation and practice through rigorous stakeholder engagement, policy work, service coordination, and grantmaking that increases community safety and reduces reliance on incarceration. We advocate for and invest in solutions that are evidence-informed and community-affirmed. As we design the Domestic Violence Intervention Supports and Services initiative and select service providers from the qualified applicants designated in this executive summary, we do so centering our mission and the values that guide our work. We know that working together, we can address domestic violence by breaking cycles of harm and connecting victims and survivors to the resources and support they need. We are grateful for the participation of all those who pursued this funding opportunity and we stand in solidarity with all organizations engaged in the challenging and meaningful work of bringing lasting peace to our homes and communities.

Avik Das

Executive Director, Cook County Justice Advisory Council

Introduction

Applications for qualification were open to 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations providing domestic violence services in those four overarching areas of need (Counseling, Legal Support, Advocacy Support, or Housing) with a particular focus on finding organizations with strong track records and a history of service marginalized populations, throughout Cook County. Following this release of qualified applicants, the JAC will be working with other county stakeholders to further design this program and select organizations from the list of qualified applicants to contract with and engage in service provision.



The Executive Summary of the Cook County Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services RFQ serves as an overview of the RFQ application review process, provides a list of all applicants and the list of those who were deemed qualified providers for this initiative. This document is designed to promote transparency by detailing the steps and outcomes of these processes. The Executive Summary is shared with all organizations who applied and is available to the public at CookCountyIL.gov/JACGrants.

Opportunity Announcement

The Cook County Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services request for qualifications (RFQ) 1205-NT514 was formally released on October 3, 2022 when all application materials were made available to the public on the JAC Grants website, www.cookcountyil.gov/JACGrants.

Prior to the release of the RFQ application materials, the opportunity was announced via press release and email to Cook County and Justice Advisory Council listservs. To share information on the funding opportunity, the JAC hosted a virtual information session on September 27, 2022.

Following the release of the RFQ, the JAC hosted a virtual pre submittal conference on October 11, 2022. The pre submittal conference included an overview of the opportunity, application materials, application evaluation criteria, and submission details. The pre-submittal conference also included a question and answer session. Frequently asked questions were then compiled and made available on the JAC grants website. Recordings and slides from the virtual information session and pre submittal conference were also made available online.

The application deadline was November 14, 2022 at 5pm Central Standard Time.

Application Evaluation Process

Evaluation Committee membership and training

The evaluation committee was made of Cook County Justice Advisory Council staff and staff from the Office of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Illinois (OCJ). OCJ staff were included as many of the types of services being sought through the ARPA initiative are currently, and will continue to be, accessible at or through the Domestic Violence courthouse. OCJ's institutional involvement and knowledge of the landscape were deemed instrumental to the success of the Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services ARPA Initiative. The evaluation team members were trained on application review guidelines and the method by which to submit scores. The membership was as follows:



Ali Abid, Deputy Director, Justice Advisory Council
Aeria Charles, Grants Monitor, Justice Advisory Council
Faith Hong, Service Coordinator, Justice Advisory Council
Kristina Kaupa, Director of Policy, Justice Advisory Council
Kate Nolan, Assistant Director – Legal Research Division, Office of the Chief Judge

Evaluation Guidelines

Each evaluator reviewed each application, scoring based on the following criteria and possible point values:

Readiness and Experience: ***50 points maximum***
Respondent’s readiness to implement the specific domestic violence service components associated with the project, as evidenced by their general experience with providing similar services, as described in Document 1: Program Qualifications Document.

Fiscal Capacity: ***30 points maximum***
Respondent’s fiscal capacity to deliver services on an ongoing basis, as evidenced by Document 2: Current Budget Document, and by Document 3: Financial Qualifications Document.

References: ***10 points maximum***
The reputation and strength of the respondent’s domestic violence services programming will be evaluated based upon the quality and relevance of the references provided in Document 1: Program Qualifications Document.

Further Evidence of Organizational Capacity: ***10 points maximum***
Completeness, consistency and clarity in the respondent’s execution of all required sections of response, as evidenced by each part of the submission.

Following these areas of review the evaluators noted for each applicants, based on their review, whether they deemed them qualified to provide a services or services we were seeking for the purposes of this opportunity.

The application review period was November 15, 2022 to January 18, 2023.

On January 18, 2023 the evaluation committee met and discussed their scoring and qualification recommendations. Applications that received a majority of committee members indicating that they were qualified (3 or more of the evaluation team) were



deemed qualified providers for this initiative. The purpose of the meeting and discussion was not to arrive at consensus, but to review reasoning and justifications for the recommendations to ensure that evaluation committee members did not miss anything pertinent and that other views were taken into account (particularly where some committee members indicated that an organization was qualified and others did not). Evaluation committee members had the opportunity to then adjust scoring or recommendations based on information gained during the meeting, but were not obliged to do so.

Domestic Violence Intervention & Support Services Applicants

Overview

This funding opportunity received a total of 31 applications. Of those applicants, 23 were deemed qualified. If an organization was not deemed qualified for this opportunity, it is not an indication of that they do not provide quality services, nor is it an indication they would not succeed in other applications for funding opportunities from the JAC or Cook County overall; it simply indicates that they are not, in our estimation, right for the focus of this initiative.

If an organization is deemed qualified, it does not indicate that the JAC *will necessarily* be contracting with them to provide services. Rather, this list establishes the pool of qualified providers from which the JAC will select a subset of organizations to carry out this initiative. The selection of organizations to carry out the initiative will be subject to the design of the program by the JAC and its partners, as well as the continued availability of funds.

Below is a list of all the applicants followed immediately by a list of applicants deemed qualified.

List of all applicants

1. & Rise
2. A Safe Haven Foundation
3. American Indian Health Services of Chicago, Inc.
4. ANEW: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse
5. Apna Ghar, Inc
6. B.E.D.S. Inc
7. Better Sister and Brother Growth Network
8. Books Over Balls
9. Center for Advancing Domestic Peace
10. Children's Legal Center
11. Chicago Children's Advocacy Center



12. Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County
13. Crisis Center for South Suburbia
14. EMMAUS Ministries
15. Erie Neighborhood House
16. Family Rescue
17. FLOW Foundation Inc.
18. GAP Community Center
19. Heartland Human Care Services, Inc
20. KAN-WIN
21. Kirby Rehabilitation, Inc
22. Lifespan
23. Loyola University Chicago
24. Metropolitan Family Services
25. Mujeres Latinas En Accion
26. Sarah's Inn
27. Swedish Covenant Hospital
28. The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
29. The Network Advocating Against Domestic Violence
30. WINGS Program, Inc.
31. Yoga Care

List of applicants deemed qualified

1. A Safe Haven Foundation
2. American Indian Health Services of Chicago, Inc.
3. ANEW: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse
4. Apna Ghar, Inc
5. B.E.D.S. Inc
6. Center for Advancing Domestic Peace
7. Children's Legal Center
8. Crisis Center for South Suburbia
9. EMMAUS Ministries
10. Erie Neighborhood House
11. Family Rescue
12. Heartland Human Care Services, Inc
13. KAN-WIN
14. Kirby Rehabilitation, Inc
15. Lifespan
16. Loyola University Chicago
17. Metropolitan Family Services
18. Mujeres Latinas En Accion
19. Sarah's Inn
20. Swedish Covenant Hospital



21. The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
22. The Network Advocating Against Domestic Violence
23. WINGS Program, Inc.

Conclusion

This RFQ revealed the dozens of local organizations poised to advance the work of providing domestic violence intervention and support services as well as the significant opportunities for further investment in these areas. Organizations working to address domestic violence contribute to the critical work of building of safe and thriving communities for all Cook County residents. The JAC wants to acknowledge and thank all of the organizations who engaged with and applied for this opportunity.

Application Feedback

To request feedback on a Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services application, please submit a written request via email to juandalynn.johnson@cookcountyil.gov.

Requests should include the name of individual requesting feedback, title, and name of your organization. Please allow 30 days from the date of the request for feedback.