



COOK COUNTY JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

REENTRY INITIATIVE: Rental Assistance and Services for Returning Residents



Executive Summary for Wraparound Services for Returning Residents: Supporting Individuals in Cook County's Reentry Rental Assistance Program (RFQ) 1205-NT764

An American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded initiative designed to support the success of returning residents in Cook County, Illinois

Cook County Justice Advisory Council
MAY 2023



Table of Contents

Background.....	2
Executive Director Statement	2
Introduction	3
Opportunity Announcement	3
Application Evaluation Process	4
○ Evaluation Committee membership and training.....	4
○ Evaluation Guidelines.....	4
Wraparound Services Applicants	5
○ Overview	5
○ List of all applicants	5
○ List of applicants deemed qualified for this opportunity.....	7
Conclusion	8
Application Feedback	8



Background

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 that they saw economic opportunity and community safety as some of the most urgent priorities to address. Supporting successful reentry for returning residents in Cook County is a critical area of work under these priorities.

In partnership with the Housing Authority of Cook County, the Cook County Justice Advisory Council (JAC) designed the [Rental Assistance and Services for Returning Residents Initiative](#) to provide qualifying individuals who have recently returned to Cook County from incarceration in the Illinois Department of Corrections, with rental assistance and individualized wraparound services. These wraparound services, to be provided as part of this initiative, include but are not limited to: (1) Case Management Services, (2) Legal Support, (3) Housing Access Advocacy (4) Employment Supports, (5) Healthcare Services and/or (6) Educational Supports.

Executive Director Statement

The mission of the 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. Supporting returning residents is critical to building strong, healthy and safe communities. When we invest in their success, they can become entrepreneurs, mentors, leaders and change-makers working to break cycles of crime, violence and incarceration in their communities.

This initiative was designed acknowledging the challenges associated with the reentry period and the impact of providing returning residents with the resources and support needed to navigate challenges and achieve their goals. Community-based service providers throughout Cook County are leading this meaningful work. As we move forward with the initiative and select from a subset of the qualified applicants designated in this executive summary, we acknowledge the incredible commitment and expertise of the service providers working in this space. 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 critical work of advocating for and supporting formerly incarcerated and justice involved community members.



Introduction

The Executive Summary of the Wraparound Services for Returning Residents Request for Qualifications, (RFQ) serves as an overview of the application review process and provides a list of all the applicants and the list of those who were qualified. 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.

Applications for qualification were open to 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations providing services in those six overarching areas of need (Case Management Services, Legal Support, Housing Access Advocacy, Employment Supports, Healthcare Services and/or Educational Supports) 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 engage in contracts with.

Opportunity Announcement

The request for qualifications entitled, Wraparound Services for Returning Residents: Supporting Individuals in Cook County's Reentry Rental Assistance Program (RFQ) 1205-NT764, was formally released on February 1, 2023 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 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 January 25, 2023.

Following the release of the application materials, the JAC hosted a virtual pre submittal conference on February 15, 2023. 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 on February 24, 2023.

The application deadline was March 7, 2023 at 5pm Central Standard Time.



Application Evaluation Process

Evaluation Committee membership and training

The evaluation committee was comprised of Cook County Justice Advisory Council staff, staff from the Housing Authority of Cook County and Cook County Health. 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
Pamela Esposito, Sr. Behavioral Health Officer, Cook County Health
Faith Hong, Service Coordinator, Justice Advisory Council
Kristina Kaupa, Director of Policy, Justice Advisory Council
Marcus King, Director of Strategy and Communication, Housing Authority of Cook County

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 wraparound 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 wraparound 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 lasted from March 7, 2023 to April 20, 2023.



On April 20, 2023 the evaluation committee met and discussed the scoring and qualification statuses. Those applications that received a majority of committee members indicating that they were qualified (3 or more of the evaluation team) were deemed qualified. The purpose of the meeting and discussion was not to arrive at consensus, but to review reasoning and justifications for the reviews to ensure evaluation committee members did not miss anything pertinent in the reviews and took other views into account (particularly where some committee members indicated that an organization was qualified and others did not). Evaluation committee members had the opportunity then to change any scoring or their determinations of whether an applicant was qualified, but were not obliged to do so.

Wraparound Services Applicants

Overview

This opportunity received a total of 52 complete applications and 41 of those 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 to the JAC or Cook County overall; it simply indicates that they are not, in our estimation, right for the narrow focus of this initiative.

If an organization is deemed qualified, it does not indicate that the JAC *will necessarily* be contracting with them. Rather this list establishes the total pool of applicant organizations from which the JAC intends to select a subset to carry out this initiative, subject to the design of this program by the JAC and its partners and 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. 1863 FWD Care
2. Above and Beyond Family Recovery
3. African American Christian Foundation
4. Association House of Chicago
5. Beds Plus Care, INC.
6. CEIC Corp (Cannabis Equity Illinois Coalition)
7. Chicago Recovery Communities Coalition (CRCC)
8. Chicagoland Prison Outreach
9. City College of Chicago
10. Community Education Network
11. Defy Ventures
12. Equip for Equality



13. Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse
14. Growing Home
15. Healthcare Alternative systems
16. Home for Good
17. Howard Area Community Center
18. Imagine Englewood
19. James B. Moran Center
20. Jane Addams Resource Corporation
21. Kirby Rehabilitation
22. La Casa Norte
23. Legal Aid Chicago
24. McDermott (Haymarket)
25. Men & Women in Prison Ministries (TRS)
26. New Life K.N.E.W Solutions
27. North Lawndale Employment network
28. Northwest Compass LLC
29. OAI, Inc.
30. Phalanx Family Services
31. Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action
32. Puerto Rican Cultural Center
33. Respond Now
34. Revolution Workshop
35. Roseland Ceasefire Project
36. Safer Foundation
37. Sankofa
38. Southwest Organizing Project
39. Spanish Coalition for Housing
40. St. Leonard's
41. Target Area Development Corporation
42. TASC
43. Teamwork Englewood
44. The Decarceration Collective
45. The Inner Voice
46. The Renaissance Collaborative
47. True Believers Community Corrections
48. Universal Prayer Tower
49. Volunteers of America of Illinois, Inc.
50. West Side Forward
51. Westside Health Authority
52. YogaCare



List of applicants deemed qualified

1. Above and Beyond Family Recovery
2. Association House of Chicago
3. Beds Plus Care, INC.
4. Chicago Recovery Communities Coalition (CRCC)
5. Chicagoland Prison Outreach
6. City College of Chicago
7. Community Education Network
8. Defy Ventures
9. Equip for Equality
10. Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse
11. Growing Home
12. Healthcare Alternative systems
13. Howard Area Community Center
14. The Inner Voice
15. James B. Moran Center
16. Jane Addams Resource Corporation
17. La Casa Norte
18. Legal Aid Chicago
19. McDermott (Haymarket)
20. Men & Women in Prison Ministries (TRS)
21. New Life K.N.E.W Solutions
22. North Lawndale Employment network
23. Northwest Compass LLC
24. OAI, Inc.
25. Phalanax Family Services
26. Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action
27. Puerto Rican Cultural Center
28. Respond Now
29. Revolution Workshop
30. Roseland Ceasefire Project
31. Safer Foundation
32. St. Leonard's
33. Sankofa
34. Southwest Organizing Project
35. Spanish Coalition for Housing
36. Target Area Development Corporation
37. TASC
38. Teamwork Englewood
39. Volunteers of America of Illinois, Inc.
40. West Side Forward
41. Westside Health Authority



Conclusion

The funding solicitation for Wraparound Services for Returning Residents: Supporting Individuals in Cook County's Reentry Rental Assistance Program (RFQ) 1205-NT764, revealed the dozens of local organizations poised to advance the work of providing individualized support services for returning residents in Cook County. The response to this solicitation demonstrates significant opportunity for further investment to advance the building of safe and thriving communities in Cook County. 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 an application for the Wraparound Services for Returning Residents funding opportunity, 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.