Ready to Rise: Request for Proposals 2024

Purpose: This document provides the outline and instructions for applying for the Ready to Rise grant.

Funder: California Community Foundation

Application Submission Deadline: Friday, July 26, 2024 at 11:59 PM (PST)

SurveyMonkey Apply Link: https://calfund.smapply.org/prog/ready_to_rise_2024_rfp

Anticipated Number of Awards: 50

Grant amount: Applicants may apply for annual grants of $50,000 to $200,000. Final award amounts will be determined by the organization's capacity, scalability, and efficiency of their proposed program.

Anticipated Grant Period: November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2027. Annual grants may be awarded for a maximum of up to three (3) years subject to annual review pending the grantee's good standing and available funding from the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Project Description

On February 5, 2019, the County of Los Angeles announced a public/private partnership between the Los Angeles County Probation Department (the County), California Community Foundation (CCF), and Liberty Hill Foundation (Liberty Hill). This collaboration was created to expand opportunities and resources for programs that keep youth out of the criminal justice system and help those in the system successfully transition back into the community.

Ready to Rise is here to offer comprehensive support. We will award grants to community-based organizations that champion holistic, asset-based approaches to engaging youth with prior or existing connections to the juvenile justice system and those at risk due to various socio-economic challenges. These challenges may include family disruptions such as arrest or incarceration, unstable living conditions like foster care or housing insecurity, educational setbacks manifested through chronic absenteeism, behavioral issues, or poor academic performance, or other at-promise factors (i.e., low-income, LGBTQIA+ and/or gender expansive, gang-involved, alternative/continuation school students, transition-aged youth, youth living in under-resourced neighborhoods, etc.). Targeted organizations should serve youth aged 11 to 24 and strive to extend support into early adulthood, fostering long-term empowerment and resilience. We are here to support your efforts in creating meaningful change.

This funding initiative is not just about financial support; it is about growth and learning. It is designed to accelerate the development of community-based services

while fostering a connected network of youth-serving organizations through shared learning experiences and cohort-based interactions. We aim to enhance organizations capabilities with targeted capacity-building resources, supporting comprehensive programs.

Proposed program activities should address a broad spectrum of positive youth development areas such as academic/cognitive enhancement, socio-emotional growth, identity affirmation, physical wellness, mental health support, and/or workforce readiness. Ideal candidates will demonstrate a robust engagement strategy that integrates these multifaceted developmental components into a unified framework, nurturing each young person's diverse needs and strengths.

Strong applicants will illustrate their commitment to fostering an environment where youth can thrive and transform their lives, embodying continuous programmatic excellence and nurturing the full potential of every participant.

Goals

Our goal is to revolutionize the traditional models of youth intervention by shifting from arrest and incarceration to a model grounded in positive youth development, rehabilitation, and opportunity creation. Together we will advance this vision and align goals to provide youth and families with supportive, asset-based, high-quality resources and opportunities to foster successful pathways to adulthood. Grantee partners will provide critical socio-emotional support that is proven to successfully prevent many youths from entering the juvenile justice system, while also cutting the recidivism rates of those who have. The aim is to improve predictive outcomes of positive youth development (academic/cognitive, socio-emotional, physical health, mental health, and identity).

Specifically, this partnership seeks to impact positive youth development outcomes such as:

- achieving education and/or employment goals
- skills and knowledge attainment
- agency, autonomy, and self-directedness
- healthy relational ties/relationships
- community/civic engagement
- meeting legal obligations (e.g., obtaining legal representation and
- assistance, appearing in court, reporting to probation/parole officers)
- housing security
- enhanced wellbeing

In addition, an evaluation of this initiative will uniquely focus on youth-defined goals and protective factors that prevent youth from justice system involvement, and nurture their positive development, including:

- Increases in youth relational ties to peers, adults, and family members.
- Youth experience and satisfaction with program participation

- Progress toward youth-defined goals, ranging from academic and vocational aspirations (i.e., graduating high school, seeking employment, attending college) to cultural and collectivist aspirations (i.e., learning about heritage, becoming a greater contributor to one's community, family, etc.)

Eligibility Criteria

- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status (fiscal sponsorship projects are eligible).
- Organizations must be based and serve youth aged 11-24 years in Los Angeles County.
- Organizations must currently employ at least one permanent, full-time staff member.
- Organizations are not currently or were past award recipients of Ready to Rise in the prior grant cycle.
- Organizations must have staff capacity to manage evaluation and capacity building engagement expectations.
- Organizations currently serving youth impacted by the justice system (including family members system involvement) or other at-promise circumstances (i.e., foster youth, housing insecure, low-income, LGBTQIA+ and/or gender expansive, gang-involved, disconnected from school, alternative/continuation school students, transition-aged youth, youth living in under-resourced neighborhoods etc.).
- Organizations with a track record of providing whole youth-focused services in the following categories that include but are not limited to educational support/academic enrichment, youth and family support/positive youth development, after-school enrichment, and vocational/employment services. Organizations should be interested in or currently serving high needs youth through an asset-based approach. Program activities may be focused on arts, wellness, educational attainment, leadership, workforce development, mentorship, youth leadership/organizing, or another engagement area.
- Organizations are encouraged to identify how their program model(s) support positive youth development areas in their proposal through engaging, culturally responsive activities that result in positive outcomes for young people such as:
    - **Academic:** Skills and knowledge typically associated with K-12 education. This includes core content areas: mathematics, literacy, science, and social studies, as well as other career and college-ready requirements.
    - **Cognitive:** Skills related to attention, perception, and memory. These are the skills we draw upon to learn and retain knowledge like executive function, visual and auditory processing, reasoning, and short- and long-term memory.

- **Social-emotional:** Skills and mindsets involved in the social process of learning and development. This domain includes social and emotional factors with links to well-being and academic success, like healthy adult attachment, stress management, self-regulation, and resilience.
- **Physical:** Nutrition, fitness, and sleep, as well as vision, hearing, and dental health.
- **Mental:** A state of well-being demonstrated by the ability to realize potential, cope with stress, work toward goals, and make meaningful social contributions and connections.
- **Identity:** An individual's unique sense of purpose, including one's personal, collective, and cultural identities, and personal values.

Competitive Preferences

- Organizations with established community ties.
- Organizations that involve youth and the community in their program design and implementation.
- Organizations not funded by Los Angeles County Probation Department for the proposed services.
- Organizations representing geographic diversity in high-need areas identified by Ready to Rise, such as Antelope Valley, San Fernando Valley, South LA, East LA, and South Bay.
- Organizations take a holistic lens towards positive youth development that may include integrating a focus on several of these areas: mental wellness, academic/cognitive, socioemotional, identity, and/or physical development.
- Organizations serving or based in low-income and under-resourced communities of color.

Application Timeline

Community-based nonprofit organizations serving Los Angeles County are invited to submit applications for consideration.

The application will be available for submission via SurveyMonkey Apply at: **https://calfund.smapply.org/prog/ready_to_rise_2024_rfp**

Please allow enough time to complete the application before the submission deadline. Incomplete and late applications will not be considered eligible for review. *Note: Organizations will need to complete a pre-eligibility screening through SurveyMonkey Apply to determine if they are eligible to apply.*

Timeline

Application Opens:	June 27, 2024 at 12:00 AM (PST)
Application Deadline:	July 26, 2024 at 11:59 PM (PST)

Site Visits (select shortlisted organizations only):	August 26, 2024 to September 20, 2024
Notification of Application Decision:	October 24, 2024
Anticipated Total Grant Period:	November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2027 (annual grants may be awarded for a maximum of three (3) years)

Application sections include:

- Organization Information
- Staff Information
- Proposal Information
- Learning Cohort and Capacity Building
- Evaluation Information
- Target Population and Geography
- Financials and Grant History
- Supplemental Information (optional)

Information Sessions

We understand that the grant application process can be very time-intensive for our community partners. We recommend careful review of the grant guidelines. In addition, CCF will host virtual information sessions, as noted below.

Online Sessions

- Information Session: July 3rd, 2024
  - A pre-recorded YouTube video is available for viewing to guide you in completing the application at this link:
  - **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQHEB6qRP58&feature=youtu.be**
  - We strongly recommend applicants view this video prior to participating in the Question & Answer Session to strengthen your application.
- Question & Answer Session: held via Zoom on July 10th, 2024 from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (PST). You can view the recording at this link:
  - **https://youtu.be/vw0IWtART9o**

Additional Information

- Ready to Rise - Announcement Outreach Form
  - To share contact information for organizations and community leaders you believe should be notified about the application, please complete this outreach form: **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HY7D2ZR**
- Ready to Rise - RFP Questions Form
  - After careful review of the grant guidelines and guidance provided through the pre-recorded information session video, organizations with remaining questions may submit questions via this form by July 15th,

2024 at 11:59 PM: **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/r2rqaform** (**Note: The form is now closed**.)
    - Kindly note that we will not accept additional questions past July 15th. We encourage you to review all resources at your disposal to guide you in the application process.
    - Answers to your questions will be posted publicly on July 19th, 2024 on the Ready to Rise **open grants webpage**, **micro-site**, and **application page**.
- Ready to Rise – Press Release
    - The press release for Ready to Rise is available at: **https://www.calfund.org/ready-to-rise-releases-request-for-proposals-for-new-cohort-of-community-based-organizations/**
- PDF of RFP Application Questions
    - You can preview the application questions via this **linked PDF document**. Note that applications will only be accepted via SurveyMonkey Apply.
- If you have technical issues, please contact the SurveyMonkey Apply support team at: **https://calfund.smapply.org/helpdesk**
- Review this SurveyMonkey Apply navigation document if this is your first time using this platform. Link: **SurveyMonkey Apply Tips**

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the history of Ready to Rise?

The Ready to Rise partnership marks an unprecedented effort to redirect public dollars to community-based organizations with the support of philanthropic partners. This allows for faster distribution of public funds, and an opportunity for organizations to access funding that they may not have previously had the opportunity to compete for County contracts.

Ready to Rise partners with community-based programs that improve youth outcomes related to education, health, cultural identity, and employment, and promote the well-being, empowerment and development of youth, families, and communities. These strategies not only reduce recidivism but provide young people with a foundation for lifetime success.

Ready to Rise also aims to build the long-term capacity of community-based organizations to apply for L.A. County resources. Ready to Rise provides a capacity-building program focused specifically on developing organizational core competencies such as strategic planning, board and staff development, fundraising, and evaluation. This includes both customized coaching and cohort-based training.

Additionally, the partnership blends traditional grantmaking practices with County contracting processes which require additional compliance and insurances, individual level background verifications, evaluations, and Probation audits.

Ready to Rise has served over 25,500 youth through over 950,000 touchpoints from July 2019 to June 2022. More than $22.4 million dollars has been granted to youth-serving organizations since 2019.

What is the vision of Ready to Rise?

Through grantmaking and technical assistance support, Ready to Rise will catalyze the growth of an L.A. County-wide whole-youth focused system rooted in the positive youth development framework and made up of culturally responsive, community-based services meant to connect young people to opportunities for civic engagement, wellness, and academic and professional enrichment.

How will grant awards be decided?

CCF and selected partners, will form a committee to review applications, conduct site visits and make final grant recommendations. Site visits will only be conducted with organizations that have been shortlisted for potential funding.

Final recommendations will represent a sample of the diverse communities of Los Angeles, as defined by the following:

- Geography (spread throughout the County, represented by organization location and service provider area).
- Service Type (i.e., academics, arts, workforce development, organizing, health services, mentorship, etc.).
- Target Population Served defined by ethnicity and circumstances of youth (i.e., justice-involved, foster youth, housing insecure, low-income, LGBTQIA+ and/or gender expansive, gang-involved, disconnected from school, alternative/continuation school students, transition-aged youth, youth living in under-resourced neighborhoods, etc.).
- Organizational Capacity (defined by years of operation, annual budget, and/or number of staff).

Must our organizations be based and serve youth in Los Angeles County to be eligible?

Yes, organizations must be based and serve youth in Los Angeles County to be eligible.

Can an organization be fiscally sponsored by another entity?

Yes, and in some instances where limited capacity exists, a regional or statewide provider may establish a service delivery partnership with a trusted and established local organization.

Will these funds need matching sources?

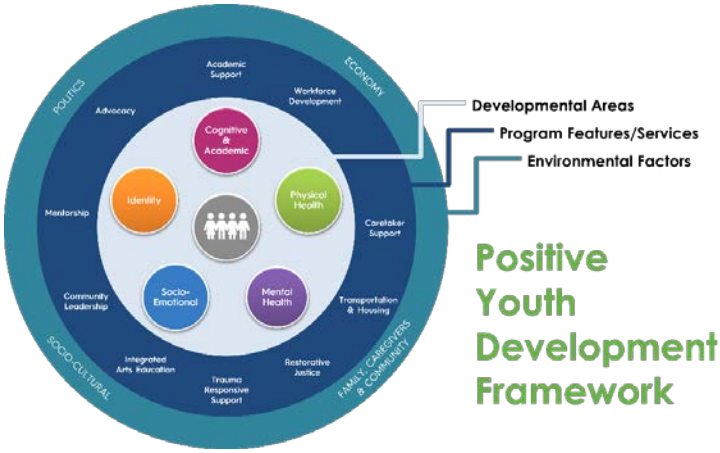
No.

What are some examples of programmatic services?

Program activities may be focused on arts, wellness, educational attainment, leadership, workforce development, vocational training, mentorship, youth organizing or another engagement area. Any programmatic approach must demonstrate any number of the multiple youth development areas (i.e., academic, cognitive, socio-emotional learning, physical, mental, and identity). Again, preference will be given to those that meet multiple developmental areas.

What is a Positive Youth Development Framework?

Centered on evidence-based practices, Positive Youth Development (PYD) is an essential asset-based component to the Ready to Rise programmatic structure. PYD is based on national and local research and evaluations pertaining to a whole learner approach, youth development, and juvenile justice prevention. PYD considers the external factors that influence a young person's thoughts and behaviors and addresses them in 1 or more 5 key areas to create positive outcomes (e.g., improved mindset and academic achievement).



What is the anticipated size and timeline for grants?

Grants range in size with respect to an organization's capacity, scalability, and program efficiency. For this funding opportunity, we anticipate the grant period to span from November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2027. Annual grant awards will range from $50,000 to $200,000 and may be awarded for a maximum of up to three (3) years subject to annual review pending the grantee's good standing and available funding from the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

If funded, how may the grant funds be used?

Proposals must support direct service projects and therefore, funds should support programmatic costs. A portion of grant funds may be used in support of indirect costs that advance the program such as staff salaries, equipment, and travel.

Will there be an issue for organizations that employ staff with lived experience?

We value the vast expertise of people with lived experience serving youth populations, but for this funding opportunity grantee partners' staff may not be on active probation or parole. Grantee staff with a criminal conviction record or

pending criminal trial may not have access to Probation information or records unless such information has been fully disclosed to CCF/the County and assignment to this grant is approved in writing by the County. We will work with the L.A. County Probation Department to ensure that staff/organizations with experience in the justice system are not excluded from contributing to the goals of this public-private partnership. Please note that all grantees will require a background check before their assigned staff can begin work on this grant.

What is the definition of capacity building for the purposes of this award?

We define capacity building as the funding and technical assistance that helps nonprofit organizations increase the specific capacities needed to deliver stronger programs, take risks, build connections, innovate, and iterate. This partnership recognizes that a key strategy for achieving equitable outcomes in communities is to invest in the talent and leadership capacity of its community partners. We will provide capacity building partners, trainers, and coaches to help build the capacity of organizations funded by this partnership through assessment, coaching, training, and cohort-based peer learning opportunities.

What are the data collection requirements?

All grantees will be responsible for sharing with our evaluation partner qualitative and quantitative data for analysis on a monthly and quarterly basis to enhance understanding of program service delivery, strengths, challenges, and promising practices. The data will vary by program type and will be tied to each grantee partner's grant objectives. Evaluation and data collection technical assistance will be provided to support organizations in capturing this information.

What County compliances will organizations be responsible for maintaining?

All grantees will be responsible to have the following requirements to be compliant with the County contract, including but not limited to:

1. Proof of Insurance
    a. General Provisions for all Insurance Coverage
        i. Commercial General Liability
        ii. Sexual Misconduct
2. Personnel Documents
    a. Staff/Personnel Roster
    b. Background and Security Investigations
    c. Confidentiality
    d. Sexual Harassment/Discrimination/Retaliation Training

Do applicants need to submit a budget with their grant proposal?

Yes, applicants are required to submit a budget with their grant proposal. A budget template has been provided through the application that provides for a line-item budget by category. Using the budget template provided, proposers must submit a complete budget for the total cost of the proposed project. Note: Organizations

may only charge actual costs associated with project performance and related allowable indirect rates, and may not otherwise include any profit, fee, or other mark-up beyond actual costs.

What is no commitment to an award?

Issuance of this Request for Proposals (RFP) and receipt of applications/proposals is not a commitment to award a contract. CCF expressly reserves the right to postpone proposal opening or award for its own convenience, to accept or reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP, to negotiate with more than one Proposer concurrently, or to cancel all or part of this RFP.