

**Youth Development RFA**  
**Applications Due April 22, 2026 12:00 pm EST**  
**RFA Questions and Responses**

*Questions may have been edited for clarity and/or to avoid duplication.*

**Question 1**

How does DCJS define “justice-involved youth” for purposes of Category 1 and Category 2 eligibility? Does this include youth at risk of system involvement, or must youth have formal court or facility involvement?

Answer:

Category 1: System involvement is preferred for participation on the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). DCJS encourages the inclusion of non-system involved participants.

Category 2: DCJS encourages the inclusion of non-system involved participants.

**Question 2**

May organizations serving multiple counties across NYS apply, or must programming be confined to a specific locality?

Answer:

Yes, organizations serving more than one jurisdiction or county across NYS may apply and provide services to multiple jurisdictions or counties within NYS.

**Question 3**

Must the Youth Advisory Committee be newly created, or can existing youth leadership structures be formalized under this grant?

Answer:

Applicants can write to convert or add responsibilities onto an existing youth leadership structure, as long as that structure meets, or is redesigned to meet, the minimum Youth Advisory Committee standards as outlined in the RFA.

**Question 4**

Are there minimum youth participation requirements (age range, number of youth members)?

Answer:

There is no minimum requirement on the number of youth members on the YAC. As directed by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), youth must be under the age of 28 at the time of their initial appointment.

### **Question 5**

What level of decision-making authority is expected for the YAC in relation to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG)?

Answer:

The YAC will make recommendations to the JJAG regarding funding and programming priorities.

### **Question 6**

Must scholarship funds be limited strictly to post-secondary education?

Answer:

Scholarships should be either for post-secondary educational learning opportunities or for trades or certifications.

### **Question 7**

May funds support vocational certifications, workforce development programs, or reentry-related educational expenses?

Answer:

Yes, funds may be used for youth for the purpose of, but not limited to, education, vocational certifications, workforce development, and/or reentry-related educational purposes.

### **Question 8**

Are there required eligibility criteria for scholarship recipients?

Answer:

It is expected that the successful applicant(s) would develop eligibility requirements that must be approved by DCJS prior to implementation.

### **Question 9**

What categories of direct service are prioritized (mentoring, reentry support, academic support, workforce training, family stabilization, etc.)?

Answer:

DCJS does not prioritize any specific category of direct service.

### **Question 10**

Are stipends, transportation assistance, or emergency support allowable costs?

Answer:

Stipends, transportation assistance and emergency support are allowable expenses only under Category 2 of this award.

### **Question 11**

Is there a minimum annual budget requirement?

Answer:

No, there is no minimum annual budget requirement.

### **Question 12**

Are partnerships permitted if the applicant serves as fiscal lead?

Answer:

Yes.

### **Question 13**

Is a funding match required for either category?

Answer:

There is no match requirement in this RFA.

### **Question 14**

What performance metrics will be required? Are specific outcomes tied to JJAG priorities?

Answer:

As the funding is supported by Title II, outcomes should be reflective of JJAG priority areas as outlined in the RFA (see pages 4 and 5).

### **Question 15**

Would media projects be eligible for consideration under this grant? Such as engagement and education with the community around important issues through television, radio, and the internet. Would this type of proposal be eligible?

Answer:

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals and programs in line with the requirements outlined on page 9 of the RFA.

### **Question 16**

Would an allowable expense include the purchase of incentive items (gift cards, etc.) if they are directly tied to, and support or increase access or engagement with any of the stated program categories?

Answer:

Yes, these types of expenses would be allowable.

The grantee must have documented policies and procedures detailing sufficient internal controls over the process and detailing the reasons for which such items may be allowable as part of any programming. This policy must be approved by DCJS.

#### **Question 16a**

If yes, can you detail what would be considered minimum documentation required to record and monitor incentives?

Answer:

The grantee must have documented policies and procedures detailing sufficient internal controls over the process and detailing the reasons for which such items may be allowable as part of any programming. This policy must be approved by DCJS.

#### **Question 16b**

Lastly, if incentives are an allowable cost, would there be any guidelines dictating their use that DCJS would expect a program to follow?

Answer:

The grantee must have documented policies and procedures detailing sufficient internal controls over the process and detailing the reasons for which such items may be allowable as part of any programming. This policy must be approved by DCJS.

### **Question 17**

Can it be confirmed if faith-based youth development and mentorship programs operated through community organizations would qualify for funding under Category 2.

Answer:

Faith-based organizations are eligible for funding, however programming cannot be religious or exclusionary in nature. New York State requires equal access to all services.

### **Question 18**

Are there any specific guidelines or recommendations for applicants submitting proposals focused on community-based youth mentorship and educational programs?

Answer:

The only guidance available is included in this RFA.

### **Question 19**

Is there a limit to the number of applications our organization can submit for Category 2?

Answer:

No, an entity may apply for, and receive, multiple awards.

### **Question 20**

Can an organization which is formally incorporated as a nonprofit, which is founder-led and does not yet have a formal board or revenue stream, be eligible to apply under this RFA.

Answer:

In order to be eligible, entities must be registered and prequalified to do business with New York State. Please see Section II of the RFA "Funding, Applicant Eligibility, and Contract Term".

### **Question 21**

How important is it that participants are from the juvenile system?

Answer:

Please see pages 4 and 5 of the RFA which details Project Background and Information.

### **Question 22**

Are food and snacks an allowable expense for the project?

Answer:

Yes, food and snacks may be allowable expenses for participants under the project as long as these costs are required to facilitate program participation for program participants.

Title II JJDP Formula Grants provides information as to when food is an [allowable expense](#).

### **Question 23**

Would proposals that address multiple requirements be viewed more favorably than those addressing only one?

Answer:

Each proposal will be evaluated based upon the criteria as identified in the RFA.

#### **Question 24**

How important is it community organizations participation?

Answer:

DCJS encourages community collaboration and coordination but the only criteria being evaluated is detailed in the Questions section of the RFA.

#### **Question 25**

Can an organization submit more than one application?

Answer:

Yes, an entity may apply for, and receive, multiple awards.

#### **Question 26**

Please advise on the targeted age to be served for Category 2.

Answer:

The JJDPA defines a youth or juvenile as under the age of 18.

#### **Question 27**

What is the required or recommended age range for youth participating in the Youth Advisory Committee, including both JJAG youth members and non-JJAG youth participants?

Answer:

As directed by the JJDPA, youth must be under the age of 28 at the time of their initial appointment.

#### **Question 28**

Are there expectations regarding the number of Youth Advisory Committee members or requirements for geographic, cultural, or justice-involved representation?

Answer:

Applicants are encouraged to ensure that YAC membership is as representative as possible of New York State's diverse population.

#### **Question 29**

Are there recommended stipend or hourly pay ranges that DCJS considers reasonable for youth participating in YAC activities and JJAG meetings?

Answer:

Yes. JJAG members should receive \$150 per JJAG meeting they attend. Beyond that, the applicant should identify stipend amounts and/or provide for appropriate travel related expenses per federal guidelines. Please refer to page 9 of the RFA.

### **Question 30**

Is there guidance on maximum scholarship amounts, minimum numbers of scholarship awards, and allowable administrative costs for managing the \$50,000 scholarship fund?

Answer:

DCJS has not provided a maximum amount for each individual scholarship. Applicants are expected to detail the parameters for selecting scholarship recipients. DCJS will work with the successful applicant to define scholarship amounts and eligibility criteria during contract negotiations. Indirect costs are capped at 15% unless the grantee has a federally approved indirect cost rate.

### **Question 31**

Does DCJS recommend specific mentorship, leadership development, or training models for youth serving on the YAC?

Answer:

No.

### **Question 32**

Does DCJS have preferred or required evidence-based models for trauma-informed, healing-centered, or culturally responsive programming?

Answer:

No, DCJS does not provide specific programming models for consideration related to this RFA.

### **Question 33**

Are applicants required to provide MOUs or formal agreements with community partners when describing coordination with existing youth and family services?

Answer:

No, applicants are encouraged to provide a letter of support from the community partner named, however this is not a requirement of the application. Should an application be selected for an award, formal MOU's or agreements will be required during the contracting phase.

### **Question 34**

What data points or outcome measures does DCJS expect organizations to collect to demonstrate program impact for Category 2 programs?

Answer:

Per page 15 of the RFA, question number six (6) asks for intended outcomes for proposed programming. Comprehensive answers should, at a minimum, include:

- Your organization's plan for collecting data to demonstrate program impact.
- A thorough description of how an organization will seek to include youth, family, and community in program design and delivery as well as in determining program impact and outcomes.

### **Question 35**

Are there recommended staffing structures or structured cost ranges for mentoring, mental health services, restorative practices, or other allowable program components to ensure budgets are reasonable?

Answer:

As indicated on page 4, applicants are eligible to apply for up to \$75,000 to support programming.

### **Question 36**

When responding to the Questions portions of the application (as defined in the RFA), are there word or space count limits for each answer? If so, could you please specify the limits for each question?

Answer:

Please see page 11 of the RFA for guidance related to document submission. Please note, there is no word limit.

### **Question 37**

Are applicants required to develop/write the objectives and performance measures for this project, or are these pre-defined by DCJS to incorporate? If they are pre-defined, could you please indicate where these objectives and performance measures can be found?

Answer:

Per page 15 of the RFA, question number six (6) asks for intended outcomes for proposed programming. Comprehensive answers should, at a minimum, include:

- Your organization's plan for collecting data to demonstrate program impact.
- A thorough description of how you will seek to include youth, family, and community in program design and delivery as well as in determining program impact and outcomes.