GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: ORGANIZING YOUTH RETURNING FROM INCARCERATION IN NEW HAVEN

October 30, 2017
Grant Funding Opportunity: Organizing Youth Returning from Incarceration in New Haven

This funding opportunity is a partnership between:

The partnering Foundations share an interest in improving the lives of youth and young adults.
Welcome and Agenda

- Funding Partners
- 16-24 year olds in the Justice System in Connecticut
- Best Practices in Youth Led Social Change
- Grant for Justice Reform
  - The Goal
  - The Outcomes
  - Eligibility Criteria
  - Key Dates and Selection Process
  - How to Apply
- Questions and Answers
Mission:

The mission of the Perrin Family Foundation is to partner with organizations based in under-resourced communities across Connecticut in order to create environments that support youth as leaders of social change.
Mission:

- The Perrin Family Foundation understands youth-led social change as a long-term process that builds the confidence, knowledge, skills and collective leadership of young people while addressing the root causes of injustice and equity in their lives and community.
...is the permanent charitable endowment for Greater New Haven and its region's largest grantmaker to nonprofits.

It has a strategic initiative focused on supporting the re-entry of formerly incarcerated individuals.

The Community Foundation understands that mass incarceration is a complicated issue with intersecting root causes including: structural racism, lack of access and coordination of services and supports, education, and wide prevailing criminal justice policy.

The Community Foundation believes that as a community, we can do better to empower men, women and youth to rebuild their lives when they return home.
Connecticut.....

- has comparatively low incarceration rates but
- has the highest racial and ethnic disparities in the country for committed youth

Youth of color are committed at 14 times the rate of White youth, and Black youth are committed at 24 times the rate of White youth.
Connecticut…..

- …spends more on CJTS than all prison alternatives combined
- …spends more on CJTS than it does on all its alternatives to incarceration.
- In 2015, CJTS cost the state almost $32 million. This does not include the costs of private institutions or juvenile detention centers (Tow 2016)
In 2015, spending on educational services within CJTS represented only 14 total budget. This has remained relatively stagnant over the past 10 years.

Spending on juvenile alternatives to incarceration declined 17 percent between 2008 and 2016 and has remained stagnant in recent years.
Connecticut.....

- 2015, CJTS was subject to widespread scandal and public outcry when the Office of the Connecticut Child Advocate released a report alleging inhumane conditions, unlawful restraints, use of handcuffs and shackles, isolation, and inadequate mental health treatment for youth in CJTS (Eagan, Kramer, and Panciera 2015)

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Connecticut.....

- CJTS, the most secure setting for boys, is the most commonly used out-of-home placement for committed youth. Other placements include group homes, residential treatment centers, and Journey House (CDCF 2017)
Connecticut…..

- On average, 250 youth were committed delinquent to the DCF on any given day in 2016.

- In March 2017, 45 percent of these youth were under DCF supervision at home and receiving community based services, 44 percent were in DCF-secure or congregate placement, and 11 percent were either incarcerated by the adult Department of Corrections or detained for new crimes occurring after their delinquency commitment (CDCF 2017).
Connecticut Juvenile Training School Admissions by Offense Type (boys only)
Share of admissions, 2016

- New Commitment: 42%
- Congregate Care: 18%
- Parole Admission: 40%

Connecticut.....

- Youth admitted to CJTS have an array of treatment needs, many of which are not met in facilities.

- Among boys admitted to CJTS: 91% had behavioral disorders, 69% percent had substance use disorders, and 62% had neurodevelopmental disorders. (CJTS 2016)
Among girls admitted to Pueblo before it closed, 82% had behavioral disorders, and 54 percent had substance use disorders (CJTS 2016). Girls had higher rates of trauma, which is exacerbated by conditions of incarceration (CJJA, n.d.).

Eighty two percent of girls had trauma disorders, and 90% of girls had psychiatric disorders.
Among girls admitted to Pueblo before it closed, 82% had behavioral disorders, and 54 percent had substance use disorders (CJTS 2016) Girls had higher rates of trauma, which is exacerbated by conditions of incarceration (CJJA, n.d.).

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Youth-Led Social Change

Activities:

- Identify and analyze issues
  - Design and conduct surveys
  - Facilitate dialogue with peers and community members
  - Research topics and community issues
  - Collect and analyze data

- Outreach and education
  - Employ creative tools and strategies to raise awareness (art, media, performances, posters, flyers, etc.)
  - Access traditional and social media outlets to get out the message
  - Recruit peers and allies
Youth-Led Social Change

- **Action**
  - Encourage collective visioning and problem solving
  - Brainstorm solutions
  - Develop campaign plan and goals
  - Influence decision makers through direct action

- **Reflection**
  - Facilitate group discussions and debriefings
  - Evaluate lessons learned
Youth Development Outcomes of Youth-Led Social Change
The Goal:
There is a strong body of evidence that demonstrates how, when provided with the right opportunities and supports, formerly incarcerated individuals are far more likely to successfully find a job, rebuild their relationships and reintegrate back into the community.

There are very few opportunities for those that have been directly impacted by the system of mass incarceration to exercise collective leadership to identify, discuss, and organize to change the systemic barriers they face upon release.

This funding opportunity will specifically support organizing as a strategy, with a focus on amplifying the voice of youth and young adults directly impacted by the justice system to address systemic issues that they have identified as barriers to their re-integration success.
Grant for Justice Reform: **ORGANIZING YOUTH RETURNING FROM INCARCERATION IN NEW HAVEN**

**The Outcomes:**

The goal of this joint multi-year funding opportunity is to ensure that formerly incarcerated youth and young adults (aged 16-24) and their families are empowered with opportunities to exercise community leadership, thereby

1) advancing their successful reintegration;

2) reducing recidivism rates and

3) building leadership and organizing capacity to change policies and practices that fuel mass incarceration.

The selected grantee may receive a grant of $40,000 per year for two years.
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Eligibility Criteria

Organizations eligible for consideration must:
✓ Be working in the greater New Haven area.
✓ Demonstrate efficacy in cultivating the leadership of youth and young adults.
✓ Have experience and familiarity with engaging and serving formerly incarcerated individuals.
✓ Possess an understanding of community organizing principles and practices, including how to build a base, cultivate leadership, and develop a campaign.
Grant for Justice Reform: ORGANIZING YOUTH RETURNING FROM INCARCERATION IN NEW HAVEN

Key Dates:

Proposals due - November 20

Committee reviews proposals and complete selection - November 21 - 27

Funds dispersed - by end of December
How to Apply

✓ Potential applicants must speak with Caprice Taylor Mendez during the open application period and prior to submitting an application.
  - To schedule a conversation, please contact 203-777-7089.
  - If your organization meets the criteria, a link will be sent to you to apply online.

✓ Submit a proposal by November 20, 2017
How to Apply

For more information:

- [https://www.cfgnh.org/LeadingOnIssues/IncarcerationandReentry](https://www.cfgnh.org/LeadingOnIssues/IncarcerationandReentry)

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Q&A with Presenters

- Laura McCargar
  President
  The Perrin Family Foundation

- Caprice Taylor Mendez
  Strategic Program Manager
  The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven