

**Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA)
Request for Initial Proposal Ideas
JAMS Foundation/ACR
Partnership Regular Year One – 2018**

ACR is pleased to announce this Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) and request for initial proposal ideas for the 2018 funding cycle of the JAMS Foundation/ACR partnership in supporting Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) for students and youth. The mission of the JAMS Foundation/ACR partnership is summarized below.

Mission: The population to be served by the funding streams will be (1) youth in preK-12 age range and/or (2) adults working with these youth populations in ways that directly transfer CRE skills for adults to the youth populations through education, training and services.

Funding Contexts: The contexts for projects may be a variety of contexts including community, schools, alternative education (online education, charter schools, after school programs), government (juvenile justice facilities, courts) and NGO settings. While some proposals may be able to secure and guarantee access to or cooperation from traditional K-12 school districts/schools, we are excited by opportunity to support possible funding of CRE work from other contexts. Thus, projects in pre-K-12 schools will be considered but emphasis will be on projects outside that context.

The NOFA Area: The funding focus for the 2018 funding cycle intends to support:

Contextual Factors

Programs that advance the development, implementation, and/or assessment of conflict prevention and resolution strategies to serve youth in families whose integrity is jeopardized by changes in social environment that can lead to gang involvement. These programs should focus on changes in the social environment which must include one or more changes in:

- Family composition;
- Home location;
- Education;
- Trauma;
- Addiction;
- Violence;
- Perpetual unresolved conflict;
- Prison;
- Economic challenges; or,
- Access to efficient, effective and responsive education, justice, opportunity, or conflict prevention/resolution services.

Population to be served

These programs may be building on what some agencies are already doing, but will specifically aim to integrate the development of conflict resolution training, education or services to help address each of the following areas of impact:

- Individual (e.g., youth, family, service provider);
- Institutional (e.g. Criminal Justice System, Public/Subsidized Housing, School); and,

- Environmental Conditions (e.g. Economic, Socioeconomic, emerging).

Projects would focus on forming and fostering the relationships between **each** of the individual area, youth, family, service provider *and* one of the institutions in the institutional area *and* one of the environmental condition, to ensure that future decision points integrate the learning that took place related to constructive conflict engagement.

The populations to be served will be (1) youth in pre-K to 12th grade age range; (2) adults serving in the parental role for those youth; and (3) adults working with those youth populations in ways that directly transfer conflict prevention and resolution skills to address conflict

There are three priority attributes relevant to the criteria in the NOFA:

- Priority will be given to conflict prevention/resolution education programs that focus on reducing, through improved conflict prevention/resolution skills, the impact of risk factors such as separation, loss, abandonment, or gender/cultural/religious/racial identity crisis facilitated by the environmental condition of focus and that may lead to gang membership.
- Priority will be given to projects in which youth play a significant or substantive role in the delivery of the process. Priority for projects that help to develop youth leadership skills by getting young people involved in helping themselves.
- Priority given to projects that arise from the grassroots efforts, comprised of a strong base of diverse stakeholders, who are representative of the community of youth being served to supplement or provide additional capacity for the community’s efforts.

Funding Parameters and Criteria for the 2017 Funding Cycle

- Requests for funding may range from \$15,000.00 to \$40,000.00 for the first year of the funding cycle. Year two funding cycle requests may be for no more than \$20,000.00. ACR is looking to recommend a small number of high quality projects with proven impact and the potential of regional and national impact upon completion.
- The proposed projects can be one or two-year projects, but decisions on funding for a second year will be contingent on evidence of benchmark accomplishments at the end of the first year of funding.
- Preference for funding is given for development and innovation projects – those that may bring exciting new ideas to a level of scalability and sustainability. A secondary emphasis is on expansion grants that enable an already developed project to be taken to a regional or national rollout.
- Eligible organizations include nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies working in conjunction with nonprofit educational institutions or organizations.

RFP Project Process

- Interested organizations or individuals are required to submit a 1-3 page Initial Project Idea description (using the guidelines on the following page) to ACR no later than 11:59 PM local time of the organization's legal/main location, Wednesday, February 14, 2018 to admin@acrnet.org.
- An informational conference call will be held on Thursday November 30, 2017 at 3:00 PM EST. There is a limited number of spaces for this teleconference. To obtain the link for the conference, and register to attend, please send a notice of interest to ACR at admin@acrnet.org.
- The ACR Grant review committee will notify applicants if they have been selected to develop a full proposal for submission and review by Wednesday, April 4, 2018. A RFP review webinar will be offered on Thursday, April 11, 2017 at 3 PM ET. The link for attendance will be sent to those applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal.
- Full proposals (with a required application protocol provided upon notification) will be due to the ACR Grant review committee no later than 11:59 PM local time of the organization's legal/main location on Tuesday, June 26, 2018.
- Funding decisions are anticipated at the August 2018 JAMS Foundation Board meeting.
- The selected grantees will be announced during ACR's 2018 Annual Conference, to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania October 3, 2018- October 6, 2018. Please plan on attending.

Please address questions about grant program to Cheryl Jamison, Executive Director, ACR at admin@acrnet.org.

Initial Proposal Ideas Description

Please note, incomplete submissions and those which do not adhere to the specifications below will not be considered

MANDATORY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Proposal Description must be submitted electronically through the Internet. The subject line of the email must read: JAMS Foundation/ACR Grant and the name of the organization.

Applications must be submitted **electronically by 11:59 p.m., local time of applicant on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 simultaneously** to both admin@acrnet.org and acrnet2resolve@gmail.com

In the body of the email, please provide **only** the following information:

1. Name of organization
2. Name of the proposed project
3. Name of contact person
4. Telephone number of contact person
5. Email address of contact person.

The proposed project description shall be **no more than three** pages, single spaced, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins. The document must be submitted as .pdf file using Adobe Acrobat 9.0 or a later version. Please include the following information in your description. Please note, **incomplete submissions and those which do not adhere to the specifications will not be considered.**

Applicant Information:

1. Organization Name/Address
2. Organizational Contact Person (and necessary contact information)
3. Organizational Type (educational institution, LEA, HEI, NGO, etc.)
4. Organization's Previous Work in Conflict Resolution Education (only 1-2 paragraphs)

Project Description:

In your 2- 3 page description of the project please discuss the following:

1. Describe the population to be served and your organization's access to that population.
2. Describe the nature of the proposed project and the need for this project in line of the one or more the contextual factors noted in the NOFA (i.e., the important benefits to be obtained).
3. Describe the uniqueness of this project – to what extent is this groundbreaking or innovative work in the field of conflict resolution education.
4. Suggest how you would measure or assess the success or impact of this project if funded.
5. Describe your organization's expertise and qualifications to do the work proposed.
6. Discuss the key personnel in the project, their qualifications for involvement and their present or intended role within the organization's internal structures.
7. Provide evidence that exhibits the capacity of the organization, or an individual who will be connected to the organization through this proposal, to expand the scale and reach of a project beyond the initial parameters.
8. Indicate the general amount of funding requested for Year 1 (and for year 2 if relevant) and a general description for which that funding will be used and build on funding or in-kind support already obtained for this project or for foundational work in this area.

Note: *In the event of close scores between applications a funding preference will be provided to those submissions which focus on populations or areas of Canada or the United States of America that have not yet received funding through this granting process.*