

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Connecticut Project Longevity Street Outreach and Intervention Program Request for Proposals

The Justice Education Center, Inc., in partnership with the Connecticut Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD), is seeking proposals from eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations to provide Street Outreach and Community Engagement services to juveniles and adults as necessary to identify individuals appropriate for referral to Project Longevity to reduce recidivism and increase pro-social activities, behavior, and community connections. The selected provider would also provide additional community engagement and outreach services intended to convey the message that the community wants those at risk of committing or being victims of gun violence safe, alive and free, and that we all need to work together to achieve this. Services will be provided within the City of New Haven.

Official Contact:

Name: Sherry Haller, Executive Director, The Justice Education Center, Inc.
Address: 62 LaSalle Road, Suite 308, West Hartford, CT 06107
Phone: 860-231-8180
E-Mail: justiceeducation@aol.com

Deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, October 27, 2023 by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

■ A. INTRODUCTION

1. RFP Name: Connecticut Project Longevity Street Outreach and Intervention Program

2. **Summary.** The Justice Education Center, Inc., in partnership with the Connecticut Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD), is seeking proposals from eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations to provide Street Outreach and Community Engagement services to juveniles and adults as necessary to identify individuals appropriate for referral to Project Longevity to reduce recidivism and increase pro-social activities, behavior, and community connections. The selected provider would also provide additional community engagement and outreach services intended to convey the message that the community wants those at risk of committing or being victims of gun violence safe, alive and free, and that we all need to work together to achieve this. Services will be provided within the City of New Haven.

■ B. INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Official Contact.** The Center has designated the individual below as the Official Contact for purposes of this RFP. The Official Contact is the **only authorized contact** for this procurement and, as such, handles all related communications on behalf of The Center.

Name: Sherry Haller, Executive Director, The Justice Education Center, Inc.
Address: 62 LaSalle Road, Suite 308, West Hartford, CT 06107
Phone: 860-231-8180
E-Mail: justiceeducation@aol.com

Please ensure that e-mail screening software (if used) recognizes and accepts e-mails from the Official Contact.

2. **Contract Offers.** The offer of the right to negotiate a contract pursuant to this RFP is dependent upon the availability of funding to The Justice Education Center, Inc. The Center anticipates the following:

Total Funding Available: TBD
Number of Contracts: 1
Contract Cost: Confidential
Catchment Areas: New Haven
Contract Term: November 15, 2023 – June 30, 2025

3. **Eligibility.** Eligible respondents are private provider organizations (defined as non-state entities that are 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations or partnerships with principal place of business in Connecticut) or Connecticut municipalities.
4. **Minimum Qualifications of Respondents.** To be considered for the right to negotiate a contract, a respondent must have the following minimum qualifications:
- A minimum of five years demonstrated experience providing outreach services in the community for which services are being proposed;
 - Established partnerships and/or collaborations with the providers in the catchment areas.

5. Procurement Schedule. See below. Dates after the due date for proposals (“Proposals Due”) are target dates only (*). The Center may amend the schedule, as needed. Any change will be made by means of an addendum to this RFP and will be posted on the The Justice Education Center, Inc.’s website at www.justiceeducationcenter.org.

- RFP Released: October 3, 2023
- Bidder’s Conference: October 10, 2023, at 3pm
- Zoom link for bidders conference:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83740674224?pwd=R25wUWZNekljWXo4cHZSS2xoM0NzUT09>
- Deadline for Questions: October 11, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Answers Released: October 13, 2023 (on website)
- Proposals Due: October 27, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- (*) Start of Contract: November 15, 2023

6. Inquiry Procedures. All questions regarding this RFP or procurement process must be directed, in writing, to the Official Contact before the deadline specified in the Procurement Schedule. The early submission of questions is encouraged. Questions will not be accepted or answered verbally – neither in person nor over the telephone. All questions determined by to be material to this procurement and received before the deadline will be answered. At its discretion, The Center may or may not respond to questions received after the deadline. The Center may combine similar questions and give only one answer.

7. Proposal Due Date and Time. The Official Contact is the **only authorized recipient** of proposals submitted in response to this RFP. Proposals must be received by the Official Contact on or before the due date and time:

- Due Date: October 27, 2023
- Time: 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Faxed or mailed proposals will not be evaluated. Proposers should not interpret or otherwise construe receipt of a proposal after the due date and time as acceptance of the proposal since the actual receipt of the proposal is a clerical function. Proposals received after the due date and time may be accepted by The Center as a clerical function, but such late proposals will be evaluated for consideration under this RFP only at the discretion of The Center. At the discretion of The Center, late proposals may be destroyed or returned by the submitters.

An acceptable submission must include the following:

- one (1) electronic proposal in PDF format, including any appendices
- one (1) budget compatible with Microsoft Office Excel

Proposers should keep the original signatures on file for potential future reference. The electronic copy of the proposal must be complete, properly formatted and outlined, and ready for evaluation by the Screening Committee.

8. Multiple Proposals. N/A.

9. Declaration of Confidential Information. Respondents are advised that all materials associated with this procurement are subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Privacy Act, and all rules, regulations, and interpretations resulting from them. If a respondent deems that certain information required by this RFP is confidential, the respondent must label such information as CONFIDENTIAL

■ C. PROPOSAL FORMAT

1. **Table of Contents.** All proposals must include a Table of Contents.
2. **Executive Summary.** Proposals must include a high-level summary, not exceeding two (2) pages of the main proposal and cost proposal. The Executive Summary shall include a) the respondent's minimum of three (2) years of demonstrated experience with outreach (b) methodology of provision of outreach services to justice involved persons (c) relationships and engagement strategies with community partnerships in the target community of Greater New Haven.
3. **Attachments.** Attachments other than the required Appendices are not permitted and will not be evaluated. Further, the required Appendices or Forms must not be altered or used to extend, enhance, or replace any component required by this RFP. Failure to abide by these instructions may result in disqualification.
4. **Style Requirements.** Submitted proposals must conform to the following specifications:

Paper Size: 8 ½" x 11" "portrait" orientation
Page Limit: 20 pages *excluding* all required Appendices and Forms
Font Size: Minimum 11 point
Margins: The binding edge margin of all pages shall be a minimum of one and one half inches (1½"); all other margins shall be one inch (1")
Line Spacing: Single-spaced
5. **Pagination.** The proposer's name must be displayed in the header of each page. All pages, from the Cover Sheet through the required Appendices and Forms, must be numbered in the footer.
6. **Delivery Condition** – All proposals must be received via email, including all required attachments by the above deadline. Proposers are recommended to use a secure email platform or request a read receipt to confirm delivery.

■ D. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

1. **Evaluation Process.** It is the intent of The Center to conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of proposals received in response to this RFP.
2. **Evaluation Team.** The Center will designate an Evaluation Team to evaluate proposals submitted in response to this RFP. The contents of all submitted proposals, including any confidential information, will be shared with the Evaluation Team. Only proposals found to be responsive (that is, complying with all instructions and requirements described herein) will be reviewed, rated, and scored. Proposals that fail to comply with all instructions will be rejected without further consideration. Attempts by any respondent (or representative of any respondent) to contact or influence any member of the Evaluation Team may result in disqualification of the respondent.
3. **Minimum Submission Requirements.** All proposals must comply with the requirements specified in this RFP. To be eligible for evaluation, proposals must (a) be received on or before the due date and time; (b) meet the Proposal Format requirements; (c) follow the required Proposal Outline; and (d) be complete. Proposals that fail to follow instructions or satisfy these minimum submission requirements will not be reviewed further. The Center will reject any proposal that deviates significantly from the requirements of this RFP.
4. **Evaluation Criteria (and Weights).** Proposals meeting the Minimum Submission Requirements will be evaluated according to the established criteria. The criteria are the objective standards that the Evaluation Team will use to evaluate the technical merits of the proposals. Only the criteria listed below will be used to evaluate proposals. The criteria are weighted according to their relative importance. The weights are confidential.

- Organizational Requirements
- Service Requirements
- Staffing Requirements
- Data and Technology Requirements
- Community Partners and Subcontractors
- Work Plan
- Financial Requirements
- Budget Requirements
- Appendices

5. **Respondent Selection.** Upon completing its evaluation of proposals, the Evaluation Team will submit the rankings of all proposals to The Center's Executive Director. The final selection of a successful respondent is at the discretion of the ED. Any respondent selected will be so notified and offered an opportunity to negotiate a contract with The Center. Such negotiations may, but will not automatically, result in a contract. All unsuccessful respondents will be notified by e-mail about the outcome of the evaluation and respondent selection process.
6. **Debriefing.** After receiving notification from The Center, any respondent may contact the Official Contact and request a Debriefing of the procurement process and its proposal. If respondents still have questions after receiving this information, they may contact the Official Contact and request a meeting with The Center to discuss the procurement process. The Center shall schedule and conduct Debriefing meetings that have been properly requested, within **fifteen (15) days** of The Center's receipt of a request. The Debriefing meeting must not include or allow any comparisons of any proposals with other proposals, nor should the identity of the evaluators be released. The Debriefing process shall not be used to change, alter or modify the outcome of the competitive procurement. More detailed information about requesting a Debriefing may be obtained from the Official Contact.

III. PROGRAM INFORMATION

■ A. CONNECTICUT PROJECT LONGEVITY STREET OUTREACH AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. Program Description and Purpose

Project Longevity is an anti-gun violence program operating in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, and will soon be operational in Norwich, and New London. Project Longevity staff in each city work with police departments, probation, parole, corrections, municipal, and community organizations to identify those individuals who are the highest risk of either committing or being victims of gun violence (and their associates and families) and offer to connect them to an array of services that can help them move away from those risks. These services may include short term basic needs, emergency housing, mental or physical health services, substance use disorder services, driver's licenses, job readiness training, occupational skills training, or other services as needed. While Project Longevity has resources to fund a number of these services directly, the program also leverages resources already available in the community.

CT Project Longevity Street Outreach and Community Engagement activities provide outreach and messaging services, as necessary, to support residents and potential clients and encourage engagement in services to prevent violence, reduce recidivism and increase pro-social activities and connections to the local community.

CT Project Longevity Street Outreach and Community Engagement Program will employ interconnected strategies to ensure programmatic effectiveness. These strategies are as follows:

- a. Responding to recent shooting incidents by being present in the neighborhoods, *and if possible*, at hospitals, and connecting with the associates of shooters and victims as soon after the event as possible (this may include activity off hours and on the weekends)
- b. Connecting with at risk youth and adults in one on one and group settings to reinforce Project Longevity messaging
- c. Referring individuals who want and need additional services to the local Project Longevity team,
- d. Participating in weekly Project Longevity team meetings
- e. Conducting and participating in neighborhood and community outreach events involving at-risk juveniles, families, and other community members to reinforce Project Longevity messaging
- f. Building positive relationships with Project Longevity clients and other community members and encouraging positive decision making;
- g. Tracking individual client contacts in Project Longevity's data system of record, Veoci.

The respondent's proposed CT Project Longevity Street Outreach and Intervention Program must be led by a qualified organization which will act as respondent and contractor and which will assume primary responsibility for the success of the program.

3. Target Audience

The target audience for these outreach and community engagement efforts are juveniles and adults that are at risk of committing or being a victim of gun violence, and others associated with these individuals. Wider, neighborhood and community engagement activities with a prevention emphasis are also envisioned.

■ B. MAIN PROPOSAL

Eligible respondents are private provider organizations (defined as non-state entities that are 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations or partnerships with principal place of business in Connecticut).

Respondents are required to provide the information requested about each community partner and subcontractor proposed to provide direct services to program participants where indicated throughout this section of the RFP. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the immediate disqualification of the proposal.

1. Organizational Requirements

A responsive proposal must include the following information about the administrative and operational capabilities of the respondent, and each proposed community partner and subcontractor where indicated throughout this section of the RFP.

- a. *Purpose/Mission.* Provide a brief overview of the respondent's and each proposed community partner's and subcontractor's organization including the purpose, mission, vision, and years in operation. Describe how outreach and community engagement activities described above fits within the respondent's and each proposed community partner's and subcontractor's purpose, mission, and vision.
- b. *Entity Type.* Provide proof of the respondent's 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, such as a copy of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) determination letter in Appendices.
- c. *Location of Offices.* Specify the location of the respondent's principal place of business.
- d. *Current Range of Services/Program participants.* Summarize the services the respondent currently provides or has provided during the past two years in the New Haven area: 1) outreach, case management, and crisis intervention); and 2) community collaboration specific and criminal justice concerns. Include the current number of program participants being served, client-to-staff ratio, funding source(s), and successes.
- e. *Qualifications/Relevant Experience.* Describe the respondent's and each proposed community partner's and subcontractor's experience performing the activities required by this RFP. Provide evidence of the respondent's ability to manage public (city, state, and/or federal) grants, contracts, and third-party reimbursement systems. Summarize the respondent's ability to lead a collaborative effort and coordinate multiple community partners and subcontractors, if applicable.
- f. *Audit Compliance.* Describe the respondent's and each proposed community partner's and subcontractor's success with contract compliance requirements during the past two (2) years. Identify any deficiencies in program audits and, if applicable, detail what steps the organization has taken to address any recommendations. List all sanctions, fines, penalties or letters of noncompliance issued against the respondent and each proposed community partner and subcontractor by any funding source (public and/or private). Describe the circumstances eliciting the sanction, fine, penalty or letter of noncompliance and the corrective action or resolution to the sanction, fine, penalty or letter of noncompliance. If no sanctions, fines, penalties, or letters of noncompliance were issued, a statement that attests that no sanction, fine, penalty or compliance action has been imposed on the respondent and each proposed community partner and subcontractor within the past two (2) years must be submitted.

2. Service Requirements

A responsive proposal must describe how the respondent shall, directly or indirectly through community partners and subcontractors, perform the activities required by this RFP.

- a. *Street and Neighborhood Outreach.* Specify how you or your agency will approach street and neighborhood outreach with a focus on potential or current Project Longevity clients.
- b. *Coordinate Referrals.* Specify how you or your agency will receive referrals to Project Longevity and identify the single source of contact.
- c. *Triage Process.* Describe what if any tools will be used to quickly evaluate the engaged individual and how information provided by Project Longevity will be incorporated into the street outreach and community engagement efforts.
- d. *Hours of Operation.* Program staff must be available at times when critical communication can take place with the target population including evenings and weekends, and in response to emergency situations. Please indicate how you will approach staff availability and scheduling.
- e. *Target Population.* Describe how services will be provided to the clients and previous experience with clientele.
- f. *Service Capacity/Delivery Plan/Process.* Describe in detail activities that will be performed. Specifically, the proposal shall describe a Service Capacity/Delivery Plan to ensure that services are available no later than November 1, 2023. Said plan shall include but not be limited to:
 - ❖ Describe the number of individuals/participants who will engage annually with your program;
 - ❖ Describe any previous experience adopting an evidenced-based practice. If there is no experience, how will your proposal commit to utilizing Street Outreach and Community Engagement?
 - ❖ Describe the background of the Street Outreach and Community Engagement staff and how their past experiences will aid in their delivery and credibility of messaging;
 - ❖ Describe the plan to communicate with clients within 24 hours of a referral;
 - ❖ Describe the plan to provide a community presence after hours and on weekends
 - ❖ Describe community partners who will be involved in programming and relationships Street Outreach and Community Engagement have with partners;
 - ❖ Describe family engagement strategies that will be employed to deliver mentoring to the whole family;
 - ❖ Describe the process in which staff will travel to meet program participants within the Greater New Haven areas and complete in-home engagement when necessary; If clients need transportation, describe how that will be managed;
 - ❖ Describe how your agency and/or program contact will participate in weekly PL team meetings.
 - ❖ Describe the primary point of contact for all communication.
- g. *Linkages/Program Collaboration/Coordination.* Describe in detail the collaborative efforts that are currently in place between the respondent and proposed community partners and subcontractors, and the existing resources within Greater Bridgeport, New Haven, Waterbury, or Hartford areas specified in the respondent's proposal. Identify leveraged services that will support CT Project Longevity Street

Outreach and Intervention Program operations and describe any coordinated services between the respondent, proposed community partners and subcontractors, and other service providers that will be beneficial to the target population.

- h. *Quality Assurance Protocols.* Describe the respondent's and each proposed community partner's and subcontractors' internal process to ensure the quality and appropriateness of the activities to be performed. If an external quality assurance process is used, describe the process.
- i. *Safeguarding Confidential Information*

Please submit a written statement, which will become part of the contract between you or your company/agency and the Center, if your company/agency is awarded a contract in relation to this Agreement, certifying that confidential records and/or information will be used solely and exclusively for the purpose of performing work under this contract, and describing the following in detail:

- a. Types of confidential records and/or information required to perform the services required under this contract.
- b. Who on your staff will be allowed to access and/or view this information?
- c. The purpose(s) for which this information is to be used.
- d. The precautions to be taken to ensure the security and confidentiality of the records and/or information. (For example: non-disclosure of the names of any persons contained in data extracts; limiting number of copies made from data extracts; maintaining information in a secure area; encoding names and other information that may reveal a person's identity; providing-education to staff; use of passwords; deleting data upon completion of access rights, etc.)
- e. The sanctions for improper use and/or disclosure of this information by your staff. (For example: written reprimand; suspension; dismissal from employment, etc.)

3. Staffing Requirements

A responsive proposal must include the following information about the number and qualifications of staff that the respondent and each proposed community partner and subcontractor intend to employ to perform the activities required by this RFP.

- a. Key Personnel: Provide the names and titles of proposed personnel key to the success of the proposed program and the hours and percentages of time dedicated to this project. Describe how your staffing will successfully meet this RFP's requirements in light of any other obligations this staff have to any other entity. Summarize your procedures to secure and retain professional staff and your method to evaluate personnel performance.
- b. Job Descriptions: Attach job descriptions for proposed funded positions and resumes if position hours are to be filled by % of FTE of existing staff members.

4. Data and Technology Requirements

A responsive proposal must provide the following information about the respondent's and each proposed community partner's and subcontractor's information management and performance measurement systems.

- a. Data Reporting and Technology Capacity

Describe your capacity to collect program participant level data and your ability to adhere to Data Quality and Performance Management Standards set by Project Longevity in the use of the Project Longevity data system, Veoci.

b. Program Outcome Requirements

Describe how your program will assist The Center in meeting its goal of reducing gun violence and recidivism to certain persons under Project Longevity's supervision:

- Responding to crisis situations within 24 hours, or as soon as permissible
- Making contact with a minimum of 25 individuals per week
- Maintaining a consistent presence on streets and in neighborhoods most affected by gun violence
- Making an average of 10 direct referrals to Project Longevity per week;

■ C. COST PROPOSAL COMPONENT

1. Financial Requirements

- a. Audited Financial Statements: The proposer shall submit 1 copy of the proposer's two most recent annual financial statements prepared by an independent Certified Public Accountant and reviewed or audited in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) (USA). Each copy shall include all applicable financial statements, auditor's reports, management letters, and any corresponding reissued components. Audited Financial Statements do not count toward the total page limit of the proposal. Each copy shall be included with the proposal in the Appendices.
- b. Financial Management Procedures. The proposer shall submit the proposer's written financial management procedures that include policies/procedures for: (i) managing and tracking cash receipts/disbursements; (ii) budgeting; (iii) procurement; (iv) reconciling expenditures; (v) separation of duties/functions and (vi) payroll. Include with the proposal in Appendices. For individuals responding, please indicate how you will track and manage funds provided to you for your outreach activities.
- c. Financial Capacity: Describe the organization's financial capacity to properly isolate RRP-related income and expenditures. Discuss the internal controls used to ensure the safeguarding of funds to ensure that a thorough record of expenditures can be provided for purposes of an audit.
- d. Leveraged Funds: Describe the proposer's long-term strategy to sustain funding for the program and explain how RRP funds may be used to leverage other funding.
- e. Mixed Funding: If proposer is utilizing staff from various funding sources, proposer will document how staff time for this program will be tracked.

2. Budget Requirements

- a. Budget: Use the Budget form found at <https://www.justiceeducationcenter.org/initiatives/solicitations/> to prepare an annual line item budget that depicts the allowable costs associated with the program.
- b. Budget Narrative: Detail how expenses listed in the annual budget were calculated. Either Microsoft Word or Excel format is acceptable.
- c. Supportive Services may include both personnel and program costs. Personnel narratives must include the number and/or percent of case manager positions (use FTE) funded. Administrative salaries cannot be funded under the supportive services line item but may be included in the Administration line item. Program costs that support the operation of the proposed program are allowed and must be itemized and justified in the narrative.
- d. The Center reserves the right to fund portions of a proposed budget and/or require adjustments.