

Children's Justice Act Funds
HOW TO APPLY
March 1, 2027 – February 29, 2028

Funding Guidelines

The Children's Justice Task Force (CJTF), in collaboration with Department of Children, Youth and Families, is accepting Letters of Interest (LOI) from organizations that have projects or would like to create a project to meet our priority for the 2027-2028 cycle. The CJTF determines a priority area of funding each cycle.

To strengthen Washington State's response to child maltreatment, the Children's Justice Task Force prioritizes funding the projects that deliver advanced, role-specific training focused on the early stages of child welfare cases. Eligible initiatives must support intake, assessment, investigation, treatment, and multidisciplinary support efforts. Funding may be used to develop curricula and conduct training for professionals in advocacy, health and mental health services, prosecution, child protection services, and law enforcement, particularly those involved in identifying, intervening in, and treating suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. All proposed activities must directly enhance the safety and protection of children through specialized skill development and interagency coordination.

Projects may include, but are not limited to some of the criteria listed below:

1. Provide specialized training for professionals involved in the response for child victims.
2. One time training or series of training and/or consultation.
3. One year in length.

Final funding will be given to projects that meet the above criteria, with priority given to projects that have a statewide impact. We will only fund organizations operating and located in Washington State.

We will fund up to three projects during the funding cycle. Before submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI), please carefully review all of the funding guidelines to determine whether your proposal matches our funding priority.

Contract Award

Any contract issued as a result of this solicitation will be at the sole discretion of the Children's Justice Task Force in collaboration with the Department of Children, Youth and Families. At any time, they may reject any and all letters of interest or proposals and issue no contract(s) for this solicitation. Approximately \$115,000 is available to fund projects that meet the outlined criteria. We anticipate funding three projects with award amounts not to exceed \$38,000. Awardees will be required to provide one semi-annual progress report at the mid-point by September 1st, 2027 and one final report by February 15th, 2028.

Application Process

The Children's Justice Task Force and Department of Children, Youth and Families will not pay any costs associated with preparing or presenting any proposal in response to this solicitation. Any interested applicants must follow the guidelines outlined in the proceeding section. The CJTF and Department of Children, Youth and Families are unable to review requests for funding that do not comply with these guidelines.

RFP Release	October 1st, 2026
Information Session A virtual information session to discuss questions related to this RFP. Join by Zoom: https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/84450405279	October 8th, 2026
Letter of Interest- Maximum 2 pages - Organizational Information including past projects, previous grants, qualifications of individuals involved in the project, citations to your organization's website - Project Information - Goals/Objectives for the project - Measurement for goals/objectives - Brief statement of funding needs for the duration of the project * Please do not submit any additional material with your LOI (i.e., videos, brochures, books, etc.) These materials cannot be reviewed at this point in the grant process, and the CJTF is unable to return such items to the sender.	Due October 16th, 2026
Letters of Interest Reviewed	October 17 th -29th 2026
Invitation to submit full proposal <i>Please do not submit a full proposal without first receiving an invitation to do so.</i>	Notified October 30th, 2026
Full proposal- Maximum 6 pages (single space/12pt) - Organizational Information including past projects, previous grants, qualifications of individuals involved in the project, citations to your organization's website - Project Information including a timeline - Goals/Objectives/Action Steps for the project - Measurement for goals/objectives - Detailed budget	Due November 13 th , 2026 by 2pm
Full Proposals Reviewed	November 16th-20th, 2026
Virtual Interviews may be scheduled with Select Applicants to present/dialogue about the proposal before final selection of successful organization.	Week of November 30 th -December 4th
Notification	Week of December 7 th -11 th , 2026
Anticipated Program Start Date	March 1st, 2027

Evaluation

A committee of knowledgeable reviewers will consider all letters of interest to determine each project's intent, creativity, and strength in expected and measurable outcomes using the criteria below. This committee will then forward their selections to the Children's Justice Task Force for further review and evaluation.

Scale

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10

Poor fit

Moderate Fit

Perfect Fit

Criteria	Score
1. Breadth of impact related to the target population	
2. The geographical area to be targeted includes previously underserved population(s)	
3. Project contemplated provides a service not previously available in a manner that reduces trauma to children	
4. Service provided is replicable or adaptable after the project	
5. Project meets the criteria set forth in the RFP as related to the target population.	
6. Qualifications of people and/or agency to implement project are credible.	
7. The agency has the foundation to support and sustain the work of this project beyond this grant period.	
	Total

The decision on awards will be made by the task force and DCYF before it is submitted to the Federal Government for final approval. All awards will be subject to review by DCYF and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, and the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. DCYF retains the right to revoke award at any time.

DCYF and the Children's Justice Task Force are not obligated to contract for the services specified in this Solicitation. DCYF and the Children's Justice Task Force reserve the right to retract this Solicitation in whole, or in part, and at any time without penalty. All awards of contracts are contingent on the availability of Children's Justice Grant funds. DCYF and the Children's Justice Task Force may decide not to award any contract (s) under this Solicitation by rejecting any and all proposals, at any time.

Letters of Interest must be e-mailed to and received no later than 2:00pm on **October 16th, 2026.**

Children's Justice Act Program Manager
dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov.