The Justice Fund:
Community Engagement & Systems Change
Spring 2020 Grant Guidelines

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If you have questions related to these guidelines or your proposal for submission, please contact us at cjinitiative@nywf.org.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Organizations [current, former, or new] are eligible to apply. The New York Women’s Foundation is accepting proposals from organizations that meet the following criteria:
- Are a registered 501[c]3 or have a 501[c]3 fiscal sponsor
- Located within and operating within the five boroughs of New York City
- In existence for at least six months

**FUNDING LEVEL/TYPE OF GRANT FUNDING**

Organizations are eligible to apply for up to $50,000 for this grant cycle with an accompanying full program/project budget. Organizations can apply for a **GENERAL OPERATING GRANT** if their budget is under $2 million. Organizations can apply for a **PROGRAM-SPECIFIC GRANT** if their budget is over $2 million for NYC-specific work.
JUSTICE FUND OVERVIEW

In October 2018, The New York Women’s Foundation launched a seven-year initiative to help dismantle mass incarceration for women and families in New York City. A cornerstone of the initiative’s grantmaking and philanthropic mobilization efforts was the launch of The Justice Initiative Fund1 – the first of its kind in the country to engage in local criminal justice reform leading with a gender and racial equity lens. We will invest in community-based and cross-sector solutions that significantly decrease the involvement of women and families in all phases and aspects of the system, including the closing of Rikers Island, while simultaneously investing in alternatives that promote justice, safety and overall well-being for these communities.

Specifics of the strategy were developed with input from a broad set of stakeholders, including directly- and system-impacted individuals, service providers, criminal justice advocates, researchers, Justice Fund members, and other subject matter experts working on issues related to criminal justice reform such as public health, child welfare, mental health, and TGNC rights. Informed by stakeholder input, the Justice Initiative & Fund centers its strategy on the following three intersecting objectives that holistically will lead us to meet the overarching goal—impacting systems, communities and individuals.

• SYSTEMIC
  • SYSTEMS & CULTURE CHANGE

• COMMUNITY
  • COMMUNITY BUILDING & ENGAGEMENT

• INDIVIDUAL
  • TRANSFORMATIVE PREVENTION, REENTRY & REENGAGEMENT

Within these objectives, specific initiatives, programs and campaigns will be prioritized to highlight the most pressing needs of the NYC criminal justice reform movement and advance solutions at the nexus of gender, racial and economic justice. As a core tenet of our mission and values, community-led expertise will be central to the initiative in multiple ways – including individuals with histories of criminal justice involvement, community leaders, CBOs, and academics and researchers to leverage their local voices and visions.

While the focus will be on efforts targeted toward women and families, we also recognize that ending the effects of mass incarceration for that community means ending mass incarceration for all. Thus, key efforts and projects will also be considered that engage the entirety of the population with criminal system involvement, and the NYC community affected by mass incarceration at large.

Building on the above goals, a framework of the Fund’s grantmaking current strategy includes the following:

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(1) **Community Engagement & Systems Change**, including local and city-wide grassroots organizing, advocacy and community engagement efforts to involve local voices in long-term culture and systems change.

(2) **Gender Justice Reform**, including the launch of a multi-year public education campaign to implement early closure of Rose M. Singer Center; bail reform efforts; and research, needs analysis and implementation of key, immediate supports for justice-involved women and families.

(3) **Grassroots Solutions and Leadership**, including investment in local, community solutions in early stages of development that are informed by the experiences of system-involved individuals, as well as professional development and leadership opportunities for individuals with histories of system involvement.

(4) **Capacity Building** for the ecosystem of local, community-based organizations engaging in reform efforts, including field-building technical assistance, convenings, and partnership development opportunities, and other support to strengthen the infrastructure and performance of key institutions leading gender and racial justice-focused reform work in NYC.

(5) **Community-building and Re-investment**, including the piloting and scaling up of key community supports such as housing, mental health, restorative justice, mentoring, education and training for families in neighborhoods and communities most impacted by the inequities of the criminal justice system.

**CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SYSTEMS CHANGE**

Grantmaking for the Justice Fund in 2019 focused on community engagement and systems change that supported a key milestone towards dismantling mass incarceration in NYC: the closure of Rikers Island. The Mayor’s Office for Criminal Justice developed a Master Plan proposing the creation of one designated jail facility each in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx and a Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process was initiated. The Justice Fund made investments in community engagement efforts across the city in support of decarceration as well as related culture and systems change efforts to prevent the replication of inequity and violence within Rikers and other facilities, currently and beyond. Particularly, investments within this strategy mobilized and elevated the voices of a wide range of residents and system-impacted community members in inclusive processes that highlighted the needed input and leadership of people with lived experience within the criminal justice system. At the end of the state legislative session in June 2019, advocates and leaders also achieved a major victory in securing bail reform and the end of cash bail. This victory had a subsequent impact on the ULURP and resulted in new recommendations from MOCJ to reduce the number of planned beds in the new borough-based facilities from 6,000 to 3,500, as well as the closure of Rikers Island in 2026 rather than 2028—concluding the ULURP with an affirmative City Council vote in October 2019.

Building on this work, the next phase of the Justice Fund’s Community Engagement and Systems Change strategy seeks to invest in work that continues the engagement of impacted communities in efforts to decarcerate and transform the criminal justice system in NYC both in the short and long-term.

Priorities for the Spring 2020 cycle include:

- **Engagement of directly and system-impacted individuals and communities in the implementation phases of closing Riker’s Island**, including, but not limited to, implementation of the City’s proposed borough-based facilities
- **Organizing, community mobilization and legislative advocacy efforts toward decarceration in NYC**, including, but not limited to, pre-trial, parole and family re-unification/parental rights reform
policies, via: coalition building and other strategic partnerships among key stakeholders; the creation and use of coordinated strategic communications strategies; community education and mobilization efforts; or other strategies in support of key systems change efforts

- **Culture and systems change efforts that transform the culture of policing, court and jail systems in NYC** including, but not limited to: the promotion of practices and policies that meet the needs of specific populations, deter excessive use of force and punishment, and create more humane and just options for system involved individuals; the creation and/or expansion of community-led programming and services that focus on diversion and prevention of criminal legal system involvement; and efforts promoting re-investment of resources into local communities impacted by mass incarceration for community-led models of justice and well-being

- **Leadership development of directly and system-impacted individuals as change agents and influencers in policy and decision-making spaces** with implications for local reform efforts

- **Engagement of specific, underrepresented communities in reform efforts**, to uplift their voice, leadership and/or allyship, included but not limited to:
  - Family members of those who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated;
  - Girls/gender-fluid youth impacted by the child welfare and/or family court systems
  - Survivors of interpersonal and community violence
  - Women and girls of color;
  - LGBTQ women, girls and gender-fluid individuals;
  - Homeless women/transient women and families.
  - Geographic neighborhoods highly impacted by mass incarceration and/or those to be highly impacted by the proposed borough-based facilities;
  - Individuals facing issues related to mental health and/or substance abuse
  - Older adults;
  - Individuals who are differently abled;
  - Immigrant and refugee communities;

- **Organizations with a strong commitment to the leadership of directly and system impacted individuals and communities within the organization overall**, including leadership positions at the staff and Board levels, as well as intentional opportunities for leadership development from community and within the organization.
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Applications will be completed in the Fluxx system. All applicants must have log-in credentials in order to apply. Former and current grantee partners already have log-in credentials for the system. If you need to create a new account, please go to nywf.fluxx.io and click “Create an account now.” Log-in credentials will then be sent to you. If you have questions about how to log into Fluxx or any assistance with the system, please contact Lynn Fitzgerald-Tahsir, Director of Grants and Operations at fitzgerald@nywf.org. The following documents will also need to be uploaded for the application to be complete:

- 501(c)3 IRS determination letter or Fiscal Sponsor MOU
- W-9
- Budget Request Form
- Funding Sources Form
- Organization budgets [please upload your two most recent budgets combined into one file]
- Most recent audited financial statement/990 #1
- Second most recent audited financial statement/990 #2 (if you were required to complete one)
- Board of Directors List
- Optional documents:
  - Key Staff Biographies
  - Organizational Chart
  - Logic Model
  - Other(s)

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS
The Foundation does NOT provide funds for:
- Campaigns to elect candidates to public office;
- Capital fund projects or endowments;
- Fundraising events;
- Individuals;
- Needs assessments or feasibility studies;
- Organizations or programs located outside the five boroughs of New York City;
- Organizations that do not comply with federal, state, or local equal employment statutes;
- Organizations that promote religious activities or agendas;
- Public or private schools, colleges or universities;
- Real estate purchases;
- Summer-only programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
If you have any questions regarding the grant guidelines and the Justice Fund, please contact cjniitive@nywf.org.

ABOUT THE NEW YORK WOMEN’S FOUNDATION
Since 1987, The New York Women’s Foundation has advanced a dynamic philanthropic strategy based on the fundamental reality that, when women thrive, their families and communities also thrive. We invest in women-led, community-based solutions that promote the economic security, safety, and health of the most vulnerable women in New York City. The New York Women’s Foundation fosters women’s leadership, creates partnerships that spark catalytic change, exchanges insights with experts across sectors, and empowers women by training them in activism and philanthropy to accelerate and sustain forward progress.