



**MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JUSTICE COUNCIL
ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY SUBGRANT OPPORTUNITY**

**Funding Will Support Community-Led Efforts to
Prevent Criminal Justice System Involvement, Advance Equity, and
Support Public Health Approaches to Violence**

MILWAUKEE – October 8, 2021 – Today, the Milwaukee Community Justice Council (CJC) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to fund initiatives led by non-governmental, grassroots organizations focused on preventing criminal justice system involvement, promoting racial equity, engaging impacted communities, and advancing goals identified within the [Blueprint for Peace](#). The Council anticipates making a minimum of four awards — up to \$34,500 each.

“Residents and agencies throughout our community are leading important work that often goes underfunded,” said Mandy Potapenko, Director of the Milwaukee Community Justice Council. “The CJC Community Subgrants aim to honor and tangibly support community-led efforts that reduce justice system involvement, advance racial equity, and improve overall public safety within Milwaukee County.”

The CJC’s subgrant awards are made possible by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and its [Safety and Justice Challenge](#) (SJC) initiative, a \$258 million national effort to change the way America thinks about and uses jails. Milwaukee County joined the SJC Network in 2016. The network is now composed of 51 jurisdictions across 32 states that are launching strategies to prevent over-reliance on local jails, eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal legal system, and engage community members in systems reform.

With the intention of furthering the goals of the Safety and Justice Challenge, the CJC also leverages the subgrants to support a public health approach to violence prevention. In partnership with the broader community, the Milwaukee Health Department’s Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) developed and released the Blueprint for Peace. The document shares six goals — with corresponding strategies — to address violence by reducing community exposure to risk factors associated with violence and strengthening engagement and community access to protective factors. OVP identified several Blueprint strategies that apply to the criminal legal system. Those Blueprint strategies are consistent with SJC goals and serve as the priority areas of the CJC Community Subgrant RFP.

In addition to the Office of Violence Prevention, the CJC partnered with the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee (UWM) to serve as the fiscal agent for the awards and will offer technical assistance to award



recipients. The Milwaukee County Office on African American Affairs was also consulted to center equity in the subgrant process.

“I encourage any organization doing the important, frontline work of improving public safety and diverting individuals from the criminal justice system to apply for these grants,” said County Executive David Crowley. “This work is crucial to our shared goal of making Milwaukee County a safer, healthier place to live – government can’t do the heavy lifting on its own. We need on-the-ground, credible residents and organizations for this to work, and these subgrants help lift those residents and organizations to continue making strides toward our goals.”

Interested applicants are invited to visit the [Milwaukee CJC website](#) for more information. Applications are due by 4:30PM on Friday, November 5th. Awards will be announced during the week of November 22nd.

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About the Milwaukee Community Justice Council

Created by Milwaukee County Board resolution in 2007, the Milwaukee Community Justice Council is made up of Milwaukee-area criminal justice agencies, local governments, and residents working collaboratively to ensure a fair, efficient, and effective justice system that enhances public safety and quality of life in our community. Though initially created to enhance coordination and collaboration among criminal justice agencies, local leadership included “community justice” in the CJC name to emphasize the importance of including community and community priorities in its work. The Council is committed to fostering opportunities for diverse perspectives to be heard and establishing collaborative, transparent decision-making around criminal justice policy. The Council is governed by an Executive Committee and is currently chaired by Milwaukee County Circuit Court Chief Judge Mary Triggiano. More information on the Council can be found at Milwaukee.gov/CJC.

MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JUSTICE COUNCIL MEDIA CONTACT: Mandy Potapenko
414-435-1250 (Office) | mpotapenko@milwaukeeecjc.org

COUNTY EXECUTIVE MEDIA CONTACT: Brandon Weathersby
414-469-3493 (Office) | brandon.weathersby@milwaukeeecountywi.gov