



Passaic County Community Resource Development Funds Background and Rationale, Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The NJ Children’s System of Care (CSOC), Passaic County, and Circle of Care for Families and Children of Passaic County (COC), are interested in expanding services and programs for youth in the county with mental health, behavioral health, intellectual disabilities, and substance use needs. **This one-time funding of \$125,000 (less may be applied for) must be utilized in full by June 30, 2022 and will become unavailable to the awardee(s) after that date.** Proposals submitted must either be a one-time initiative that can have a sustained impact or serve as seed money to initiative a new resource. Applicants must commit to working in partnership with Circle of Care for Families and Children of Passaic County (COC), other system partners, and community-based resources. They must embody the values of the NJ Children’s System of Care.

In the most recent 2020 Passaic County Department of Human Services – DCF Needs Assessment, Crime and Community Safety were identified as “prioritized needs areas”, as it was noted that only 33% of respondents indicated feeling safe in their community and that there were adequate resources to prevent crime. Violent crime and juvenile crime in Passaic County are the 5th highest in the state, with a rate of 3.7 per 1,000. Juvenile arrests, while declining, still occur at a rate of 15 per 1,000.

Also in regards to community safety, this Needs Assessment identified the need for “more prevention programs that look to deter youth from entering the Juvenile Justice System”, by way of mentoring or recreational programs that are accessible to them without any system involvement (CMO, DCP, Court), thus preventing them from entering these systems altogether. Addressing racial justice and minority overrepresentation in these systems was also identified as needed in this area.

Another area of prioritized need identified was Substance Use Disorder and Prevention Services, as it is noted that overdoses have increased by 110% in recent years, as have Nalaxone administrations: 450% in last four years.

In the area of School Performance and Career Readiness, there is also a marked need for services that look to improve school performance and career readiness for teens, to support successful transition into adulthood, as it is noted that the rate of teens not working and not in school is higher in our county than it is for the whole state of NJ. (KidsCount data).

The priority needs for funding identified are (no specific order):

- Prevention programs to deter youth from juvenile justice system involvement or re-offending.
- Community based mentoring accessible without system (DCPP, CMO, legal) involvement for at risk youth.
- After-school programs that provide recreational and psycho-education opportunities for youth.



- Programming that supports teens in their efforts to transition to adulthood, such as career readiness, etc.
- Programming that targets the prevention of substance use while engaging both youth and parents

**The barriers and needs have been collected from various sources: including the 2020 Passaic County Department of Human Services - DCF Needs Assessment and data pulled from KidsCount data center.*

All applications will be reviewed and scored via a panel consisting of COC Community Resource Manager, representatives from COC leadership and staff, and various members of the Passaic County Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC), including parents.

Thank You,

Paulina Dutton, LAC, NCC
Community Resource Manager

Cynthia Heller, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer