



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



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April 22nd, 2024

Kristina Rose, Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
810 7th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Director Rose,

It's our understanding the Center for Justice Innovation's Bronx Community Justice Center's has submitted a proposal in response to the Office for Victims of Crime's Fiscal Year 2024 Preventing Trafficking of Girls solicitation (O-OVC-2024-172025).

Founded in 1996, the Center for Justice Innovation (Center) is a community justice organization that builds safety and racial justice, in partnership with communities, legal systems, and the people most impacted. The Center runs more than two dozen operating programs spread across all five boroughs and beyond, and has developed and currently operates many successful, results-driven programs for young people, including alternative-to-detention programs, human trafficking prevention and early intervention programs, work readiness programs, mentoring programs, and anti-violence programs focused on changing the behaviors, well-being, and outcomes for New York City youth.

It is also our understanding, The Bronx Community Justice Center, an operating project of the Center for Justice Innovation, can meet and exceed the OVC program expectations. The Justice Center works to create a safer, more equitable Bronx through community-driven public safety initiatives, violence prevention, youth opportunity, and economic mobility efforts focused on the South Bronx. The Justice Center's vision is to support the South Bronx community in becoming a safe and thriving place where local ownership, community-led investment, and youth opportunity can flourish. The Bronx Community Justice Center works toward this vision by focusing on community safety, youth opportunity, neighborhood investment, economic mobility, and community healing.

The Bronx Community Justice Center's Save Our Streets program has been engaging individuals at the intersection of gun and gang violence and trafficking through street outreach for over 10 years. Additionally, for the past two years the Bronx Community Justice Center has provided group and individual counseling, prosocial programming, and workforce development to girls who are at risk of trafficking. The In-SHE-Spire Sisters Against Trafficking project will provide comprehensive, trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive services to girls and young women who are at risk of or victims of trafficking. prevent and reduce victimization of girls who are vulnerable to sex and/or labor trafficking in the South Bronx. To this end, the Justice Center will 1) launch a mentoring-based prevention and early intervention program for girls/young women who are at risk of, or are victims of, sex and/or labor trafficking. 2) implement a comprehensive community outreach effort Objective 3) Enhance efforts to identify and provide comprehensive, trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive services to girls/young women who are at risk of, or are victims of, sex and/or labor trafficking in the South Bronx.

Bronx Community Board-1 serves the Mott Haven, Melrose, and Port Morris Communities. The boundaries of District 1 follow the Harlem River; East 149th Street; Park Avenue; East 159th Street; East 161st Street; Prospect Avenue; East 149th Street and the East River.

Community Board 1 is the local municipal body that is the liaison, acts as advocate and provides the delivery of city services that plays a vital role in improving the quality of life for the residents in our communities.

The Community Board assists residents with inquiries and processes their complaints to the appropriate City agency.

As a part of the proposed project the Justice Center will 1) conduct a community needs and resource assessment 2) identify community strengths and resources that can be leveraged to support community healing and resilience 3) implement community healing strategies and therapeutic services developed with feedback from the stakeholder team. Additionally, Assemblymember Jackson's office will provide guidance and feedback on program development and implementation.

The Bronx Community Justice Center has a long history of engaging hard-to-reach populations, sustainably integrating transformative strategies, working with the community to reduce violence and increase resiliency, and helping youth opportunity flourish. I sincerely encourage your careful consideration of the Bronx Community Justice Center's proposal for this important program. We wish their project nothing but the best.

Sincerely,


Anthony R. Jordan
District Manager