



"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matt 5:14)

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Regarding: Partnership For Delivery of Services to Youths Who Have Been Involved With The Justice System To Improve Their Trajectory Putting Them on A Life Path To Success

Dear Potential Partner,

The City of Refuge Christian Center seeks to introduce you to its Youth Initiative Program which prepares justice-involved youth and young adults for employment through education and training, paid work experiences, mentorship, and leadership development, while contributing to community violence intervention among youth and young adults. Our goal is to serve all cities and towns in Brevard County including but not limited to: Cape Canaveral, Cocoa, Cocoa Beach, Grant-Valkaria, Indialantic, Indian Harbour Beach, Malabar, Melbourne, Melbourne Beach, Melbourne Village, Palm Bay, Palm Shores, Rockledge, Satellite Beach, Titusville and West Melbourne. 3-4 Partners will be selected from each city or town or if no local city or town partner is found, a regional partner will be able to use funds to expand to serve the unserved area.

The City of Refuge Christian Center is an independent, non-denominational exempt nonprofit organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue. We are a faith-base, non-denominational church, here for the communities in which we worship to solve its problems and heal its people. We provide adults and children with help, hope, and a reason for living. We minister to the whole person by providing spiritual, emotional, physical, social, and financial guidance with a focus on violence interruption in daily living. We provide services to the community to increase access to, and success in areas of employment, counseling, financial growth, and personal growth. We issue crisis intervention strategies to our members and those in the community who are most in need of clinical counseling, spiritual counseling, and everyday survival.

The City of Refuge Christian Center is actively approaching funding from The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), or the

Department, or we) Grant Program to implement this dynamic youth initiative with the program goals as follow:

1. Help youth and young adults to increase their conflict resolution skills and develop strategies to prevent and avoid violence.
2. Introduce and prepare youth for the world of work.
3. Help youth identify career interests, attain relevant skills and gain work experience.
4. Provide income to youth, to start them on the path of earning living wages and obtaining high quality jobs and careers.

We will reach the goals of The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL, or the Department, or we) grant through the development of 48 impactful governmental, nonprofit, and for-profit organizations' community partnerships to ensure county-wide, 166+ youths who meet the following description receive intervention, supportive services, job training and placement:

1. *Be at least 15 years old and not older than 24 years of age on the date of enrollment; and*
2. *Reside in the targeted service area, or plan to return to the area upon release from custody, or upon the conclusion of an out-of-home placement; and*
3. *Have been expelled from a school OR had juvenile or adult justice system contact, defined as one or more of the following situations:*
  - *Current or previous incarceration; or arrest;*
  - *Probation; parole; or out-of-home placement;*
  - *Alternative sentence by the juvenile or adult justice system;*
  - *Diversionsary program of the juvenile or adult justice system; and*
4. *Have one or more of the following risk-factors associated with delinquent or criminal activity:*
  - *Juvenile or criminal record of a violent offense/infraction or crimes against persons, as defined by state law enforcement (Examples include assault, homicide, intimidation, kidnapping/abduction, manslaughter, sex offenses, and robbery.);*
  - *Attend or attended an alternative high school for disciplinary reasons;*
  - *Left high school before completion;*
  - *Gang membership (current or prior);*
  - *Parent who is currently or formerly incarcerated;*
  - *Diagnosed by clinician or told by a school official of attention deficit disorder or attention deficit/ hyperactivity disorder (ADD or ADHD) or other learning disabilities; or has or had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in school;*
  - *Assessed as having anti-social attitudes/beliefs (by a clinician or the justice system or the mandatory violence prevention partner);*
  - *Substance misuse before age 12.*

We are seeking partnerships under the following categories:

1. Violence Prevention Partner (14 - 16)- partner is defined as an individual or organization with significant experience in delivering culturally competent outreach to individuals with a high risk of committing violence (and/or becoming a victim) to interrupt the cycle of violence. The

Violence Prevention partner must be familiar with and respected by individuals at a high risk of violence, and work in partnership with a justice system office. WE ARE SEEKING: violence interrupters; hospital intervention programs; **local clergy or faith-based organizations; and individuals or organizations with established violence-prevention programs.**

2. **Justice System Partner** (14 - 16) - regional or local government partner that agrees to collaborate with the Violence Prevention partner; for example, to assist with referral of high-risk individuals to the program, share documents or data, including risk assessments, with participant consent where appropriate. WE ARE SEEKING: **Police, Sheriffs, District Attorneys, Community Corrections, Courts and Public Defenders.**
3. **Employer/Industry Partners** (14 - 16)- are defined as businesses, industry partners, labor unions, or other organizations (public, private or nonprofit) that commit to serve as work experience sites or facilitate participant placement at their affiliates' worksites. At minimum, partners will work to ensure the work experiences provided are consistent with The Good Jobs Principles (<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/goodjobs/Good-Jobs-Summit-Principles-Factsheet.pdf>), a shared vision of job quality published by the Departments of Labor and Commerce.

Each Partner will receive program funding in the amount of approximately \$24,000 to fulfill services for a predetermined number of youths in their service area. All service partners are expected to meet the specified performance goals based on a Signed Partnership MOU. Please see attached MOU as you have been identified as a potential partner. If you are interested in being a partner in this Grant Request, please sign the MOU and return no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We expect to submit a completed Grant Application no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We expect an announcement of funds no later than November 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. We project our program start date to be February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

With about 30% of our target population currently living in poverty within the last 12 months according to the US Census Bureau there is a demonstrated need for equitable resources focused on inclusion for this demographic here in Brevard County. City of Refuge Christian Center humbly requests your consideration of this dynamic partnership opportunity to support community programs and services.

Our Founder, President, and Lead Pastor can be reached at (321) 698-6162. We welcome all questions and thank you for your time!

Respectfully,



Dr. Bawanna Bostic, Sr. Pastor  
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