

Form to Respond to RFI for Potential Innovation Sites for Implementing the Developmental Framework for Emerging Adult Justice

Due November 16, 2022 (midnight EST)

Summary

Through this Request For Interest, state, county, and municipal government entities and non-profit organizations may apply to become one of three sites (“Innovation Sites”) to implement and assess the functionality of the Developmental Framework (“the Framework”) specifically for emerging adults with adult criminal legal system involvement. Over the course of 2.5 years, each of the selected jurisdictions will implement the Framework at a particular point in the criminal legal system of its own choosing, such as post-arrest diversion, defense, probation, or re-entry. The Innovation Sites will participate in Steering Committee meetings and both in-person and virtual convenings during which they will report back on the implementation and help adapt, edit, and improve the Framework to maximize its usefulness to local and national practice.

Columbia University Justice Lab’s Emerging Adult Justice Project (“EAJP”) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation (“Casey Foundation”) will partner with sites, providing expertise in the burgeoning field of emerging adult justice, sharing promising practices, and supporting and fostering learning among all the sites. The Casey Foundation will also provide funding to each of the selected sites (with a commitment of \$50,000 for the first year and funding for future years of the project to be determined.)

Eligibility

The EAJP welcomes applications from any state, county, or municipal government entity, or any non-profit community organization including those applying in partnership with a government entity. The goal is to create a team of key stakeholders (e.g., young people with system involvement, parents, guardians, mentors, community organizations, workforce development, child welfare, education, judiciary, probation/community corrections, defenders, prosecutors, corrections, etc.). The team’s focus can be at any stage of the criminal legal process (e.g., on the front-end, such as post-arrest diversion, the middle process, such as prosecution/defense, or the back-end, such as incarceration and re-entry), provided that the target population of the proposed work is emerging adults (ages 18-25) who are currently being referred to, charged, or convicted in the adult criminal legal system.

For more detailed information, including selection criteria, please refer to the RFI available [here](#).

Application

I. INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

- A. Provide the name of the lead applicant (person and organization).
- B. Provide the contact information for the lead applicant (include mailing address, email address, and telephone number).
- C. Briefly describe the lead applicant's organization/affiliation.
- D. Provide names of partners/collaborators at site with brief biographies (for individuals) or description of mission and work (for organizations).
- E. Attach letters of agreement from each partner individual and/or organization listed above.

II. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- A. Describe your interest in participating in the RFI, including your understanding of why using more developmentally appropriate responses to emerging adults could be helpful in your jurisdiction (no more than 1 page).
- B. Describe area(s) or the point(s) of contact in the criminal legal system that your site proposes to focus on for the implementation of the Developmental Framework and an explanation of why your site chose to focus on this area/point of contact (no more than 2 pages). Include which other government, state, and local community agencies have been engaged in the development of this proposal and your relationships with those agencies.
- C. Describe, as specifically as you can, any changes you envision your proposed project would potentially make to current practices or policies in the area(s) or the point(s) of contact in the criminal legal system that you have selected, and/or how your proposed project otherwise reflects the basic elements of the Developmental Framework (no more than 2 pages). We recognize that sites will be actively developing and engaging in dialogue about their projects as part of their participation in this initiative and that your vision may change over time.
- D. Provide information about the emerging adults who would be most impacted by the implementation of the Developmental Framework (approximate numbers of youth, and

demographic information, including gender, racial, and ethnic composition, etc.) in your jurisdiction.

- E. Describe your commitment and interest in working closely and collaboratively with emerging adults with criminal legal system experience(s) to help develop and collaborate or implement your proposed implementation of the and shape the Developmental Framework. Describe how you will involve emerging adults with justice system experience (or those who were system-involved as youth or emerging adults) in the design and implementation of your proposed project, and how you will compensate for this work. Describe how you will ensure the emerging adults affiliated with the site work are connected to a group or mentor who will support their involvement, provide financial and/or emotional assistance, help develop their leadership skills, and give direct guidance and feedback on their engagement in the project, as needed.

III. EXPERIENCE

- A. Describe any significant collaborations previously developed at your site that involve the partners identified as committed to implementing the Developmental Framework and the key lessons learned from those prior experiences.
- B. Briefly describe any past justice reform initiatives at your site (e.g., reducing pre-conviction detention, enhancing re-entry supports, etc.) that could relate to plans to implement the Developmental Framework and how they could positively impact this initiative.
- C. DescribeShare any resources your jurisdiction has used in the past to support emerging adults or other people impacted by the criminal legal system and/or their families in the design of justice practices and/or policies at your site. These could be financial (salaries and stipends) and also non-financial (providing youth leadership skills and opportunities).

III. FUTURE PLANS

- D. Identify and describe what you believe may be the primary opportunities and goals related to implementing the Developmental Framework and becoming an Innovation Site, any anticipated obstacles or challenges, and, for the latter, ways that how you plan to address the many predicted challenges including any political barriers.
- E. Describe the potential for your implementation of the Developmental Framework to reduce racial and ethnic inequities and better serve populations that are underserved including young people who are LGBTQIA, immigrants, or other marginalized

populations. Describe how you will address any equity issues in the design or implementation of your proposed project.

- F. Explain your site's access to relevant data to monitor and assess the implementation of the Developmental Framework, its impact (including, whether goals have been met), and plans to ensure the data are enhanced as needed and made available.
- G. Describe any goals you currently have for the project and how you will evaluate whether you are making progress towards those goals.
- H. Discuss briefly any plans or initial ideas about ways that the site could sustain programming and policy changes undertaken during the implementation of the Developmental Framework.
- I. Describe how funding provided to support the implementation of the Developmental Framework would be used (and, if for staff time, who would be funded). priority uses of funds received through becoming an Innovation Site.

Please confirm that at least two or three members of your team are willing to:

- Participate in EAJP Developmental Framework Steering Committee activities and meetings (2-3 virtual and one in person meeting in New York during 2023, travel expenses to be funded by EAJP).
- Engage with EAJP and other Justice Lab staff on an ongoing basis throughout the project period to develop and evaluate the implementation of the Framework in your jurisdiction.

Key Dates

- Due date for proposal: 11/16/22 (midnight EST)
- Notification date: 1/14/23
- Start date for work: 3/1/23

Contact Information

Applicants may contact eajp@columbia.edu with any questions.