CRD Funds - Fiscal Year 2024

The Children's System of Care makes Community Resource Development (CRD) funds available to county Care Management Organizations (CMO) for the development of resources that promote the resilience in youth and families that are disproportionately impacted by the social determinants of health. The following programs have been funded for 2023-2024.

Bergen

ASUNSTAR Consulting - Busy Bee's Group

Busy Bee's is a group program designed to assist 12 youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. The program is based in trauma informed care and uses a Nurtured Heart approach. Family members (up to 4) will participate in sessions to support the youth as they prepare to transition to adulthood in their community setting. The family will attend twice a week for 11 weeks and transportation will be provided. While the youth focus on socialization, mindfulness and stress reduction techniques, parents and caregivers will be educated on subsidy opportunities, housing options, scholarships, and other community resources they may be eligible to receive.

TeamUP LLC – Functional Learning Center

TeamUP Counseling is home to the Functional Learning Center, located in Cliffside Park. It provides a sensory rich environment that allows youth with I/DD to practice activities of daily living, enhance motor skills, be introduced to pre-vocational skills, receive therapeutic support, and have opportunities for social and community interaction. The Center offers strength-based services using a youth and family centered approach. This program expansion will allow 20 additional youth to attend weekly over the course of the year. TeamUP will also offer a weekly parent training workshop, and childcare will be provided for parents that wish to attend.

DIVISION OF CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE

Burlington

Aspire Youth Development

Aspire will be implementing an expansion of the Next Stop Career: A Summer Career Exploration Initiative. Its mission is to expose students, ages 16-21, to key in-demand industries, and careers. It will help participants identify careers that align with their interests and strengths through career readiness work, and use career personality assessments, while also teaching students the essential skills needed to be successful in the workplace. A strengths-based approach will be integrated, and all content is culturally competent and individualized. Youth will receive education in personal finance, healthcare, and information on avenues of further education.

Cape/Atlantic

No Limits Academy

Through NLA's boxing program, children are taught the skills necessary for personal, professional, and spiritual success. The program works together with the youth's school and provides daily assistance with homework. Staff play games with youth to improve interpersonal and thinking skills as well as physical training. Transportation to and from the program is provided. All youth are served dinner before being transported home. NLA will provide after-school services to 20 additional youth until approximately 7:30 p.m.

Jersey Cape Diagnostic, Training, and Opportunity Center

With the renewed assistance of Community Resource Development Funds in 2023-24, Jersey Cape is expanding its Wellness Program that was successfully established through 2022-23 CRDF. The program will continue to serve Cape May County youth and young adults facing mental health challenges, behavioral issues, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and/or substance abuse challenges. The Wellness Program will continue to directly address the physical, mental, social, and environmental issues and barriers relating to the four priority community health needs identified - cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes/obesity, and mental health/substance use disorder. Jersey Cape anticipates that approximately 100 unduplicated youth will be served by the proposed Wellness Program over a 12-month period.

Camden

LUCY – Lifting up Camden Youth

For over 16 years, LUCY has been serving Camden youth through evidenced-based best practice youth development work, offering after school, evening, weekend, and summer programming for youth, ages 7-28. Lucy is open 9 a.m. -10 p.m., daily, providing afterschool, evening, weekend, and summer programming. LUCY provides daily transportation and dinner to all youth participants, and is ADA-compliant, with ramps and an elevator. Youth are exposed to educational, social, leadership and service-oriented opportunities, including in-home and in-school support, therapeutic services and referrals, college and career support, clubs, day trips, speakers, workshops, overnights, and service immersion experiences.

Gloucester/Cumberland /Salem

Revive South Jersey-Bridgeton's PAL Soccer and Karate Program's After-School Art and Photography Program.

This program is an after-school art and photography program that will be available to children and youth ages 5-14 and will focus on Latinx and Immigrant populations. Up to 30 youth will enroll in art classes 1 night a week for 16 weeks. Up to 30 youth will be enrolled in photography class 1 night a week for 14 weeks. Up to 60 children will participate in 2 art shows. The themes of the classes/art will promote culture, prevent violence and promote peace in their communities.

United Advocacy Group, UAG,- Kids Learning Academy

UAG kids will continue their education-based after school program. The program will run Tuesdays and Thursdays 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. and serve 20 additional youth. Youth will receive tutoring, test prep and individual help from teachers in the community. Playtime, Snack time and additional enrichment materials will also be provided.

Gateway CAP Drumline

The Drumline program teaches youth 5-15 years of age to read and play music and teaches them strategies towards physical and mental wellbeing. When youth age out of the program at 15 years of age they are welcome to stay on as mentors for newly enrolled youth. 25 new youth will be enrolled, youth with developmental disabilities are welcome, and transportation is provided.

Essex

The ARC Of Essex: Studio ARC

The ARC is a long-term, well-known agency with great experience servicing youth with developmental disabilities and their families. Studio Arc, located in Fairfield, NJ, will provide recreational opportunities, through creative expression, in various art forms, for children and youth with IDD and their caregiving families (parents/guardians, siblings). The highlight of this program is that they will serve youth from 2-20 years of age and will serve 20 additional youth and families. Participants will engage in tabletop art projects involving paint, clay, and pencils. ARC will incorporate dance and movement, and music related activities, as well as vocal and instrumental sounds combined with rhythm and melody. This will encourage interaction with peers, improve social skills, support good behaviors, promote self-esteem, and, for some, inspire creativity that will ultimately pique an on-going interest in the arts.

Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren

Branching Out Foundations, Inc (BOF): Let's B Social Club

This program's services include advocacy, support groups, and socializing events for youth with IDD needs and their families. The program will provide 80 unduplicated youth with four sessions of a bi-weekly recreation workshop. The workshop sessions will be offered from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm every other Saturday beginning in the summer/fall of 2023. This proposed project will cycle 4 groups of 15 youth with IDD ages 12 to 15 years old (+ or – 2 years depending on interest) and 5-neurotypically developing youth 9 to 12 years old (+ or – 2 years depending on interest).

Hudson

The Connected Victors in Need of Each Other (V.I.N.E.): Support Groups

The Healing V.I.N.E. will provide a tailored support program to help navigate through trauma because of loss. The agency will utilize the Families' GOALs (Going on After Loss) project curriculum, coupled with healing circles, and transformative justice models to implement services and activities for youth and families.
A clinical staff will facilitate groups of 10 youth and 10 adults. Groups will meet once a week for 12 weeks. The agency will provide food and intends to service 60 unduplicated youth and adults.

Hopes Community Action Partnership Inc.: Pre-vocational Training

The program will target 15 Bayonne High School juniors and 15 Bayonne High School seniors and pair them with a Career Coach and Job Site Mentor. The juniors will complete a 1.5-hour weekly job readiness course with a Career Coach for a 24-week period. The seniors will complete the job readiness course with a Career Coach and report to their designated worksite for 3 hours a week for a 23-week period. Student will submit a 5-page report upon completion – What was learned, skills developed and steps moving forward towards a career.

Mercer

Creative Change Counseling, Inc: (CCC): The Social Development and Learning Center (SDLC)

This afterschool program will serve 40 youth between the ages of 11-17 years old. The program will run from 3:15 – 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and will include transportation, psychosocial development groups, structured recreation and play, academic instruction and support, vocational and college support, nutrition and fitness, arts and crafts, culinary arts workshop, and meals: snack & dinner.

Monmouth

Interfaith Neighbors (IFN) Collaboration with the CAZZEEK Brothers and the Prosper Foundation

Interfaith Neighbors is dedicating its CRD funding to the development of 2 smaller community-based agencies. IFN outlined a collaborative approach with the Prosper Foundation and CAZZEEK Brothers, which will both receive bi-weekly business coaching and development guidance from IFN to develop their ability to apply for and manage grant funding in the future. Prosper Foundation will set up an after-school program, a youth summer camp group, a youth self-care group, and a psychoeducational group for adult caregivers of youth with mental health needs. CAZZEEK will focus on an after-school program, a youth football league, and youth cheer group running March – November. At the conclusion of the grant period, the Prosper Foundation and CAZZEEK Brothers will have identified grants to support their operations so they can move forward independently.

Middlesex

Raritan Bay Area YMCA

With this funding the YMCA will create within its facilities a community based "Free healthcare treatment and referral office". This office will be open year-round 2 days a week and will be staffed by a licensed nurse. This programming is being made available together with the local Visiting Nurses Association (VNA). Youth and families will be able to receive medical treatment, immunizations, and education and assistance in obtaining health insurance. Families being served by Middlesex CMO will be referred, and the office will also be available to serve youth and families in the community that do not have access to treatment providers. This support will positively impact the overall Middlesex County community, as well as Immigrnt and ESL residents.

Ocean

Hope Sheds Light (HSL): Recovery Center

This agency will be expanding its Recovery Support Services for adolescents impacted by substance use. It will assist youth with developing individual recovery plans, and run weekly support groups as well as sober recreational activities. There will also be a weekly support group for parents of enrolled youth. Drop-in services will be available two Saturdays a month. HSL will also form an alternative peer group subcommittee to participate in the Ocean County Recovery High School Task Force and will link participants and families to resources.

Morris/Sussex

Center for Family Services (CFS): Mending Arts Program

CFS will expand their Morris County Mending Arts program to Sussex County. The program will enable youth to develop communication skills, positively express their feelings, and reduce maladaptive coping mechanisms through creative expression and analysis. The program will target at-risk youth ages 5-17, offer 40 groups (8-10-week sessions), and serve – on average – 8 youth per group. A clinician and artist will work in tandem to focus on the theme for the sessions. The agency intends to serve 320 unduplicated youth. Sessions will be held in the community or virtually during the grant period.

Mental Health Association (MHA): Suicide Prevention

MHA will enhance access to peer support by implementing a culturally and linguistically centered youth support group for middle school and high school teens that have experienced mental health challenges. This group will create a safe space for youth to explore what mental health looks like and start the conversation early by using evidenced-based suicide prevention services. Groups will be held bi-weekly, for 1 hour and will aim to host 5 to10 youth per group. MHA will host a total of 52 groups (up to 520 youth) – 26 at the Morris County YMCA and 26 at the Sussex County YMCA.

Passaic

OASIS - A Haven for Women and Children Inc.: Oasis College Readiness Initiative

This college readiness program will include virtual and in-person access to a guidance counselor (20 hours/week), during the 2023-2024 school year for 50 youth. The guidance counselor will design a post-secondary plan with each student to identify college needs including FAFSA, college applications, and assist students to matriculate into their best-fit college. Youth will attend workshops, 4 college tours (Montclair State University & Rutgers planned), college fairs, and a 1-week, 4-hour session of boot camp in July.

Center for Family Services (CFS): 24/7 Dad

This program will engage fathers in understanding the need for self-care, developing self-awareness, and developing parenting skills while building a cohesive bond with their children.
This Fatherhood Program will include two cohorts of 10 fathers and 10 youth that will participate in 12, weekly, group sessions. One cohort will be held in English and a second cohort will be held in Spanish. An anticipated 20 fathers and 20 children will attend each group and the program intends to serve 80 unduplicated individuals during the grant period. The groups will cycle two times during the grant period. CTF will use trauma-informed practices in all its interactions with the families. The workshops will be facilitated by 2 Master level staff. The workshop agenda will include a welcome, module lesson, and meal.