

The Tow Foundation

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP



Juvenile Justice Initiative



Leonard Tow
and Emily Tow Jackson

who we are

The Tow Foundation envisions a society where all people have the opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life and have a voice in their community. We strive for this by supporting nonprofit organizations and the systems that affect them to help vulnerable populations and individuals become positive contributors to society. We fund projects and create collaborative ventures where we see opportunities for reform and benefits for underserved populations. We feel it is our obligation to help others achieve success in their own lives. We hope to provide leverage and make possible far greater things than we could achieve alone.

what's inside

WHERE WE ARE NOW... 2

WHAT WE CAN DO... 4

WHY PARTNERSHIPS WORK... 6

WHO WE FUND... 16

HOW TO FIND US... 25

HOW TO APPLY... 26

where

LEAN TIMES FUNDING GAPS HIGH NEEDS

2010

we are now

FINANCIAL TROUBLES TIGHT BUDGETS

As we face another year of lean times and intensive needs, the country continues to look to philanthropy to fill the funding gaps and support the social services and innovations on which society depends. Those of us who work in the nonprofit field know that there has never been enough funding for all we dream of doing. The financial shortfalls of today are not new to us, just a more extreme version of business as usual. Our work has always required us to stretch every dollar in order to help as many people as we can.

what

NONPROFIT NETWORKS COLLABORATIVE

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Even when much of the country was flush with resources, those who worked with the neediest were already forced to set lean budgets. They didn't have the luxury of large bank accounts, but continued the practices that have kept them strong all along – most notably, utilizing the power of partnership, working in nonprofit networks, seizing collaborative opportunities and leveraging every dollar. The organizations that did not work in this essential way are the ones that didn't make it. Despite having to make some painful choices and getting by with less, our highest impact nonprofit allies continue to be effective, largely because they are a vital and valued partner in their communities.

we can do

OPPORTUNITIES POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

**Partnership
is an essential
survival tool and, for
the best nonprofits,
is a well-practiced art.**

Partnership is an essential survival tool and, for the best nonprofits, is a well-practiced art. So now, as we find that new opportunities for collaborative work are being presented from an administration that sees the benefit of public/private partnership, we are ready and able to seize the moment. The nonprofit sector is now being tapped for innovative ideas and evidence of success that for so long have gone unnoticed by those controlling government spending. Our hope at The Tow Foundation is that these new opportunities at the state and federal levels will grow and expand the amazing organizations and projects we have been privileged to support.

partnerships:

Over the past decade, Connecticut has reformed legislation, improved practices and staff training, and increased investments in family-based interventions for its juvenile justice population.

Money invested
by Connecticut in
family-based services
for court-involved youth¹



\$300,000



\$3,158,081

Number of cases
referred to
Juvenile Court²



20,330



20,236

Number of youth
convicted and
removed from
their communities³



473



366

See footnotes on page 25
for detailed references

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

why they work

The result is stronger public/private partnerships, more cost-effective services at the community level, and significantly fewer adolescents being referred to court and detained or incarcerated.



\$20,501,683



\$38,882,354



17,782



13,211



186



164

Schools
Police
Juvenile Court
Mental Health Providers
Tow Foundation
After-school Programs
Legal Services
Advocates

we can partner as a community

Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force

More than 30 community leaders meet monthly to learn about state and local policies and practices, identify issues impacting youth and families, and share information about effective interventions. Relationships initiated and strengthened here have resulted in collaborative services for youth and helped to attract sizeable private, state and federal funding to Bridgeport.

By acting with one strong voice, this task force became the model that the state used to create 13 Local Implementation Service Teams throughout Connecticut that it hopes will serve as partners at the community level in implementing system reforms for the benefit of vulnerable youth.



Chief Gaudett
with Jonathan, age 18

“ I feel that it’s important for the police to be part of the community conversation about the issues facing youth in Bridgeport. My participation with this task force has enabled me to partner with community agencies and become better informed about alternatives for youth involved with the juvenile justice system while also giving me an outlet to get the police department’s needs heard and met. ”

Joseph Gaudett, Jr.
Chief of Police
Bridgeport, CT

Juvenile Court
Department of
Correction

Ex-offenders

Bridgeport
Public Schools

Tow Foundation

Family ReEntry's
Fresh Start Program



we can partner with individuals

Family ReEntry's Beacon Ex-Offender Mentoring Program

Ex-offenders who have built successful lives in the Bridgeport community are trained to serve as positive role models and mentors for former inmates returning to the community and for high risk youth, many of whom are court-involved.

By partnering with the judicial system, community providers, local businesses and schools, the ex-offenders strengthen their own self-worth, influence other ex-offenders to pursue positive paths, and inspire vulnerable youth to remain in school, resolve conflicts peacefully, stay out of trouble, and have hope for the future.



George Thompson
with Justice, age 12

“ When I came out of prison, I felt overwhelmed and wondered, how am I going to make it? While getting my act together, I never thought I could also do something positive for others. At the Beacon Program, we do everything with the boys, from homework to playing games. Most of them don't have a dad at home. I realized that what they need most is someone they can count on to always be there for them. Failure is not an option. I live by that motto and pass it on to the kids. ”

George Thompson
Supervisor Counselor, Beacon Program
Bridgeport, CT



we can partner with government

Truancy Court Prevention Project

Attorneys partner with clinicians, judges, and two Hartford schools. Youth who have 15 or more absences are provided a range of academic and other supports to help them stay in school, improve their educational outcomes, and divert them from the justice system.

By joining forces, these partners identify the personal and family issues that contribute to truancy problems and address them comprehensively, in a coordinated way. Youth and their families feel connected to the process and judges gain a more personal understanding of the young people and the issues they face.



Judge Norko
with Chavonne, age 14

“ My schedule doesn’t allow me to take on just any volunteer opportunity. My deep respect for the partners in this collaborative project was what drove me to say yes to the Truancy Court Prevention Project. I admit I have wondered if my participation really makes a difference. But when I went to the graduation and saw the parents beaming with pride about their kids’ progress, I realized how important this program has been to these families. ”

Honorable Raymond R. Norko
Presiding Judge, Community Court
Hartford, CT

Workforce
Investment Board
Business Community
Juvenile Court
Tow Foundation
Girls Residential
Program
Senior Housing
Community

we can partner with businesses

Waterbury Youth Services Entrepreneurial Program

Struggling youth use supplies donated by local businesses to work on painting, carpentry, electrical and plumbing projects and to grow and sell their own organic produce. They receive stipends and incentives for school and program attendance, academic performance and behavior. Their successful projects have led to numerous community partnerships.

By applying newly learned skills, youth gain respect, confidence and a sense of self-worth while enhancing their local community and improving their prospects for future success in school and at work.



Erica, age 18
with Mike Crane

“When I first came to this program, I didn’t know where I would be in the future. Mike, the program coordinator, is connected with people in the construction trades and other local businesses. He helped me come up with a plan for my career and has taught me the importance of honesty, loyalty, trust and respect, both in work and in life. These qualities have helped me become a leader and now I am a supervisor for the kids going through the program and am well on my way to getting my HVAC license.”

Erica Hurdle
Entrepreneurial Program Assistant
Waterbury, CT

who we fund

INVESTING IN INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

2009 GRANTS

AFRICAN CARIBBEAN AMERICAN PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (AFCAMP)

Hartford, CT
www.AFCAMP.org
\$40,000

Advocacy Training & Support to Families

To support outreach and training activities to help parents of children involved in or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice, education, mental health or child welfare systems learn about and advocate on behalf of their rights and those of their children. This grant enables the staff to handle individual cases and to conduct monthly trainings and workshops in Hartford, Waterbury and New Haven designed to inform parents about state and federal education, juvenile justice and mental health policies and practices.

Key Partners: *community providers, local mental health collaboratives, legislators, families, state agencies, and local schools*

BRIDGEPORT CHILD ADVOCACY COALITION (BCAC)

Bridgeport, CT
www.bcacct.org
\$50,000

Unrestricted Funding

To provide general support for this advocacy agency, which is a coalition of 80 area organizations committed to improving the lives of Bridgeport's 35,000 children and their families through research, community planning, education and mobilization. BCAC's three task forces identify gaps in services and propose solutions relating to issues faced by Bridgeport's children. Priorities for 2010 include family access to health care and health insurance, teacher recruitment and turnover, and affordable housing. BCAC publishes an annual report called "State of the Child in Bridgeport" and hosts an annual Bridgeport Children's Issues Forum to help influence public policies and improve services for children.

Key Partners: *community providers, Bridgeport Mayor's Office, state agencies, Bridgeport public schools, and local and statewide networks and coalitions*

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Washington, D.C.
www.campaign4youthjustice.org
\$10,000

Unrestricted Funding

To support advocacy efforts to end the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating youthful offenders under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system and to win support of the U.S. Congress to reauthorize and strengthen the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act .

Key Partners: *National Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Coalition, Act 4 Juvenile Justice Campaign, and the National Juvenile Justice Network*

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL (CREC)

Hartford, CT
www.crec.org
\$40,000

Truancy Court Prevention Project

To support a truancy court and case management services for youth with significant absences who attend two middle schools in Hartford with high truancy rates. An educational specialist evaluates the needs of targeted truant youth and prepares their individual education plans. Case managers from the Village for Families and Children (The Village) in Hartford work directly with these students and their families. An attorney from the Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA) at the University of Connecticut School of Law represents students who have legal and special education issues.

Key Partners: *The Village, CCA, Hartford Juvenile Court, volunteer judges, and Hartford public schools*

CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY (CCA)

Hartford, CT
www.kidscounsel.org
\$55,000

Juvenile Justice Advocacy

To support CCA's advocacy and oversight efforts on behalf of all children in the juvenile justice system, with particular emphasis on mental health, school discipline policies, truancy and girls issues.

Key Partners: *Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, The Village, Judicial Branch, and Hartford Juvenile Public Defenders Office*

CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport, CT
www.cggb.org
\$30,000

Strategic Intervention for High Risk Youth (SIHRY) Program

To support a family mentoring and enrichment program for youth ages 11 to 13 from the East Side of Bridgeport who are at risk of academic failure, truancy, criminal behavior and substance abuse. SIHRY family mentors provide a minimum of six months of services to youth, mostly Latino, identified by school staff, probation officers or police. They make home visits, monitor the youths' academic performance and behavior in school, communicate with and support parents, and attend school and treatment planning meetings. The University of Colorado's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence is evaluating SIHRY as a potential evidence-based "Blueprint Model Program."

Key Partners: *Administrators and social workers at Luis Munoz Marin School, the Bridgeport Board of Education, and school-based police officers*

**THE CHILDREN’S CENTER AT THE BEDFORD HILLS
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

Bedford Hills, NY
\$40,000

The Teen Program

To provide transportation for prison visits and activities for the adolescent children of inmates at this women’s prison. The program is designed to preserve and strengthen the family ties between incarcerated mothers and their children. Staff and volunteers address the youths’ educational needs to help them stay in school, provide recreation and counseling services for the youth, and conduct parenting classes for the mothers. Staff also support the children’s caregivers and refer them for services. Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services of Brooklyn, NY serves as the fiduciary for The Teen Program.

***Key Partners:** New York State Department of Correctional Services, local volunteers and host families, Frost Valley YMCA camp, Sharpe Reservation Fresh Air Camp, and Prison Families of New York*

CLIFFORD W. BEERS GUIDANCE CLINIC

New Haven, CT
www.cliffordbeers.org
\$50,000

Intensive Outpatient Services for Youth with Problem Sexual Behavior

To support therapeutic services for youth ages 8 to 17 who are referred by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families or Juvenile Court for problem sexual behavior. Most of the youth have juvenile or adult criminal records. Each youth receives individual, group and family therapy; social skills development; supervised recreational activities; alternative therapies, such as biofeedback, mindfulness and yoga, and life skills counseling during a minimum 18 months of treatment. This grant also supports the extended day treatment program for males ages 13 to 17 with borderline intellectual functioning.

***Key Partners:** Judicial Branch and CT Department of Children and Families*

CONNECTICUT BALLET

Stamford, CT
www.connecticutballet.com
\$23,500

Juvenile Justice Outreach Program

To support the Director of Education, who oversees this outreach program, and to expand the program by offering performances and dance and drumming classes at five state-funded juvenile residential facilities, including the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the state’s most secure facility for youth under age 17. This grant also supports accelerated community-based training and mentorships for a select group of talented youth when they are discharged back to their communities.

***Key Partners:** CT Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Detention, residential programs, and local artists*

CONNECTICUT JUVENILE JUSTICE ALLIANCE (CTJJA)

Bridgeport, CT
www.ctjja.org
\$50,000

Unrestricted Funding

To strengthen CTJJA’s advocacy, communications and youth and family organizing efforts to promote juvenile justice reform in Connecticut. CTJJA’s priorities include monitoring the implementation of the Raise the Age law that returned 16-year olds to the juvenile system in January 2010, addressing the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system, and advocating for changes in school disciplinary policies and expansion of the Family Support Center model across the state to assist families of court-involved youth at the community level. Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP) serves as the host and fiduciary for the Alliance.

***Key Partners:** Connecticut Voices for Children, Center for Children’s Advocacy, The Tow Foundation, RYASAP, parent advocacy groups, Connecticut Legal Services, CT Department of Children and Families, and the Judicial Branch*

CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES

Middletown, CT
www.connlegalservices.org
\$50,000

Stop the School-to-Prison Pipeline (STOPP) Project

To provide legal representation for youth with disabilities ages 3 to 21 who are suspended, expelled or referred to Juvenile Court for disciplinary issues by Waterbury or New Haven schools and to advocate for reform of school disciplinary policies statewide. Attorneys help youth obtain the educational services and accommodations to which they are entitled, and, wherever possible, help to overturn suspensions and expulsions. They also represent and advocate for those youth involved with Juvenile Court on disciplinary matters related to their school issues and advocate for statewide reform of zero tolerance policies and disparate treatment of minorities.

***Key Partners:** New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation, schools, CT Department of Children and Families, parent advocacy groups, the Center for Children’s Advocacy, and the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance*

CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

New Haven, CT
www.ctkidslink.org
\$35,000

Fellowship in Juvenile Justice and Related Issues

To support a fellowship program for a recent college graduate that offers hands-on policy work experience in the areas of juvenile justice, foster care, mental health, and education. The fellow conducts research on critical juvenile justice, child welfare, and school disciplinary policies and practices to help inform legislators, government officials, and advocates; collects data and prepares reports; attends Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance meetings, and helps Connecticut Voices’ staff prepare and present testimony before the Connecticut legislature.

***Key Partners:** Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, Connecticut Legal Services, state legislators, and state agencies*

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport, CT
www.ccgb.org
\$25,000

Janus Center for Youth in Crisis

To provide short-term shelter, counseling and other services to youth ages 11 to 17 at risk of involvement with the judicial system. Typical issues include truancy, defiance of school rules, indecent or immoral conduct, running away, or being beyond control of the family. This diversion program was created to address the families’ needs and prevent commitment of the youth to detention or other out-of-home placements.

***Key Partners:** Judicial Branch, CT Department of Children and Families, area schools, families, community providers, and the Bridgeport Juvenile Review Board*

CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES OF NEW YORK (CANY)

New York, NY
www.cany.org
\$30,000

Drama Therapy and Training Program at The Children’s Center

To support a therapeutic drama program for youth ages 11 to 17 receiving residential substance abuse and/or mental health services at The Children’s Center of Hamden, Connecticut. Trained drama therapists combine theatre arts with group counseling to help these troubled youth develop and strengthen interpersonal relationships, express feelings, recognize negative emotional states, and build self-esteem and confidence. In addition, this grant supports trainings for The Children’s Center staff. A six-week training program in the CANY drama therapy model for child care workers in the region is planned for Spring 2010.

***Key Partners:** The Children’s Center and a local performing artist*

THE DANBURY REGIONAL CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Danbury, CT
www.danburychildadvocacy.org
\$25,000

Parent Aide/Family Enrichment Specialist Program

To provide weekly home visits and regular telephone contact by trained mentors for low-income parents or other adult caregivers who are identified by state and local sources as at risk of child abuse or neglect. The program helps clients develop the skills to meet the emotional, physical and psychological needs of the children in their care. This grant extends the service for four months beyond the term funded by the CT Department of Children and Families.

***Key Partners:** CT Department of Children and Families, United Way, and community providers*

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT CENTER

Wilton, CT
www.ctresolution.org
\$45,000

Juvenile Mediation Program

To provide mediation services at four juvenile courts and for two Juvenile Review Boards around Connecticut to resolve conflicts between low-level offenders and the victims of their crimes and divert the cases from the courts. Failure by the offender to comply with the terms of the agreement would return the case to court for prosecution. This grant also supports conflict resolution and mediation trainings and support services for schools and after-school providers.

***Key partners:** Juvenile Court, local schools, state agencies, Juvenile Review Boards, community providers, and advocacy coalitions*

DOMUS FOUNDATION

Stamford, CT
www.domuskids.org
\$50,000

Family Advocate Program

To support the director of the high school family advocates. The Domus Family Advocate Model is a school/family/advocate partnership that helps youth make successful life transitions by removing barriers to academic success. Family advocates provide youth-centered, family-focused support to parents and students with needed wrap-around services provided by Domus and its community partners. Advocates help families identify and make progress toward goals they set so they can get back on track to success and help students re-engage in the educational process while developing vital social and emotional skills.

***Key Partners:** Stamford schools, community providers, and the CT Department of Children and Families*

FSW

Bridgeport, CT
www.fswinc.org
\$50,000

Juvenile Case Management Collaborative

To provide case management, career exploration opportunities, and job-readiness and financial literacy training to youth ages 12 to 18 on probation or parole or at high risk of delinquent behavior. The youth participate in and receive stipends for apprenticeships at the Youth Business Center in such areas as boat-building, guitar-making, music and video production, cosmetology, photography and computer design. Youth learn how to fill out job applications and properly conduct themselves on job interviews and in the workplace. Those who advance in the program are offered paid apprenticeships or employment.

***Key Partners:** state agencies, Bridgeport Juvenile Review Board, local businesses, and the Bridgeport Mayor’s Office*

FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Hartford, CT
www.familiesincrisis.org
\$35,000

Fatherhood Initiative

To support a caseworker to provide parenting classes and individual counseling for fathers ages 16 to 20 committed to the Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire, an adult prison, and to provide aftercare services when they transition back to their communities from prison. The caseworker meets with families during the fathers’ incarceration and also accompanies the fathers on visits with their children after they leave the institution. Case management services are provided for a minimum three months pre-release and three months post-discharge.

***Key Partners:** CT Department of Correction, the Fatherhood Advisory Council led by the CT Department of Social Services, and community providers*

FAMILY REENTRY

Norwalk, CT
www.familyreentry.org
\$40,000

Beacon Ex-Offender Mentoring Program

To support one-on-one and group mentoring by trained ex-offenders with youth ages 8 to 17 who are involved in or at risk of involvement with the justice system. The mentors are successful participants in the Fresh Start prisoner reentry program who have a growing interest in community leadership and want to divert young people from a life of judicial involvement. They participate in a 20-hour training program to prepare them to work with youth and serve as positive role models. Mentors and youth meet at least twice weekly during and after school.

***Key Partners:** Bridgeport Juvenile Court & Juvenile Detention, Bridgeport schools, the Bridgeport Juvenile Review Board, RYASAP, and state agencies*

GROUNDWORK BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport, CT
www.groundworkbpt.org
\$25,000

Green Team

To support the summer component of this landscape maintenance training program for high-risk high school students. The program aims to keep youth in school, advance their life and job-readiness skills, and prepare them for employment in the horticultural field. The summer internships are part of a two-year, school-based horticulture program that provides motivated youth with teaching and service learning opportunities and hands-on landscaping and gardening experience through projects designed to enhance public spaces.

***Key Partners:** National Park Service, Harding and Oxford high schools, and community providers*

HALL-BROOKE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

WESTPORT, CT
www.hallbrooke.org
\$40,000

Justice for Juveniles Behavioral Health Treatment Program

To provide mental health and family support services to youth involved in the juvenile justice system who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Hall-Brooke conducts a two-week, state-funded, intensive mental health evaluation of detained youth. This grant enables the agency to provide eight weeks of additional counseling and case management to youth for whom appropriate follow-up services could not be found elsewhere in the community. The youth are monitored on a graduated basis for two years for recidivism, hospitalization, school performance and compliance with aftercare plans.

***Key Partners:** Bridgeport area mental health providers, Bridgeport Hospital, the Greater Bridgeport Pregnancy Prevention Program, the Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force, the CT Department of Children and Families, and local school-based health centers*

HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL OF MID-FAIRFIELD

Norwalk, CT
www.hscct.org
\$40,000

Briggs High School Health Center

To support the health and mental health staff at the school-based health center at Briggs High School, an alternative school primarily serving at-risk, uninsured and court-involved youth in Norwalk. Services include physical exams, immunizations, dispensation of medication, crisis intervention, counseling, and nutrition classes. This grant enables the health center to provide services for 25 hours a week, including before and after school. Approximately 1,500 student visits are documented annually. Staff also provides medical care to babies in the school-based nursery.

***Key Partners:** Norwalk Department of Public Health, the Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Family & Children’s Agency, Hall-Brooke Hospital, Norwalk schools, and community providers*

JINGLES FOR JUVENILES

New Haven, CT
\$1,500

Holiday Gifts for Children in Detention Centers

To purchase gifts for children detained during the holiday season at three state-operated juvenile detention centers and two community-based, privately operated juvenile detention centers for girls.

***Key Partners:** Judicial Branch and private donors*

JUVENILE LAW CENTER

Philadelphia, PA
www.jlc.org
\$15,000

Juvenile Life Without Parole Advocacy Campaign

To support the work of the communications strategist on a national campaign to influence the U.S. Supreme Court on cases being heard to abolish the sentence of life without parole for juveniles and to allow their cases to be reviewed later in life to give them the opportunity to prove that they have been rehabilitated. The Juvenile Law Center is partnering with other capital litigators, advocacy organizations and communication strategists to establish a coordinated advocacy campaign that mirrors their similar successful efforts in 2005 to influence the Supreme Court to abolish the juvenile death penalty.

***Key Partners:** U.S. Human Rights Fund, Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, the Equal Justice Initiative, and other foundations*

KIDS IN CRISIS

Cos Cob, CT
www.kidsincrisis.org
\$30,000

Safe Haven for Teens

To support the Teen House emergency shelter for youth ages 12 to 17 dealing with such issues as family conflict, abandonment, abuse, neglect or court involvement. Youth who reside at the 10-bed short-term shelter receive education, health, counseling, advocacy with the court, and other services.

***Key Partners:** CT Department of Children and Families, Judicial Branch, local schools, community providers, Family Centers, Family & Children’s Agency, and the Center for Children’s Advocacy*

NUTMEG BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Hartford, CT
www.nutmegbigbrothersbigsisters.com
\$40,000

Mentoring Program for Children with Incarcerated Parents

To support a one-on-one mentoring program for children whose mothers or fathers are incarcerated. This grant provides the local match of a federal grant.

***Key Partners:** CT Department of Correction, CT Department of Children and Families, Families in Crisis, Central Connecticut State University, and community and faith-based providers*

OUR PIECE OF THE PIE

Hartford, CT
www.opp.org
\$40,000

Pathways to Success Program

To provide academic, job-readiness and support services for high risk youth ages 14 to 24, many of whom have been out of school or involved in community violence or juvenile justice. Youth development specialists work one-on-one with the youth to help them with their long-terms plans to complete high school, go on to college or trade school, graduate from a two or four year college, receive a vocational certification and/or secure and retain a job.

***Key Partners:** Judicial Branch, CT Department of Children and Families, the Hartford Office of Youth Services, and Hartford schools*

PUBLIC ALLIES CONNECTICUT

Bridgeport, CT
www.publicallies.org
\$30,000

Nonprofit Leadership Program

To provide leadership training and nonprofit work experience to young adults ages 18 to 30 through a 10-month apprenticeship. Allies also participate in weekly leadership trainings and conduct team service projects that help to build the capacity of their host organizations and benefit the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport communities. The Public Allies program was designed to help train the next generation of nonprofit leaders. RYASAP serves as the host and fiduciary for this organization.

***Key Partners:** nonprofit host agencies, the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, and the Public Allies national office*

REGIONAL YOUTH ADULT SOCIAL ACTION PARTNERSHIP (RYASAP)

Bridgeport, CT
www.ryasap.org
\$25,000

Unrestricted Funding

To enable RYASAP to strengthen its leadership team, implement a strategic plan and better lead its community partners in efforts to address critical issues impacting youth and families. RYASAP is the host of many local initiatives, including the Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force.

***Key Partners:** neighborhood councils, grassroots and faith-based organizations, foundations, police, state agencies, area schools, and the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance*

SERVING ALL VESSELS EQUALLY (S.A.V.E.)

Norwalk, CT
\$50,000

Life Coping Skills Development Program

To support a faith-based program for youth ages 14 to 18 who are struggling in school and involved with juvenile court, adult probation or the foster care system. The program offers life, social and job-readiness skills, and community service. When youth graduate from the classroom part of the program, they are offered jobs in general maintenance, landscaping, and interior painting at participating churches. Clergy are trained to mentor the youth and assist their families. S.A.V.E. was created by Canaan Institutional Baptist Church in Norwalk to promote and develop programs that reduce youth and gang-related violence.

Key Partners: Norwalk Juvenile Court, police, local high schools, local parishes, the Norwalk After-School Alliance, and Norwalk Community College

WATERBURY YOUTH SERVICE SYSTEM

Waterbury, CT
www.waterburyyouthservices.org
\$50,000

Entrepreneurial Program

To support tutoring, graphic arts, journalism, life skills, and job-readiness training in organic gardening and the construction trades for high risk youth ages 14 to 18, some of whom are truant or first-time juvenile or youthful offenders. The youth learn the basics of the commercial construction trades, including sheetrocking, plumbing, electrical work, woodworking and painting. In addition, they design and sell original products and invest the profits back into the program.

Key Partners: Waterbury schools, local businesses, state agencies, the Stepping Stone girls juvenile residential program, the Beacon Communities senior residential community, and the Workforce Investment Board

WESTCHESTER MEDIATION CENTER

Yonkers, NY
www.clusterinc.org
\$30,000

Restorative Justice Project

To provide group conferences to mediate disputes between adolescent offenders and the victims of their crimes and divert these cases from the court. This grant also supports a Parent/Teen mediation program to help resolve family conflicts before they require court involvement.

Key Partners: White Plains, Yonkers and New Rochelle family courts and probation departments, area schools and police departments, community providers, and the Yonkers Guardians Association

YOUTH TRANSITION FUNDERS GROUP (YTFG)

Chicago, IL
www.ytfg.org
\$10,000

Unrestricted Funding

To support this coalition of national and regional foundations and its Juvenile Justice Workgroup. YTFG’s mission is to improve the lives of our nation’s most vulnerable young people ages 14 to 24 and to help them become successful adults. YTFG’s three workgroups focus on juvenile justice, foster care, and out-of-school and struggling students. The group advocates reform of the public systems that impact these young people’s lives. The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region in Washington, D.C. serves as the fiduciary for this organization.

Key Partners: national and regional foundations; Grantmakers for Children, Youth & Families, and Grantmakers for Education

how to find us

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FOOTNOTES

Detailed references from pages 6-7

1. Combined investments by Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch for fiscal years 1999-00, 2002-03, 2005-06 and 2008-09
2. Juvenile Court data from Court Support Services Division of Connecticut’s Judicial Branch for fiscal years 1999-00, 2002-03, 2006-07 and 2008-09
3. Delinquency commitment data from Connecticut Department of Children and Families Bureau of Juvenile Services for 2000, 2003, 2006, and 2009

Special thanks to Julie Revaz, MSW, CSSD Center for Best Practices and Anne McIntyre-Lahner, MS, DCF Bureau of Juvenile Services

how to apply

GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The Tow Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals. If your organization fits the criteria outlined in our Juvenile Justice Funding Guidelines, please send a letter of inquiry (maximum two pages) with an explanation of your organization's mission and a brief description of the project for which you seek funding.

Foundation staff will contact you by mail or phone to discuss your project's eligibility, seek additional information or arrange an introductory meeting before you are invited to submit a full proposal. Once invited to do so, applications must be completed using our online format.

The Tow Foundation Board of Trustees meets quarterly. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, but cannot be timed for review at a specific board meeting. Letters of inquiry will be accepted by mail only. Unless requested, please do not email, overnight mail or fax your information.

To be eligible for a grant, organizations must comply with the following:

- Have tax-exempt status under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code
- Serve the community without discrimination by race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disability

The foundation will not provide support for the following:

- Individuals
- Organizations lacking tax-exempt status
- Political causes, candidates or campaigns
- Capital campaigns
- Government

Address all correspondence as follows:

Emily Tow Jackson
Executive Director
The Tow Foundation
43 Danbury Road, 2nd floor
Wilton, CT 06897-4400

JUVENILE JUSTICE FUNDING GUIDELINES

The Tow Foundation's investments are targeted toward projects and initiatives that hold the promise of improving the lives and prospects of youth involved in or at risk of involvement with the Connecticut juvenile justice system and their families, as well as influencing the reform of the public systems with which they may be involved.

To apply to The Tow Foundation, organizations must seek to achieve one or more of the following results for court-involved youth:

- Diversion from entering or going deeper into the justice system **
- Identification or development of a skill or interest that would improve their self-image and increase the likelihood of their success in the future
- Improved connection to and engagement with existing resources in their communities that can best help them address the issues they face
- Reduction in the number of youth removed from school or otherwise denied a quality education
- Improvement in the quality, coordination and breadth of the community-based programs that serve them
- Increased advocacy by and on behalf of these youth and their families that aims to build awareness and influence change in public policy related to the issues listed above

*** Not all prevention programs will qualify for consideration*

We look for the following characteristics in the organizations in which we invest:

- Ability to produce measurable, long-term results
- Sustainability
- Potential for program replication
- Strong commitment to advocate and lobby policymakers within legal limits on behalf of their clients and services
- A track record of networking and collaborating with other nonprofits, government and the business community
- Strong leadership and a history of adapting to changing societal needs
- Engagement of staff and volunteers as ambassadors to advance their mission

The foundation encourages the use of innovative and leveraged funding strategies, such as challenge or matching grants, and other types of collaborative efforts. As a general rule, multiple-year grants will be considered only for prior grantees.



no child is beyond help

