



## CIRCLE FOR JUSTICE INNOVATIONS

### UNTIL SHE'S FREE Request for Proposals and 2023 Grant Application Information

#### Until She's Free – CJI Funding Circle Supporting Women, Girls, & Gender Expansive People

**DEADLINE: November 13, 2023**

CJI will also entertain applications for organizations working to challenge the family policing system, including policies that criminalize poverty, disabilities, and a history of incarceration. The Until She's Free Fund will also consider applications from organizations working to support family reunification disrupted through incarceration, and those working to rescind the so-called Adoption and Safe Families Act (AFSA), and prevent the systematic termination of parental rights to people in prison and those with convictions.

**CJI BACKGROUND:** The Circle for Justice Innovations (CJI), which began in 2000, was born out of a growing concern with prison expansion, mass incarceration, and the impact of racial disparities on oppressed and marginalized communities. CJI's mission is to end mass criminalization and incarceration in the United States, and the Until She's Free Fund is an innovative, participatory grantmaking circle comprised of community organizers, many of whom have experienced incarceration, those who are otherwise impacted by incarceration, donors, and donor-activists. We share power and a passion for supporting an end to the current racialized carceral state and building a new way of creating safety, addressing harm and accountability in its place. We also share a commitment to interrogating the elements of a Just Sisterhood amongst all women and girls. Understanding the limited funding available to the impact of the criminal legal system on women, girls, and gender expansive people, this Circle was launched to create a new source of support for this critical work, and to support the leadership of these communities.

Each year, we raise grantmaking funds, convene the Until She's Free Fund for political education, and determine our grantmaking focus. The Until She's Free Funding Circle then builds consensus around the focus of the Request for Proposal (RFP). We reconvene to evaluate proposals and select grantees and allocate funding. Given this process, there is currently no recurring annual deadline or guarantee of multi-year funding for Until She's Free applicants. However, there is also no maximum number of grants an organization may receive from CJI.

**The CJI Until She's Free application is available online and does not require an invitation to apply.**

#### UNTIL SHE'S FREE FUNDING PRIORITIES (not restricted to the following)

The Until She's Free Circle will continue to fund women and gender expansive led organizations addressing state-sanctioned violence against women and girls, including trans women and trans girls, and gender expansive people, and their criminalization and subsequent incarceration. Within that





framework, the Circle is doubling down on its support to lessen the ways the system harms women, girls, and gender expansive folks by supporting:

- Ending the abuse-to-prison pipeline; ending patriarchal policies that inadequately protect women, girls, and gender expansive people from abuse and violence; and those that criminalize them for self-defense.
- Organizing to demand an end to the routine separation of families, such as
  - Abolition of immigrant detention, family separation, and ICE deportations
  - Abolition of the family policing system, with creation of a system truly designed to support and strengthen families in its place.
  - Ending Cash Bail, Sentencing Reform including Clemency for women, girls, and gender expansive people.
  - Moving birth outside of prisons and providing supportive services such as prenatal care, adequate and appropriate diets, and or doula services, and other prenatal care to pregnant people with sentences.
- Organizing that supports reproductive justice, especially organizing to end the criminalization of people who exercise their reproductive rights and those who support their right to do so.
- Organizations that provide clear, leadership training and leadership opportunities for their members or supporters.
- Efforts to decriminalize drug use and provide community-based, culturally appropriate programs and treatment for women, girls, and gender-expansive people, and pregnant people.
- Transformative changes in systems of supervision for people with convictions.
  - Drastically reducing supervision of people released from jails or prison unless a proven reason for said supervision is evidenced, eliminating the use of electronic surveillance.

#### Until She's Free Circle Funding Timeline

- **RFP RELEASED — OCTOBER 17TH**
- **UNTIL SHE'S FREE RFP WEBINAR — TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**
- **ELIGIBILITY QUIZ DEADLINE — THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**
- **RED RFP SUBMISSION DEADLINE — MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**
- **FINAL FUNDING DECISIONS ANNOUNCED — DECEMBER 2023**
- **GRANTS AWARDED — JANUARY 2024**

#### Notes for applicants...

- ***Please do not wait until the last day to submit your application.***



- If you have questions about this application, ***please participate in the RFP Webinar*** which reviews the entire application and allows you to ask questions (live). If you have specific questions about your application after taking part in the webinar, please contact Aleah Bacque Vaughn or aleahb@cjiund.org.
- If you are having technical difficulties with submitting your application, you should contact Submittable, and email CJI to let us know. If you still have a glitch, contact Fanny Bueso at fannyb@cjifund.org to walk you through it.

### **CJI's MOVEMENT PERSPECTIVE**

CJI defines movement building as an ongoing collaboration, both within and across communities, intended to eradicate core systems of injustice. Collaborations may include those among grassroots or community organizations and/or between grassroots/community organizations, and people or groups working with transparency and integrity inside the institutions they seek to transform.

### **CJI ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

#### **CJI will ONLY fund the following:**

- Organizations with a demonstrated commitment to the leadership of currently and formerly incarcerated women and girls, trans- and gender expansive people, (Incarcerated is defined as confinement in prison, jail, immigrant, juvenile or military detention, or a deportation facility);
- Organizations committed to achieving fundamental systems change through mobilizing and organizing, including changes in policies or institutions, such as parole, probation, or other systems of control; and
- Organizations with annual budgets of \$750,000 or less. If you are under the umbrella of a larger organization, please define your relationship with that organization.
- Organizations engaged in community organizing efforts. However, CJI may fund organizations that, along with community organizing efforts as part of a larger organizing strategy and/or leadership development plan, help provide necessities to communities in desperate need, i.e. shelter to people recently released from detention, jail or prison; abortion funds to people in states that have criminalized those medical procedures; trans community members suffering housing insecurity; food or shelter to immigrants or asylum seekers; legal aid or expungement clinics for people with criminal charges or convictions, etc.
- Organizations MUST meet the application deadline with all their required attachments. Due to the rigid schedule necessary to get funds released to grassroots communities as soon as possible, CJI will hold applicants strictly to the application deadline.
- Organizations whose work is primarily focused on the United States, including U.S. territories.





### CJI will not fund:

- Organizations that do not include the leadership of people directly impacted by the criminal legal and/or immigrant systems.
- Capital campaigns, galas or fundraising events.
- Direct assistance programs such as emergency housing, legal aid, or abortion funds, **unless** those programs are attached to organizing programs demanding such services from municipalities, states or the federal government.
- Political campaigns of individual candidates for office, or individual pieces of legislation. However, we are eager to fund organizing effort that expand the franchise to people in jail or prison, or formerly incarcerated people, or efforts that **educate, mobilize, or inform** potential voters about issues that impact women, girls and gender expansive communities hard hit by the criminal legal system.

### CJI GENERAL FUNDING PREFERENCES

- Organizations operating in difficult political environments, e.g., in the presence of hostile political campaigns, antagonistic public figures, or repressive laws.
- Organizations that develop new leaders, especially Black and Brown people and those who are marginalized within their communities, e.g., poor, homeless, or young people; elders, queer or trans people; people with a different racial, religious, or ethnic heritage; people living with mental illness or physical disabilities.
- Leadership development that includes healing and/or personal transformation work, especially in communities that have endured generations of violence and trauma, and who may be currently enduring state violence.
- Work in underfunded communities, especially in the South, Midwest, Indigenous communities, undocumented, immigrant, or asylum-seeking communities
- Organizations with a clear and inclusive decision-making process for their constituents, members, and communities.

