

October 9, 2023

Dear Community Partners,

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Division of Children System of Care (DCSOC) recognizes the need to identify and develop resources and supports for families at the local level. DCF’s– CSOC has historically (pending available funds) made Community Resource Development Funds (CRDF) available to the Care Management Organizations (CMO) to support the development of resources that promote the resiliency of youth and families in communities who are disproportionately impacted by the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH). These funds are intended to support new or existing activities or services offered by community organizations that directly promote child and family wellbeing, safety, and health.

The New Jersey Children’s System of Care (CSOC), Atlantic and Cape May Counties in coordination with Cape Atlantic Integrated Network for Kids, Inc. (hereafter identified as Cape Atlantic I.N.K.) are interested in financially sponsoring new or expanding existing services and programs for children, youth and young adults, ages 0-21, in Atlantic and Cape May Counties with emotional, behavioral, intellectual developmental/disabilities, and/or substance misuse challenges. These limited funds, (**$67,697.70)** offered through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, are designated for one-time use by community organizations available to fund one or more projects that can be **implemented in full by July 31, 2024,** and can become available to the awardee(s) before that date.

* **Completed proposals are due to me by: 5:00pm Friday, January 5th, 2024.**
* **Submit proposals to: John Roy:** **jroy@capeatlanticink.org**(Please feel secure to ensure email delivery by leaving a phone message at 609-602-9226 that the proposal was sent) See **Appendix II** for Application
* **Proposals sent after Friday, January 5th, 2024, and/or incomplete will not be considered for funding.**

If an organization submits a Request for Proposal (**RFP**) for the total amount **$67,697.70**, the proposal must provide services to both Atlantic and Cape May Counties (**minimum of 30%** of the total funds must be utilized in implementing services to Cape May County). The program is expected to run for no longer than twelve (12) months, commencing from the actual date of funding. Evidenced-based programs are welcome. (***See* Appendix III *Request for Proposal Timelines***). These funds are not available to purchase services for specific individuals or families and funds cannot be used to supplement contracted DCF service(s). CRD funds are not to be used to acquire or maintain fixed assets, such as land, buildings, vehicles, and equipment. Please see **Exclusionary and Sustainability criteria: Appendices A and B** **for more information.**

Funding these distinctive resource services through collaboration with community partners, focuses to reduces risks to children, youth, young adults, and their families’ well-being that promotes their safety, health, and connections to their home and community. Funds are not available to purchase services for specific individuals or families.

Applicants must commit to working in partnership with Cape Atlantic I.N.K., System partners, Stakeholders, and community-based resources. They must exemplify the Core Values and Principles of the New Jersey Children’s System of Care. Community alliance(s) are encouraged in developing and implementing your proposal.

**Please see attachment**: **CRD Funds – Fiscal Year 2024** (Programs funded with these CRD funds last year – last page in this packet)

Collaborating and partnering with Cape Atlantic Counties child and family serving systems and participating in needs assessments, focus groups, and surveys concluded noticeable, overlapping trends identifying gaps and unmet needs in quality, community-based services. Cape Atlantic I.N.K. has reviewed recent municipal, county, state, and national data that supports the needs for our counties.

Perspective applicants considering submitting proposals for this funding should tie their response(s) for programming to the need(s) cited in **Appendices I and II** (**Application and Needs Statement**):

(***See* Appendix I *- for Data Sources***)

**Physical Health Needs**

* Develop programs offering compassionate health services for marginalized populations (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) (10)

**Emotional/Mental Health/Behavioral Needs**

* Develop a program and support services to prevent suicide attempts or deaths by suicide in children, youth, and young adults (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), (8), (10), (11)
* Offer access to psychiatric, psychological, and other evaluations services to support behavioral health needs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5)
* Develop respite programs for intellectually/developmentally challenged youth to enhance quality of life in their communities (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), (8). (10), (11)

**Substance Use Needs**

* Build peer recovery services and supports (1), (2), (3), (4), (7), (8)
* Develop options for individuals’ refusal for treatment services (4), (5,) (6), (7)
* Offer out-patient supports and services for youth and adults (4), (5), (6), (7)
* Develop educational supports and services about tobacco, marijuana, alcohol free communities (1), (3), (6), (7), (10), (11)

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion/(LBGTQ+)**

* Develop educational, safe spaces, and training programs about diversity, inclusion, and equity for the community (3), (4), (8)

**Juvenile Justice**

* Develop a program to reduce the recidivist rate of marginalized juveniles involved in the court system (11)

Respectfully

John C Roy II

Community Resource Administrator

**Distribution**: **Recipients, please share on your websites and other media platforms**

* Atlantic and Cape May County – CIACC
* Atlantic and Cape May County - HSAC
* Atlantic and Cape May - Mental Health Agencies
* Cape Atlantic I.N.K: <http://www.capeatlanticink.org>
* Cape Atlantic ResourceNet: <http://www.capeatlanticresourcenet.org>
* CSOC:

Wyndee Davis: Wyndee.Davis@dcf.nj.gov

Dale Mooney: Dale.Mooney@dcf.nj.gov

Jennifer Holder: Jennifer.Holder@dcf.nj.gov

* IIC/IIH/ISS – Providers
1. **Attachments:**
* **Appendices** *et al*
1. Appendix I Data Source
2. Appendix II Application with Needs Statement
3. Appendix III- Request for Proposal Timeline (including Bidders Conference)
4. Appendix A – Exclusionary Criteria
5. Appendix B – Sustainability
6. CRD Funds Proposals Awarded – Fiscal Year 2023
7. Community Resource Administrator

**Important Note: Assurance of equitable access of the services/supports to the identified population:**
*Services/supports should be equitably accessible to all youth and families with the identified needs. The
referral process should ensure equitable access to services and/or supports for the youth and families that are
eligible to receive them and the access process should be free from any form of discrimination.*



**Appendix I**

**Data Sources**

1. Community Health Needs Assessment – Cape May County <https://capemaycountynj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5821/Cape-May-County-Community-Health-Improvement-Plan-2020> This Community Health Needs Assessment is the result of a
collaborative effort of our community partners who worked throughout the past three years to identify the most-pressing healthcare needs in Cape May County.
2. Administration for Children and Families

 <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/about/what-we-do> Encourage strong, healthy, supportive communities that have a positive impact on quality of life and the development of children.

1. AtlantiCare Community Needs Assessment

<https://www.atlanticare.org/for-our-community/programs/community-needs-assessment> assist with the implementation of fitness, nutrition and wellness programming, and making resources available to schools, students and families. Continued commitment to providing respectful and compassionate health care to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ.

<https://www.heidrick.com/en/insights/diversity-inclusion/the-evolution-of-lgbtq-inclusion> The evolution of LGBTQ+ inclusion helps build cultures of greater acceptance and stronger communities

1. <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/lgbtqi2-s-practice-brief.pdf>
* Services and Supports for Youth who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex or Two-Spirit
* <https://teen.cmclibrary.org/>
* <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/health-considerations-lgbtq-youth.htm>
* <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/adolescent/lgbtqi/>
1. Atlantic County 2023 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless <https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/annual-homeless-count-begins-in-south-jersey/article_6488848c-9cda-11ed-b4a9-cf4214def653.html>
2. Atlantic County Human Services Advisory Council Needs Assessment Atlantic County 2019
<https://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/opma/docs/AtlanticCountyNeedsAssessmentReport2020.pdf>
3. Needs Assessment Cape May County 2020
<https://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/opma/docs/CapeMayCountyNeedsAssessmentReport2020.pdf>
4. Young People’s Mental Health in 2020 [https://mhanational.org/sites/default/files/Young%20People's%20Mental%20Health%20Report%202020%20with%20Program%20Appendix%2012.8.20.pdf](https://mhanational.org/sites/default/files/Young%20People%27s%20Mental%20Health%20Report%202020%20with%20Program%20Appendix%2012.8.20.pdf)
5. Intellectual and Developmental summer camps:
* <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-theses/179/>
* PerformCare <https://www.performcarenj.org/families/disability/summer-camp.aspx>
* <https://www.washingtonfamily.com/what-are-the-benefits-of-special-needs-summer-camps/>
1. <https://www.acnj.org/issues/early-learning/birth-to-three/>
2. Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) and recidivism rates of Juveniles:
* <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/201800.pdf>
* <https://info.mstservices.com/blog/juvenile-recidivism-rates>
* <https://acnj.org/issues/juvenile-justice/>

This funding solicitation reflects current needs of children, youth, young adults, and their families served by Cape Atlantic I.N.K.’s Care Management Organization’s (CMO), the Children’s System of Care, and the NJ Children’s System of Care’s Community Resource Development (CRD) funding guidelines. **Collaborative applications are encouraged to maximize the impact of these funds.** The overall goals are to:

* develop new and/or increase the accessibility of resources to that benefits Cape May and Atlantic County’s children, youth, young adults, and their families; and
* to increase positive outcomes for youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use challenges.

**NOTE**: *All awards are contingent on the sufficiency and availability of CSOC funding.* Final decisions regarding grant awards will be at the discretion of CSOC.

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# Appendix II

# 2024-2025 Cape Atlantic Integrated Network for Kids, Inc. Community Resource Development Funds ApplicationName of Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Request\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Contact for this Proposal\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Telephone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Address and Phone (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix II

**Needs Statement –**

1. Describe the needs of the community that this proposal aims to address well-articulated and based on reliable sources of information and data
2. Describe the needs cited in the proposal coincide with the criteria for usage of funds targeted to agencies serving youth and families experiencing serious emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use challenges
3. Address the needs of the new services where service expansion is necessary because services cannot be secured through an existing agency; or service availability is non-existent
4. Cite how the service need(s) in the proposal that coincide with service need priorities identified by local, municipal, county, regional, state, or national planning bodies’ needs assessments
5. Site general and specific knowledge of cultural competencies necessary to be successful in Cape May and Atlantic Counties

**Description of Agency and History of Service to Children, Youth, Young Adults and their Families –**

1. Show the Organizations capability to initiate and sustain current and proposed program
2. Discuss any Evidence Based Practices (EBPs), promising practices, or best practices, where applicable.
3. Describe how the Organization is well equipped and experienced providing services to children, youth, young adults, and their families who are experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use challenges

 **Description of Service(s) or Program Element to be Funded –**

1. Describe how the service(s) or program(s) will be well-articulated, reasonably attainable and based on best practice models
2. Describe in your referral process how equitable access of the service(s)/support(s) will occur to all youth and families
3. Describe how the service(s) described are relevant to the statement of need
4. Explain how the Organization will implement and start or expand the program, include the expected start and ending dates for the funded program.
5. Describe the Organization’s background, qualification, and justification to provide work as part of this proposal
6. Please include a list of your Board Member and a Table of Organization, if applicable
7. Include resumés and job descriptions for the Project Lead (supervisor) and staff involved
8. Include effective period or term of the service or activity

**Anticipated Outcomes –**

1. List or cite the anticipated outcomes quantifiable deliverables, level of service, and/or outcomes realistic, measurable, observable, and verifiable
2. Discuss the outcome relevant to the need(s) that the program aims to address and the services to be provided
3. Cite the number of participants, expected start/end date of service activity
4. Discuss how the Organization will sustain this plan after initial funding (**see Appendix B**)

**Evaluation Methods –**

1. Describe how services will be evaluated, including how activity will be monitored and accountability will be assured
2. Describe the Organization’s administration, program, and fiscal oversight of the program or service?
3. Describe how the Organization’s proposal acknowledges the obligation to provide reports of activity to Cape Atlantic I.N.K.
4. Explain how the Organization will document quality assurance efforts and outcomes

**Budget –**

1. Develop a budget that is soundly based on established rates for services and the amount of funds available
2. Develop a budget account for all staff, supplies and services included in the description of service(s) or program elements to be funded (either through fund request or match by other funding source)
3. Identify other funding sources cited viable to be applied as a match to community resource development funds
4. Explain the service for which funding is requested is clearly a new service/program element or expansion of services/programs not otherwise funded by another source
5. Please submit a set of recent financial statements (at least six months)

All awards are contingent on the sufficiency and availability of state funding.

* **Completed proposals are due: *5:00 PM* Friday, January 5th, 2024
Submit proposals to: John Roy:** **jroy@capeatlanticink.org**
* **Proposals sent after *5:00 PM,* Friday, January 5th, 2024, and/or incomplete will not be considered for funding.**



**Appendix III**

**Request For Proposal Timeline**

***Virtual Bidders Conference Meeting: 10:00 – 11:00am Friday, October 20th, 2023, at 10am***

The meeting will be held virtually. This is an informational meeting where all questions regarding this solicitation will be addressed. Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. ***Please let me know if you will be attending so I can send you a Teams Invitation.***

***Proposal Submission Deadline:*** ***5:00 PM* Friday, January 5th, Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered for funding**. All proposals shall include the information listed in ***Appendix I – Cape Atlantic I.N.K.’s* *Community Resource Development Funds Application*** and will be evaluated based on the ***Appendix II - Community Resource Development Funds Request for Proposals Rating Scale***. **Incomplete proposals will not be considered for funding**. The preferred method for submission for the Request for Proposal is a Word or PDF document attachment via email sent to: jroy@capeatlanticink.orgPlease feel secure to ensure email delivery by leaving a phone message at: 609-602-9226 **that the proposal was sent.**

***Proposal Panel Review Committee Meeting****:* ***10:00 am Friday, January 19th, 2024***

The Review Committee will consist of the Cape Atlantic I.N.K.’s CRA, a Family Support Organization (FSO) representative, at least one Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC) convenors, a parent, and at least one youth/young adult/, if available, and conflict of interest policy. Due to time constraints and the volume of applications, not all proposals may be selected for presentation.

***Local CRD Fund RFP selection due to CSOC: Monday, February 5th, 2024***

**Please review below cited FY 2023 CRD Funds Process Timeline** Disbursement of funds and program implementation is anticipated for July 1, 2024. The program is expected to run for no longer than twelve (12) months, from the start of the program.

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| --- |
| **As always, awards are contingent on funding availability at the time the proposal is submitted to DCF‐CSOC and this memo is not a guarantee that funding will be available** |

**APPENDIX A – Exclusionary Criteria**

* CRD funds are not intended to purchase items for specific individuals or families. All purchased items must be equitably accessible to all participants and relevant to the program content.
* **EX**; gift cards, personal bills, electronics etc.
* CRD funds cannot be used for capital expenditures, including the acquisition or maintenance of
fixed assets such as land, buildings, vehicles, and equipment not directly related to the provision of the service. Families cannot incur any cost or fees when receiving CRD funded service.
* Initiation of services cannot be dependent on procurement of unsecured funding and/or
partnerships that are not yet established.
* Funds cannot be used to pay for services currently being funded by DCF or other sources.
* Administrative costs are allowable – but must be reasonable and outlined in detail within the budget.
* Operations of the program cannot be directly funded by the work and contributions of
participating youth and families it serves – without appropriate compensation for hours worked.
* Services provided directly through CRD funds cannot also be billed through Medicaid or other established funding sources such as private insurance – causing payment duplication.

**APPENDIX B – Sustainability**

* Bidders must demonstrate a reasonable plan that outlines relevant strategies to pursue funding after the grant period, and that includes leveraging existing community capacity.
* Agency history and proven fund-raising ability and donation procurement are acceptable proof of sustainability when combined with a current plan.
* Strong affiliations with larger well established community resources can be provided as a source of sustainability strategies.



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.



**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.

**Bergen**

**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**

 **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.

**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.

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.