

Notice of Support Opportunity (NOSO)

Juvenile mischief and gang activity is a growing challenge in the Pine Bluff community. As a result, the Gang Reduction Initiative in Pine Bluff (GRIP) was formed as an anti-gang and violence-reduction program by way of social intervention, community mobilization, suppression organizational change and development. Law enforcement collaboration with citizens and non-profits is a critical best practice to remediate gang involvement. Pine Bluff has a host of well-established non-profits that work to provide a safe enriching environment. However, the capacity of non-profit programming is limited due to facilities and funding.

The causes of juvenile delinquency through a thorough community assessment. For example, research as part of the school consolidation study highlighted that there is an overwhelming percentage of students reading below grade level. The correlation between illiteracy, high school dropout rates and crime is well documented. Altogether, juvenile crime and its causes are a public health, safety and welfare crises.

The City of Pine Bluff and Go Forward Pine Bluff are partnering with the GRIP to facilitate relationships with local nonprofits to expand their youth engagement capacity and improve reading levels as a juvenile delinquent intervention.

Who's Eligible?

The described support is place based, meaning that your organization must be located in and serve youth ages 4-18 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Any 501c3 public charity, school or government agency serving Pine Bluff is eligible. Faith based organizations or Faith based affiliates are **NOT** eligible.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

When you apply, Go Forward Pine Bluff will assist your organization in developing a proposal. The proposal will include:

- **Your mission and purpose.** What need or opportunity in the community concerning youth does your organization address?
- **Description of your funding request.** How will you use the support and what will the impact the support be for your organization and for the community you serve
- **Potential outcomes.** What will success look like? How will you know or measure whether you have been successful?
- **Budget.** What is your annual operational budget and what are the expenses related to your request? Which pieces will be paid for using the GRIP support and which pieces will be covered by funding from other sources?

- You will be asked to indicate whether you are requesting “capacity building support” or program/project support. What’s the difference?

Capacity building – these are funds focused on improving the effectiveness of your organization. Examples are:

- Purchasing or upgrading equipment for staff use (computers, a financial database, security system).
- Upgrading your facility in ways that will allow you to serve more clients (buying a new refrigerator for a food pantry).
- Providing training for staff, board or volunteers
- Hiring a consultant to help your organization develop a strategic plan or fundraising plan
- Communications/marketing consulting or start-up assistance, including help with branding, developing an evaluation system to track the effectiveness of your program
- Organizing shared services with other nonprofit organizations, such as shared IT support, back-office admin support, financial services. Etc.

Project/program support (Note: most support fall into this category) these are funds designated to help you carry out a specific project for the clients you serve

Examples are:

- Increasing the reading level of kids 4-18 years of age
- Establishing a book mobile to bring library books to low-income neighborhoods
- Offering a dental screening through school-based health centers
- Creating a new exhibit at a museum
- Matching students with adult mentors
- Providing care and case management for victims of domestic violence
- Adding tutoring services to your after-school program

The following factors are considered, although not exclusively in reviewing proposals:

- Likelihood of the project to make a significant difference in the community
- Likelihood of our grant to make a significant difference for the organization (in other words, is the size of our grant a good fit for the size and scope of the request?)
- Evidence of a plan to measure or evaluate the success of the proposed request
- Organization’s ability to carry out the proposed request successfully
- Clarity and thoroughness of responses to application questions

WHAT WE’RE NOT LOOKING FOR

Each request is considered on its own merit. However, the following types of request generally are not considered:

- Support for annual fundraising campaigns

- Support for capital campaigns
- Projects that address sectarian religious purposes
- Projects that are political in nature or have a political bias
- Multi-year proposals
- Scholarships or fellowships for a formal education at any level
- Funding for salaries

Funding Categories

	Support Range	Criteria
Funding Level		
Category 1	\$25,000 - \$40,00	Minimum five (5) years of service as an active non-profit Serve a minimum fifty (50) youth monthly Annual Operation Budget of at least \$100,000.00 Last three (3) years of audited financials (990 filing) Minimum 4-days of youth engagement per week Brick and Mortar of at least 2000 sq. ft.
Category 2	\$15,000 - \$24,999	Minimum three (3) years of service as an active non-profit Serve a minimum twenty-five (25) youth monthly Annual Operation Budget of at least \$50,000.00 Last two (2) years of audited financials (990 filing)

		<p>Minimum 4-days of youth engagement per week</p> <p>Brick and Mortar of at least 1000 sq. ft.</p>
Category 3	\$5,000 – \$14,999	<p>Minimum one (1) year of service as an active non-profit</p> <p>Serve a minimum ten (10) youth monthly</p> <p>Annual Operation Budget of at least \$25,000.00</p>
Foundational	<p>Partnerships with Parks and Recreation to utilize Park facilities for mission.</p> <p>Indirect monetary contributions to support goals</p>	Demonstrate a proven record of working with youth.

Non-profits seeking category funding must meet 60% of the requirements within that category. Consideration will be given to non-profits that are heavily weighted in some of the criteria.

Submit questions and or proposal by email at info@goforwardpb.org

Deadline to apply is November 12, 2021