



CIRCLE FOR JUSTICE INNOVATIONS

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2022

Until She's Free Request for Proposals and 2022 Grant Application Information

CJF's Until She's Free Circle is requesting proposals from eligible grassroots organizations led by women, girls (including and especially trans women and trans girls), and gender expansive people working to address the criminalization and incarceration of these communities, secure reproductive justice, end the abuse-to-prison-pipeline, and stop state-sanctioned and ignored violence. The fund will support grassroots organizing that is based on the awareness of the current political environment's hostility toward the rights of women, girls, trans and gender-expansive people; is led by women, girls, trans and gender-expansive people directly impacted by the criminal legal system; and is working to eliminate the criminalization and incarceration of individuals in these communities while restoring and expanding the rights of those who are currently or formerly incarcerated. Organizations that are not led by women, girls, or gender-expansive people, even if they have gender focused programs, will not be prioritized for funding.

Considering the increased criminalization of those who exercise rights over their own bodies and those who support people who do so, CJF has dedicated an increased percentage of our docket resources to supporting organizations working to challenge and end the retraction and blatant trampling of reproductive rights. Given the spike in violence against Asian, Black, and Muslim women, activists, and LGBTQI folx, as well as the determination of homicide as the leading cause of death for pregnant people, CJF's Until She's Free Fund will also support organizing that explores community-based, innovative solutions to keep these communities safe that do not include law enforcement.

CJF BACKGROUND

The Circle for Justice Innovations (CJF) was born in 2000 out of a growing concern with prison expansion, mass incarceration, and the impact of racial disparities on oppressed and marginalized communities. Our mission is to end mass criminalization and incarceration by building and strengthening the infrastructure of the grassroots criminal justice movement to fundamentally transform the U.S. criminal legal system.

The CJF Until She's Free Fund is an innovative, participatory grantmaking circle comprised of community organizers, many of whom have experienced incarceration, donors, and donor-activists. We share a passion for ending the racialized carceral state, a commitment to developing a new way of securing safety and addressing harm while reimagining structures of accountability. Understanding the limited funding available to specifically addressing the impact

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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.

CJI MOVEMENT PERSPECTIVE

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

UNTIL SHE'S FREE GRANTMAKING PROCESS

Each year CJI raises grantmaking funds, convenes Until She's Free Circle members for political education, and determines the fund's grantmaking priorities. The Circle then develops and releases the Request for Proposals (RFP). We reconvene to evaluate proposals, 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. CJI provides general support grants unless specifically requested for a project grant.

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 these communities 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.
 - Ending cash bail, sentencing reform including clemency for women and gender-expansive people.
- 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.
- Efforts to decriminalize drug use and provide community-based, culturally appropriate programs and treatment for women, girls, and gender-expansive 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 FUNDING TIMELINE – 2022

- RFP RELEASED — JUNE 2nd
- [UNITL SHE'S FREE RFP WEBINAR](#) — JUNE 9th
- [ELIGIBILITY QUIZ DEADLINE](#) — JUNE 23rd
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE — JUNE 30th**
- FINAL FUNDING DECISIONS ANNOUNCED— AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022

CJI ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Organizations MUST meet the application deadline with all their required attachments. CJI will hold applicants strictly to the application deadline.

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.
- 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, as part of a larger organizing strategy and/or leadership development plan, help provide necessities to communities in desperate need, i.e., PPE to people in prison or those recently released, shelter to people recently released from detention, jail, prison or to trans community members suffering housing insecurity, etc.
- 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. However, if direct service programs for people in critical need are attached to organizing programs demanding such services, CJI may fund those organizing efforts.
- 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, midwestern states, Indigenous communities, undocumented or immigrant communities.
- Organizations with a consensus or near consensus-inclusive decision-making process for their constituents, members, and communities.

ASSISTANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY

If you have any questions, need technical assistance, or have accessibility requirements, please contact Elana at elanam@cjifund.org