Orange County Youth Bureau
Request for Proposals
for 2019 Funding

for funding available from:

- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
  Youth Development Program Grant (YDP)

- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
  Runaway & Homeless Shelter Part I (RHYA)

- Orange County Solutions Grant (S)

PROPOSALS DUE JUNE 19, 2018

PART III

Orange County Children and Family Services Plan, 2011-2016

*Note: The New York State Office of Children and Family Services extended this plan by an additional year. The new 5-year plan, submitted spring of 2018, will not be approved in time for this RFP.
Introduction
This County Children & Family Services Plan (CFSP) is the result of a process that was being piloted in Orange County, New York from 2009-2010. The framework for this planning process is Results-Based Accountability (RBA) and the process is built on the work of the Ready by 21® Quality Counts Initiative. The work of this process was supported by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services Office of Youth Development and was facilitated by Karen Finn. The CFSP is updated and maintained by the Orange County Youth Advisory Board Planning Committee.

What are the quality of life goals that we want to achieve for children, youth and families?
The Orange County Leadership Team, consisting of a broad, cross systems network of administrator level decision makers, has aligned its goals with those of Touchstones. The New York State Council on Children and Families developed the Touchstones as a way to help guide the efforts of a variety of agencies by focusing on a common set of life areas, goals, objectives and indicators. The Orange County Leadership Team prioritized specific goals and indicators across all six life areas of the Touchstones. Attachment A provides a summary of the data for each prioritized indicator. The prioritized goals are:

- Youth will leave school prepared to live, learn and work in a community as contributing members of society.
- Youth will be prepared for their eventual economic security.
- Children and youth will have optimal physical and emotional health.
- Children and youth will demonstrate good citizenship as law-abiding, contributing members of their families, schools and communities.
- Families will provide children with safe, stable and nurturing environments.
- Orange County will provide children, youth and families with opportunities to help them reach their full potential.

What is the story behind this data?
Community Convening Workgroups, consisting of front line professionals, community members, and youth, explored each of the prioritized indicators separately and identified the key contributing factors to each goal and indicator. In reviewing the underlying causes and forces at work in Orange County, some common themes developed. The major common themes were:

1. The importance of healthy, employed families, family engagement and a positive structure for children and youth to grow and develop.
2. Supportive relationships: between children and youth and parents/caregivers and also between peers.
3. A need for more positive social norms particularly in the youth cultural landscape (such as videos, social networking, music, etc.); positive school climates and norms; and positive community norms.
4. Underlying substance abuse issues both for parents/caregivers and for youth.
5. Opportunities for increasing knowledge and skills of both caregivers and youth so that there are consistent messages regarding such things as: sexual health, substance abuse and making informed decisions.
6. Community and business values that focus less on self-preservation and more on community health.

What major strategies are we proposing?
- Use current collaborative relationships, structures, and initiatives to implement action steps
- Research and implement best practices to:
  - Increase the graduation rate
  - Encourage consistent enforcement and institute alternative sentencing
- Provide accessible and engaging skill-building opportunities for parents/caregivers and young people
- Engage the business community
- Increase family involvement, literacy and economic literacy

Who are the partners who will work together to implement these strategies?
In order to reach the goals outlined in this plan, the work of many community partners is needed. This includes government agencies, non-profit organizations, existing coalitions, schools, community members, parents, caregivers, families, youth, the faith community and businesses. The work involved in implementing the specific strategies Attachment A: Action Plan is ongoing. Updates are provided annually at the Annual Partners for Children, Youth and Families breakfast. The Youth Bureau, with support from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, and the County, provides funding for additional strategies to be implemented by community based organizations and municipalities across the County.

Proposals must demonstrate how proposed programs address the themes, major strategies outlined above, and positive youth outcomes that will ultimately help the County reach prioritized goals. Priority will be given to proposals that also incorporate one or more of the specific strategies outlined in Attachment A: Action Plan.
Attachment A: Action Plan

**Life Area: Education**

Goal (Learning): Youth will leave school prepared to live, learn and work in a community as contributing members of society.

**Strategy #1:** Implement approaches that will improve educational outcomes and graduation rates.

**Strategy #2:** Families First: Families will become literate, educated, involved, engaged to create higher standards/value and appreciation of education.

**Youth Recommended Strategies:**
- Teen-led substance abuse prevention education
- Strong teacher/student relationships (advocacy)
- More access to all available academic resources

**Life Area: Economic Security**

Goal (Working): Youth will be prepared for their eventual economic security.

**Strategy #1:** Enhance Economic Literacy

**Strategy #2:** Link economic literacy with business stewardship and graduation rate strategies.

**Life Area: Physical and Emotional Health**

Goal (Thriving): Children and youth will have optimal physical and emotional health.

**Strategy #1:** Youth and parents will participate in evidence based human sexuality and prevention models at each grade level (elementary, middle school, high school) in every school district.

**Youth Recommended Strategies:** Educate young people and parents/caregivers to communicate about sex (how to ask about sex and how to tell about sex).
Orange County Youth Bureau 2011-2016 Children & Family Services Plan

**Life Area: Citizenship/Civic Engagement**

Goal (Connecting): Children and youth will demonstrate good citizenship as law-abiding, contributing members of their families, schools and communities.

**Strategy #1**: Provide consistent enforcement and use of alternative sanctions including best and evidenced-based practices.

**Life Area: Family**

Goal: Families will provide children with safe, stable and nurturing environments.

**Strategy #1**: Provide caregiver/youth/family skills training that is:

- Affordable & Accessible
- Interactive & Engaging
- Includes technology & outdoor education

**Life Area: Community**

Goal: Orange County will provide children, youth and families with healthy, safe and thriving environments.

Goal: NYS communities will provide children, youth & families with opportunities to help them meet their needs for physical, social, moral and emotional growth.

**Strategy #1**: Provide safe places for children and youth by increasing community engagement and parental involvement. Empower people at all levels and keep kids busy.

**Strategy #2**: Engage for-profit business leaders in community stewardship to build relationships and enhance connectedness for mutual value, respect, visibility and community pride: job shadow, internships, soft skills training, etc.

ii Ready by 21 is a registered trademark of the Forum for Youth Investment. The Quality Counts Initiative was developed by the Forum for Youth Investment.

iii Karen Finn is a Senior Partner at Results Leadership Group.