



## City of New Orleans Ethnic and Racial Disparity (ERD) Working Group

### Request for Proposals to Support BIPOC-Centered Community-Based Organizations

#### **Overview**

In October of 2020, the Ethnic and Racial Disparity Working Group was formed in partnership with the VERA Institute of Justice. There are 34 members of the Working Group, with equal representation from public (government agencies) and community representatives, inclusive of community based organizations. The vision of the Working Group is as follows:

*The Ethnic and Racial Disparities Working Group envisions leading efforts to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in the Orleans Parish criminal legal system through a framework of decarceration, focused on the leading disparity-driving charges and eliminating racial disparities in length of stay. Initiatives of the Working Group will be oriented towards abolition and ending mass incarceration, specifically through decarceration, decriminalization, and diversion, as well as prioritizing the repair of harms done to Black people, and Black women in particular through the adoption of transformative justice practices, including rehabilitative and community support services. To this end, the Working Group will utilize an intersectional approach in order to best understand, analyze, and reduce structural racism for historically and presently marginalized and vulnerable populations, including women and LGBTQIA+ people, within the Orleans Parish criminal legal system.*

For ten months, the Ethnic and Racial Disparity (ERD) Working Group met to create specific measurable, and achievable policies, practices, and initiatives to increase racial equity within the Orleans Parish criminal legal system. The ERD Recommendation Report, released in July of 2021, is a product of that effort. The report details recommendations to bolster the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program and Prosecutorial Diversion Program, as well as advance efforts to prevent criminal legal system involvement through supporting community-based organizations and efforts.

The City of New Orleans has engaged TCA as fiduciary agent to administer funding to the selected proposals. TCA, in coordination with the Ethnic and Racial Disparity Working Group, will select proposals. TCA will execute contracts with the stakeholders and shall ensure accurate and timely payment to selected providers.

#### **About the Funding**

Total Community Action, as the fiduciary agent for the City of New Orleans, Mayor's Office of Criminal Coordination, Justice Ethnic and Racial Disparity Working Group, has allocated \$118,106.00 to provide funding to community-based organizations to support and implement innovative approaches to criminal legal system prevention and reform efforts. The goal of this funding is to provide unique opportunities to fund community efforts that support system-impacted individuals in ways that would not be possible through federal, state, or other "formalized" funding



opportunities. The funding will **support projects that center racial equity and engage and support communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system.** This initiative is funded by MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge, Equity and Racial Disparities grant. Proposed projects should employ innovative, creative, and culturally responsive approaches to criminal legal system prevention and reform.

The goals of the fund are to support the following:

- New Orleans-based programs that advance criminal legal system prevention and reimagination.
- Engage communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system in the reform effort, particularly those that center and engage “non-traditional” stakeholders.
- Provide services to individuals who have been directly impacted by the criminal legal system.

### **Funding Applicant Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant must have valid 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, or partner with a nonprofit organization that can serve as a [fiscal sponsor](#).
- Programming must be based in New Orleans.
- Projects must advance criminal legal reform through policy change, community engagement, or programming.
- Ability to expend funding within 6 months.
- Applicant can complete a final report at the end of the project period and present it to the Ethnic and Racial Disparity Working Group.

### **Preferred Qualifications:**

- Organizations led by:
  - Black, Indigenous, People of Color
  - System-Impacted Individuals
  - Leaders who reflect the demographic that they serve

Applicants can include members of the Ethnic and Racial Disparity Working Group who meet the funding applicant eligibility criteria. Any ERD Working Group members who submits a proposal cannot participate in any part of the selection process, including the Selection Team or any discussion involving funding allocations by the ERD Working Group.

Applicants receiving notification of awards will be required to demonstrate fiscal and administrative capacity by responding to the vendor qualifications and responsibilities listed below. All awards are contingent upon fiscal and administrative qualification and successful contract execution. Selected applicants will be asked to provide the following documentation of qualifications. Failure to provide the following documentation could result in disqualification of the proposed award.

- Legal entity (must submit documentation proving status as a legal entity)
- Written grievance procedure for participants
- Proven fiscal capacity for fund accounting (copy of audit submitted must be within last year and satisfactorily address all findings)
- A completed Accessibility Checklist (signed by authorized agency representative)
- Full disclosure of any legal actions taken against the applicant within the last 5 years.



### **Application Review and Selection Process**

All applications will be reviewed by the RFP Review Team. The Review Team will include staff from the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination, Vera Institute of Justice, Total Community Action, and community members from the Ethnic and Racial Disparity Working Group. The Review Team will notify the selected applicants and invite them to give a presentation to the ERD Working Group. The ERD Working Group will discuss each application and requested funding amount and provide a funding recommendation by a simple majority, or 51% vote. Any ERD Members with ties to an application will be excused from discussion and voting. The funding allocation will be finalized by the ERD Working Group Co-Chairs in collaboration with Total Community Action, Inc the fiduciary agent.

The RFP Review Team will use the criteria below to evaluate letters of intent and recommend the projects to be invited to submit a full proposal.

- Is the proposal compelling and/or does it serve individuals impacted by the criminal legal system?
- Does the project meet the priorities of criminal legal reform and the Safety and Justice Challenge (safely reducing the local jail population and addressing racial and ethnic disparities)?
- Does the project rely on or create any unique and meaningful partnerships between organizations and/or Community?
- Is the proposal realistic and well thought-out?
- Is the project financially feasible?
- Does the budget support the proposed activities as described?
- Does the evaluation plan describe useful measurements?
- If the requested funds do not cover all project expenses, is there a plan to raise the additional funds?



## City of New Orleans, Louisiana Ethnic and Racial Disparity (ERD) Working Group Request for Proposals Application

Please complete the following fields of information and respond to the following questions. Responses should be submitted as a PDF document and emailed directly to [thelma.french@tca-nola.org](mailto:thelma.french@tca-nola.org) by May 9, 2022. **Unless otherwise stated responses should be limited to 250 words.**

<b>Legal Name of Applicant Organization</b>	
<b>Contact Name and Title Contact Email Contact Phone Number</b>	
<b>Project Name</b>	

Project Description

Project Evaluation: How will you measure the project's success?
Please state at least one goal/purpose, and at least two measures/objectives you will meet to accomplish this goal/purpose.
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List the New Orleans neighborhoods that would be served by the project.
Bulleted form is acceptable.
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**Briefly describe your organization's history and capacity to implement the project.**

**Total Amount Requested**

**Budget Template**

Budget Description	Total Budget	Leveraged Funds Amount	Amount Requested	% Of Budget Total
<b>I. Personnel (Salary and Fringe)</b>				
<b>II. Professional Services (e.g. consulting services)</b>				
<b>III. Data Enhancements (e.g. IT system improvements, technology)</b>				
<b>IV. Equipment and Hardware (e.g. laptops, software)</b>				



Total Amount Requested				
<b>V. Meeting Expenses (e.g. meeting space, food and supplies)</b>				
<b>VI. Indirect Costs</b>				
<b>Total</b>				

Brief Funding Explanation
State annual organizational budget, major funding sources, and a brief narrative explaining how the grant funds will be used.
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### **Application Timeline**

<b>April 22, 2022</b>	<b>Application is released by Total Community Action, Inc.</b>
<b>April 27, 2022</b>	<b>Optional TA session for applicants</b>
<b>May 9, 2022</b>	<b>Application is due</b>
<b>May 16, 2022</b>	<b>Applicants will be notified whether or not they are invited to present to the ERD Working Group</b>
<b>May 27, 2022</b>	<b>Applicants to present to the ERD Working Group</b>
<b>June 1, 2022</b>	<b>Applicants are notified of award selection</b>
<b>June 15, 2022</b>	<b>Project Start Date</b>
<b>December 15, 2022</b>	<b>Project End Date</b>

### **Questions**



Please contact [thelma.french@tca-nola.org](mailto:thelma.french@tca-nola.org) with any questions regarding the application process.