

**In partnership The Open Society Foundations U.S. Programs,
The Circle for Justice Innovations of NEO Philanthropy announces:**

Starving the Beast Fund

Supporting Decriminalization, Decarceration, and Safety

DEADLINE: September 23, 2019

The **Circle for Justice Innovations (CJI)** is excited to continue its partnership with the **Open Society Foundations (OSF)** to fund community-based initiatives that will reduce incarceration as a response to criminalized behaviors including drug use and sex work. This funding collaboration is intended to improve the capacity of community-based organizations to deliver resources, provide harm-reduction services, and address policy change that will improve health and well-being and reduce contact with the criminal legal system. We support harm reduction practices that are non-coercive and entirely outside of the criminal legal system, as opposed to those that occur as a result of arrest or other justice-system contact. Our goal is to broaden education and encourage activism to challenge the still-powerful War on Drugs, its over-criminalization and incarceration of communities of color and poor communities, and the criminalization of survival sex work.

10-15 one-time grants between \$10,000 and \$25,000 will be awarded through a competitive application process. Ongoing funding is not guaranteed.

CJI will manage the application process. Grant selection will occur through consensus by CJI's Starving the Beast Circle of activists and survivors of the War on Drugs. Grant applications must be submitted online to apply for these competitive grant funds. Please read all the instructions carefully.

KEY DATES:

Aug. 16, 2019: RFP Release Date

Sept. 23, 2019 at 11:59pm PST: DEADLINE to submit an application to CJI via Submittable at <https://cjifund.submittable.com/submit>

NOTE: You will need to create a free account with Submittable in order to apply for this grant.

Jan. 2020: Grant Funds Dispersed & Feedback Calls to unsuccessful applicants

Oct. 2020: Reporting and Feedback to CJI

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Organizations with a demonstrated commitment to including the leadership of people who have been directly impacted by drug use and related activities and/or sex work, including their family members.
- Organizations committed to achieving systems change through organizing, including changes in policies or institutions, such as parole, probation or other systems of control.
- Organizations with budgets of \$750,000 or less. If you are under the umbrella of a larger organization, please define your relationship with that organization. This grant is for project support. Up to 40% of funds may be used for overhead which can include costs such as printing, maintenance, rent, or other administrative costs.
- Projects organized by currently incarcerated people ARE eligible and encouraged to apply.
- This is a specialized grant opportunity. CJI grantees that meet the criteria for this grant program ARE encouraged to apply. Application to this program does not disqualify an organization from consideration in the general CJI annual grants program.
- Organizations that received a Starving the Beast Arrest Diversion grant in the prior round ARE eligible to apply again.

HOW CAN AN ORGANIZATION USE THE FUNDS?

Proposed activities should be responsive to the needs of over-policed communities, providing opportunities to gain the tools and networks to support those facing greatest risk of incarceration.

The following are a few examples for how grantees can use this funding. This is NOT an exhaustive list:

- Hire a coach or trainer to help design an organizing strategy for local constituencies of criminalized drug users, sex workers, family members or others targeted by policing.
- Enhance stipends or paid expenses to include more survivors of the War on Drugs, family members and community members living in poverty in the design or evaluation of programs to support decriminalization and promote health and safety.
- Provide individuals most deeply engaged in user communities with the information and resources that will enhance safety and provide options, including education and training on and provision of naloxone and Truvada.
- Develop a plan for and or implement safe user spaces to prevent overdoses which provide options and resources addressing a range of issues that may include fentanyl testing, naloxone use, trauma support and mental health, and housing and food provision
- Organize to overturn penalties for drug-related homicide laws applied to fetuses and the criminalization of abortion.
- Provide community education and develop support to honor the dignity of those affected by the war on drugs and develop alternatives to criminalization and incarceration.

Funding is prioritized for non-profit organizations and non-profit associations.

Individuals and single-person LLCs are NOT eligible.

501c3 registration is not required for entities operating under a fiscal sponsor or umbrella organization in which they have an independent governing bod

PARTNERSHIP GOALS AND ROLES

The Circle for Justice Innovations (CJI) at NEO Philanthropy is committed to the end of mass criminalization and resulting mass incarceration, driven in no small part by a failed drug war predicated on punishment for drug use and its related behaviors, and targeted to devastate communities. Communities marginalized by race, class, housing status, HIV status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and citizenship status bear the brunt of the impact.

The **US Drug Policy Program of the Open Society Foundations** seeks to establish a new paradigm for U.S. drug policies that addresses actual harm to individuals and communities, promotes health and social stability, ensures public safety and justice and advances equality and the freedoms of an open and democratic society. Funding for this initiative is to support equitable and high-quality pre-arrest and pre-booking diversion programs that reduce use of incarceration and resource participants with access to treatment or harm-reduction and other interventions shown to improve community health and well-being.

Both OSF and CJI believe integrating activists and directly impacted leaders within funding decision-making is the best way to fund organizations. Under the direction of CJI, a circle of activists will review all eligible applications and select the grant recipients in December. The Starving the Beast Fund engages an innovative, truly diverse grant-making panel comprised of community organizers, activists, directly-impacted survivors of the War on Drugs, including some with a history of incarceration, drug policy experts and advocates, and individual donors, who all share a passion for meaningful, transformative, systemic change of the criminal legal system, especially as it relates to drug policy.

As a funding partner, Open Society Foundations is resourcing the grant dollars, but ***all* grant-making decisions are made by participants in the Starving the Beast Circle under the guidance of CJI staff and/or consultants.**

Process and Timeline for Grant Decisions

Completed applications must be submitted no later than **September 23, 2019 at midnight PST** at <https://cjifund.submittable.com/submit> or via the button below. The Circle will convene and decisions will be announced and processed in December 2019.

In an effort to strengthen the movement, CJI provides debrief sessions with applicants that did not receive a grant. This is intended to increase knowledge about the grantmaking process in general, and to share information with organizations that will help in future

applications to CJI or any other funder. Therefore, organizations that did not receive a grant are encouraged to schedule a debrief with CJI in a time-frame that will be announced with the grant decisions.

Feel free to contact CJI with any questions at **assistant@cjifund.org** or by calling the CJI office at **646-849-9172**.

Prospective applicants can schedule calls with Charlene Allen to ask questions related to the RFP, in advance of the deadline. Charlene will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from approximately 2pm to 5pm, starting August 21 through September 19. Applicants can schedule calls at <https://calendly.com/charleneallencji/15min/08-21-2018>. *In the field asking for your 'Full Name,' please also include a contact phone number where Charlene can reach you at your appointed time.*