First Chance Trust Fund
Letter of Intent

Introduction
Established within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) through Act 44 of 2017, the First Chance Trust Fund (Fund) establishes a scholarship program for students or providing grants to programs that benefit children in those regions of this Commonwealth which have statistically higher high school dropout rates, incarceration rates or high crime rates. For more information about the Fund, please visit PCCD's website here: First Chance Trust Fund (pa.gov).

Purpose of the Funding
PCCD is announcing the availability of approximately $1.3 million in state funds to support the First Chance Trust Fund initiative. This *Letter of Intent* solicitation is seeking eligible applicants to implement a blended scholarship opportunity for at-risk students with programmatic supports.

Eligible Applicants. PCCD expects to fund multiple organizations in identified regions across the Commonwealth for this initiative over a multiple-year project period. Regions were identified based on statistically higher high school dropout rates data provided by the PA Department of Education and incarceration data provided by the PA Department of Corrections and calculated per capita. Identified school districts (please reference the Appendix) and community-based organizations (CBOs) serving students in the identified school districts are eligible to apply.

To be eligible, the CBO must provide services to eligible students (see below) such as, but not limited to: mentoring, individual counseling and therapeutic services, case management, academic support (tutoring, SAT/ACT prep), job readiness (career goals, skill-building, internships, part-time employment), and other youth-focused programming that provides youth with the skills necessary to either enter a post-secondary educational institution (including technical schools) or the workforce.

Eligible Expenses. The maximum award amount shall not exceed $300,000 but may vary depending on expected number of eligible students served. The primary use of the funding will be to provide direct financial support to eligible students via 'scholarship'. For the purposes of this funding, 'scholarship' is defined as tuition and/or associated expenses with attending post-secondary school or other vocational training, starting a business, and/or launching a career. An example of an allowable expense outside of tuition costs include the purchase of necessary supplies for a student to attend cosmetology school.

School districts and CBOs are permitted to take an administration fee of the funds; however, administrative costs should be kept at a minimum and will be a factor in the review and scoring process. PCCD reserves the right to make the final decision on eligible expenses.

Eligible Students. Eligible students must be 24-years of age or younger as of July 1, 2023, and currently attends, or has recently attended and/or graduated from, one of the identified school districts.

For CBOs, the eligible student(s) must currently participate, or have previously participated, in the programming provided by the CBO. CBOs are encouraged to initiate targeted outreach to former participants in their programming that they believe fit the eligibility criteria. School districts are eligible to submit an application on behalf of individual students at their discretion, but the expectation would be that the school or a related program partner will provide the additional programmatic support for the students receiving the scholarship. School districts are also encouraged to initiate targeted outreach to former students that meet the eligibility criteria.

Eligible students that have experienced victimization or that have, or had, incarcerated primary caregivers should be prioritized for financial support. Additional student eligibility criteria will be determined in tandem with the awarded organizations. School districts and CBOs will be required to execute a student agreement with each participating student to ensure clear expectations and commitment. Further, successful applicants will be required to work with PCCD staff to track the outcomes of the scholarship program.

What Information Will I Need When Making my Initial Request?
- Organization name and address
- For CBOs: a short narrative summarizing the current services you provide to at-risk youth, including:
  - How many kids your organization serves in these school districts
  - How you identify the youth that you serve
  - Details on current referral and retention processes
  - Outcomes of current programming
  - Explain current infrastructure in place for how your organization would be able to handle the management of these funds
  - Estimated number of students you are seeking to support with a scholarship program
  - How did you identify the students and provide a short narrative on them
- For school districts: a short narrative summarizing:
  - Estimated number of students you are seeking to support with a scholarship program
  - How did you identify the students and provide a short narrative on them
- Proposal for how your organization would structure the scholarship program
  - If your organization was awarded, what would you do?
  - Details on your outreach plan to current and former students/participants
  - What would be your parameters?
  - What is your individual funding strategy per eligible student?
  - What and how your organization would track the youth throughout the scholarship period?
  - What factors would be included to determine program success?
- Detail on the CBOs relationship with the school district; or conversely, if the school district is working with a CBO or program to provide programmatic supports.

Next Steps

Interested in applying? Please have your organization complete a Survey Monkey initial request form. The Survey Monkey initial request form is currently open and closes on June 1, 2023 at 11:45 PM.

Applicants receiving awards will be contacted by PCCD staff no later than July 2023 to finalize the structure of the program and award process within PCCD's Egrants system. Priority consideration will be given to those organizations that have the current structure in place to support this program and distribute direct financial support for the youth. Additionally, priority consideration will be given to those CBOs that attach a confirmation from the school of its partnership, including that it will provide academic data to the CBO with the students' permission.

We encourage you to review the Statement of Policy as you prepare your request. PCCD staff are unable to answer questions on specific proposals. Please submit questions to RA-PCCDPressOffice@pa.gov.

Appendix.

Identified School Districts

Primary County	School District
Adams	Upper Adams SD
Allegheny	Clairton City SD
Allegheny	Duquesne City SD
Allegheny	McKeesport Area SD
Allegheny	Penn Hills SD
Allegheny	Pittsburgh SD
Allegheny	Sto-Rox SD
Allegheny	Wilkinsburg Borough SD
Allegheny	Woodland Hills SD
Beaver	Aliquippa SD
Beaver	Big Beaver Falls Area SD
Beaver	New Brighton Area SD
Beaver	Rochester Area SD
Bedford	Tussey Mountain SD
Berks	Reading SD
Blair	Altoona Area SD
Bradford	Sayre Area SD
Bradford	Towanda Area SD
Bradford	Troy Area SD
Bradford	Wyalusing Area SD
Bucks	Bristol Township SD
Cambria	Greater Johnstown SD
Cameron	Cameron County SD
Carbon	Panther Valley SD
Chester	Coatesville Area SD
Clarion	Clarion-Limestone Area SD
Clearfield	Clearfield Area SD
Clearfield	Curwensville Area SD
Clearfield	Dubois Area SD
Clearfield	Philipsburg-Osceola Area SD
Clearfield	West Branch Area SD
Columbia	Berwick Area SD
Crawford	Conneaut SD
Crawford	Crawford Central SD
Dauphin	Harrisburg City SD
Dauphin	Steelton-Highspire SD
Delaware	Chester-Upland SD

Delaware	Chichester SD
Delaware	Southeast Delco SD
Delaware	William Penn SD
Elk	Ridgway Area SD
Elk	Saint Marys Area SD
Erie	Corry Area SD
Erie	Erie City SD
Fayette	Albert Gallatin Area SD
Fayette	Brownsville Area SD
Fayette	Connellsville Area SD
Fayette	Laurel Highlands SD
Fayette	Uniontown Area SD
Franklin	Chambersburg Area SD
Franklin	Tuscarora SD
Franklin	Waynesboro Area SD
Fulton	Central Fulton SD
Fulton	Forbes Road SD
Fulton	Southern Fulton SD
Greene	Carmichaels Area SD
Greene	Southeastern Greene SD
Greene	West Greene SD
Jefferson	Brookville Area SD
Jefferson	Punxsutawney Area SD
Lackawanna	Scranton SD
Lancaster	Columbia Borough SD
Lancaster	Lancaster SD
Lawrence	New Castle Area SD
Lebanon	Lebanon SD
Lebanon	Northern Lebanon SD
Lehigh	Allentown City SD
Luzerne	Greater Nanticoke Area SD
Luzerne	Hanover Area SD
Luzerne	Wilkes-Barre Area SD
Lycoming	Jersey Shore Area SD
Lycoming	Williamsport Area SD
McKean	Bradford Area SD
McKean	Kane Area SD
McKean	Smethport Area SD
Mercer	Farrell Area SD
Mifflin	Mifflin County SD
Montgomery	Norristown Area SD

Montgomery	Pottstown SD
Northumberland	Mount Carmel Area SD
Northumberland	Shamokin Area SD
Northumberland	Shikellamy SD
Philadelphia	Philadelphia City SD
Potter	Galeton Area SD
Schuylkill	Mahanoy Area SD
Schuylkill	Minersville Area SD
Schuylkill	North Schuylkill SD
Schuylkill	Pottsville Area SD
Schuylkill	Shenandoah Valley SD
Schuylkill	Tamaqua Area SD
Schuylkill	Williams Valley SD
Snyder	Midd-West SD
Somerset	Turkeyfoot Valley Area SD
Venango	Franklin Area SD
Venango	Oil City Area SD
Venango	Titusville Area SD
Warren	Warren County SD
Washington	Charleroi SD
Washington	Washington SD
Westmoreland	Jeannette City SD
Westmoreland	Monessen City SD
Westmoreland	New Kensington-Arnold SD
York	Hanover Public SD
York	York City SD