SUMMARY
The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, a unit of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, invites the Jim Casey Initiative sites to apply for a small grant ($25,000 to $40,000) to strengthen existing or support new services, practices or policy work that improve the trend lines on the Young Parent Indicator. Successful applicants will also contribute an approach to supporting adolescent parenting that recognizes and strengthens the developmental needs of both parent and child.

Our Stake:
1) Young people will have the knowledge, resources and services to prevent unintended or untimely pregnancies; and
2) Young parents will have the knowledge, resources and services needed to continue their individual development and to parent successfully.

The Jim Casey Initiative aims to ensure that young people leaving foster care have the opportunities, services and support needed to transition successfully to adulthood. The positive implications of decreasing and delaying unplanned and untimely pregnancies among youth and young adults in care are universally recognized. The Jim Casey Initiative also believes that, in the event of an unplanned or untimely pregnancy, there is a collective responsibility to provide services designed to build the capacity of those that decide to parent.

Applicants are encouraged to highlight the use of the Jim Casey Initiative’s best practice principles when responding to the sections outlined in this RFP. These principles are as follows:
• **Youth Engagement:** Prepare young people to be meaningfully involved as decision makers and advocates

• **Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusion:** Prioritize the culture, life experiences and racial and ethnic makeup of the young people served, which is key to resolving deep-rooted issues and having a greater impact in all communities

• **Partnerships Resources:** Connect to resources of public and private systems and philanthropy; expand and deepen community support; and cultivate community champions for young people transitioning from care

• **Research, Evaluation and Communications:** Use data to drive decision making and communications and to document results

• **Public Will and Policy:** Advance policy and practice that improve outcomes for young people transitioning from foster care

• **Increased Opportunities:** Create an array of opportunities and help young people access them

Additional consideration will be given to proposals that expand, refine and strengthen programs or services using or adopting the Protective and Promotive Factors Framework as reflected in the Strengthening Families and Youth Thrive approaches.

All successful applicants will receive technical assistance and be required to participate in grantee collaborative activities administered through the Jim Casey Initiative’s Online Learning Community. This may include customizing programs, services or practices for youth in foster care with an unplanned or untimely pregnancy or supports for young parents and their children.

**FOCUS OF FUNDING**

The Jim Casey Initiative seeks to identify and/or strengthen innovative or existing services, programs, practices or policy work that are in high action and high alignment with the Young Parent Indicator Strategy. This strategy includes the following components:

1. Promote reproductive health and well-being;
   a) Prevent or delay primary or subsequent pregnancies for youth in care, and/or
   b) Embed and/or adopt reproductive health modules into life-planning curriculum at local system level.
2. Improve outcomes for expectant and parenting youth in care;
   a) Promote social and emotional well-being for parent and child,
   b) Provide targeted resources or services for expectant and parenting youth (mothers and fathers), and
   c) Provide co-parenting training and skills development.
3. Build stakeholder capacity to develop and implement universal and/or targeted reproductive health and young parent support strategies;
   a) Adopt and embed training of core competencies to address reproductive health and young parents’ support, and
b) Embed evidence-based or best practice reproductive health modules/programs into life-planning curriculum.

4. Advance Jim Casey national data development agenda and performance measurement goals for the Young Parent Indicator; and

5. Support integrated approaches among providers to leverage existing resources and services.

ELIGIBILITY
All Jim Casey Initiative sites are eligible to submit a proposal for consideration. Jim Casey Initiative sites are encouraged to collaborate with partnering providers of existing services to expand access and/or target services to young parents. In cases where the Jim Casey Initiative sites are applying for funds or sponsoring a request for a partner agency, please attach a memorandum of agreement between the Jim Casey site lead agency and the organization that is being sponsored.

GRANT RANGE
The Jim Casey Initiative invites one-year proposals in the range of $25,000 to $40,000 for the grant term beginning April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. Successful organizations will receive funds awarded through this grant from the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP). As such, all reporting requirements will be administered through CSSP.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS
Successful applicants will be required to comply with the terms of a Letter of Intent (LOI) that will include:

- Completion of Adolescent Parenting framework training
- Utilization of adolescent parenting program Self-Assessment for Community-Based Programs
- Participation in virtual peer-learning workgroup
- Participation in the development and presentation of webinars to share lessons learned with other Jim Casey Initiative sites
- Submission of reports that include incidence and prevalence of expecting and parenting youth in jurisdiction and program population

DEADLINE
Online applications are due by 5:00 p.m. EST on March 31, 2017.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Applications must be submitted online at. The online application has fillable text boxes with character limits. If you cut and paste your work into the application, please be sure your text fits the space provided.

Proposal Instructions

PROPOSAL SECTIONS
Only completed online applications will be accepted. Applicants will be required to respond to the following sections. Each section is intended to be complementary to the others, allowing applicants to articulate their strengths in several areas. Applicants are encouraged to respond to sections completely, include all the elements requested and use data to support elements.
1) **Executive summary**
Produce a concise summary of the applicant’s proposed program and expected results. The executive summary should include the official name of your organization (and key partnering agencies), the program or project, program population, intended outcomes, amount requested and project start and end dates. Should a grant be awarded, the executive summary may be used for various purposes, including external communications to describe the program.

2) **Organizational capacity**
Describe the mission of the applying organization and your experience or success supporting youth in or transitioning out of foster care. Explain why the organization is qualified or prepared to deliver the proposed program or service. Include how the organization engages youth or young parents in the identification and design of programs or services.

3) **Problem statement**
Describe your intended program population. In this section, you should provide the baseline numbers and story behind the numbers (discuss some of the contributing factors). Use the best available data from the city, county or state levels. In this section, you should also include your intended program population (the number of youth or families you intend to serve, specify if they are located in certain cities or zip codes). Your problem statement should give us the big picture (potential for expansion) and the specifics (your contribution to changing the trend lines).

4) **Description of service, program, practice or policy work**
Describe your project. Include whether your services are universal (for all youth in foster care) or targeted (for only a segment of the foster care population like expectant or parenting youth). If universal, explain how activities have been altered to address the specific needs of this population. Applicants should also include a description of how their work strengthens protective or promotive factors for youth in or transitioning out of foster care, young parents and/or their children.

**Note:** If you want to include a logic model or theory of change, please attach to the appendix.

5) **Evidence of Effectiveness**
Describe the evidence (rationale, research, data) for the proposed project or program and why the activities are appropriate for the community to be served. Please also include how data are collected and recorded for the project or program.

6) **Results**
Grantees are required to report on a set of performance measures commensurate with the proposed scope of work. Please list three to five performance measures that you intend to report on. See Performance Measure Guidance document.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**
Please upload/attach the following documents with your application:
1) Budget and Budget Narrative (required)
Provide the amount and brief details about the expenses requested for each budget category listed in your Program Budget Form and describe any additional program funding that has been secured or requested.

2) Logic Model or Theory of Change or Logic Model (optional)
3) Memorandum of Understanding or Letter of Agreement (only applicants collaborating with partners for this grant)
4) Draft Work Plan (optional)

PROPOSAL SCORING

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QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RFP

- If you have any specific questions regarding the RFP, please contact Tammi Fleming at tfleming@aecf.org with the subject heading 2017 PPPS RFP Question.