



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

## CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANT

### ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce the 2021 Request for Proposals (RFP) for Children with Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Community Engagement Grants. Grants are sponsored by the [Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative](#) at the [Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy](#) (IMRP) within the University of Connecticut (UConn) Department of Public Policy.

Proposals will be accepted that meet the criteria outlined below and address the following topic area: **Children with Incarcerated Parents in Connecticut**. For more information about the topic, and the Initiative, please see the attached addendum.

Proposals should involve partnerships between any campuses of the University of Connecticut (UConn Hartford, Storrs, Avery Point, Stamford, and Waterbury) and community groups or organizations. Proposed activity under the grant should seek to support CIP through direct engagement with the children, support of the child's family that ultimately benefits the child/ren, research, increasing awareness of the experiences of CIP and their families, policymaking, and/or other means.

The total amount estimated to be available under this RFP is \$41,000.00. This is an estimate only and is not to be construed as a guaranteed value for this or subsequent years. Awards will be made available to one or more respondents based on number and quality of proposals and the best interests of IMRP's CIP Initiative. Awarded interventions will not be restricted to any town, city, or region in CT. Funds must be spent prior to the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2022). Larger projects with a higher cost and longer duration will be considered in light of the other proposals received.

### PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Please submit applications as an attachment by e-mail to [CTCIP@uconn.edu](mailto:CTCIP@uconn.edu) by **Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**. Following the initial review and awarding of funds, this announcement will be an "Open Enrollment" RFP.



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

IMRP reserves the right to accept or solicit proposals for review and consideration after the original RFP due date if an unmet need is identified or circumstances or conditions warrant, and if doing so is in the best interests of IMRP and the Initiative. Any department or individual that submits proposals under the open enrollment clause (after the proposal due date stated above) shall abide by the same terms and conditions as are stated elsewhere in this RFP, and provide the same information requested.

Proposals will be accepted from affiliates (students, faculty, staff, departments, groups of departments, faculty and students, and groups of faculty members) of all University of Connecticut's campuses (Hartford, Storrs, Avery Point, Stamford, and Waterbury) in partnership with a community organization(s).

It is recognized that IMRP's funding for payment under the CIP Community Engagement Grant is dependent upon funding from the Connecticut General Assembly. If there is a reduction in funding or other budgetary rescissions are imposed or required, IMRP reserves the right to, with written notice to awardee(s), terminate or amend any agreement.

### *Proposal authors must:*

- Demonstrate an understanding of IMRP CIP and address a gap or further explore an area of interest for CIP
- Identify a community partner
- Address sustainability at the close of funding
- For faculty/staff led projects, please discuss how students will participate
- Describe how faculty/staff, community partners, and students will work together to successfully complete the project
- Identify proposed outcomes for all parties involved, including the CIP community and students
- Make a presentation of project results and/or submit a final report discussing the project, including outcomes, challenges, and successes
- Consider the CIP Initiative's Guiding Principles (included in the attached addendum)

### *Proposal authors are encouraged to:*

- Consider interdisciplinary proposals and collaboration between academic departments, other units, offices, or centers (i.e., Community Outreach and Engagement, Student Activities, student organizations, UConn's cultural centers, Education etc.).



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

- Consider proposals that develop new curriculum and courses that focus on and includes CIP
- Consider proposals that develop new initiatives/partnerships to support CIP, and/or add a specific CIP component to existing programs or coursework
- Consider proposals that significantly enhance the visibility of the issue of parental incarceration and its effect on children
- Consider proposals that might lead to long-term and/or broad impact
- Consider the Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights, found here: [http://sfoonline.barnard.edu/children/SFCIPP\\_Bill\\_of\\_Rights.pdf](http://sfoonline.barnard.edu/children/SFCIPP_Bill_of_Rights.pdf)
- Be creative and think outside of the box! All disciplines, graduate and undergraduate students, are encouraged to apply and project(s) do not need to correlate with the academic calendar.
- Attend the virtual proposers' conference/info session Monday, **January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 11 am. For the link to join, please e-mail [CTCIP@uconn.edu](mailto:CTCIP@uconn.edu) no later than Friday, **January 7<sup>th</sup>**.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Review of applications will be based on appropriate focus on proposal requirements, and on the responses to the application contents (Abstract/Summary, Significance, Methodology, Outcomes/Impact, and Budget) as described below.

## APPLICATION COMPONENTS

**Applicant:** Name (If this is a group project than provide the name of only one contact person, list co-investigators separately.)

**Department:**

**Title:** Give a descriptive title of the proposed activity.

**Narrative:** 2-5 page description of the project that identifies the activities to be undertaken in a format which addresses the items below:

1. Executive Summary of the Project: (will also serve as 150-200 word abstract)
2. Significance of the Project: Identify the primary goal/s of the project and what question, CIP need, or problem will be addressed. Identify any anticipated results for students, faculty/staff, community partners and the CIP community at large. Identify the significance of the project relative to the CIP Initiative's Guiding Principles (included in the addendum) and University of Connecticut's [Public Engagement and Outreach Standards](#). List any



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

relevant experiences (such as previous CIP work) that back up why this project is important.

3. **Methods/Activities:** Describe major activities of the proposed project and specify time frame. Identify resources and expenses required for specific activities (including any partners, University resources, and other funding already available to the project including curriculum or faculty development funding). Specify how community partnerships will be developed. How will the project enhance or improve current and future collaboration with the community? How will the project enhance or improve the current and future work of the CIP Initiative? Describe how the project's partnerships will be sustained at the close of the work funded by this grant.
4. **Outcomes/Impact/Evaluation:** How will students benefit? How will the project enhance or improve faculty/staff and students' work and life at the University of Connecticut? How will CIP, community partners, and/or participants benefit? How will the project team measure whether, and in what ways, the project achieved its intended goals? How will participants and partners know major goals were achieved and intended outcomes accomplished? How will the project team identify unanticipated outcomes or new learning not originally in the proposal? What means of evaluation will the project team develop for CIP, community partners, and university constituent units' participants to document effects, processes, lessons-learned?

**Budget:** On the attached chart

- Itemize specific expenses (personnel costs, supplies, travel, and other costs) and approximate date(s) the expense will occur.
- Provide a clear and detailed justification for the budget items requested. Show how the cost was derived, for example local mileage rate or bus cost for student transportation, cost of a resource text, etc.
- *Please note, all funds must be dispensed by us no later than June 30, 2022.*

*Projects may request the following:*

- Compensation for faculty time spent on development, administration, research, and/or evaluation of the project
- Faculty/staff, student, or participant stipends. Describe for whom and for what
- Support for student workers and/or Graduate Assistants, and/or community partners who would be hired as consultants. Indicate how cost was estimated
- Educational materials or software, as well as office supplies
- Travel or transportation funds



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

- Other: Describe any additional resources needed to achieve the project's goal/s and intended outcome/s

## GRANT PERIOD

The grant period will end in **May of 2022** but does not have to be tied to the academic schedule. A FINAL REPORT is due 30 days after the end of the project.

A conference for all interested proposers will be held virtually on **January 10<sup>th</sup>** from **11:00am-12:00pm**. Questions and answers from the conference will be posted on the CIP website and as an addendum to the RFP.

## INSTITUTE FOR MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL POLICY

The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) became the successor organization to the Connecticut Institute for Municipal Studies (CIMS) in 2002 when leaders in the legislature and executive branch called upon Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) to build upon CIMS's mission in an academic setting. In the 2021 legislative session of the Connecticut General Assembly, the institute was relocated to the UCONN Hartford campus.

The IMRP is dedicated to enriching the quality of local, state and national public policy. The IMRP tackles critical and often under-addressed urban issues with the intent of ensuring the most positive outcomes for affected individuals and entities. In doing so, the IMRP bridges the divide between academia, policymakers, practitioners, and the community. The IMRP's current projects include: [Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force](#), [Connecticut Sentencing Commission](#), [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#), [Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System](#), Pew-MacArthur [Results First](#) Initiative, [Connecticut Reentry Collaborative](#), [Connecticut Electronic Defense Weapon Report](#), and the [Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative](#).

## CIP INITIATIVE

Since fiscal year 2008, the Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy (IMRP) has been receiving annual funding from the Connecticut General Assembly to administer competitive grants for providing positive interventions for youth whose parent(s) and/or family members have been incarcerated. The IMRP continually seeks to gain an additional understanding of these children and their service-needs through research, evaluation, and outreach activities. As-such, the IMRP,



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

in collaboration with faculty from various universities and colleges, is evaluating the effectiveness of direct care services in alleviating negative responses to parental incarceration and improving the positive attributes of CIP. The mission for the CIP Initiative is to improve the quality of supports for children with incarcerated parents by using the various data and knowledge it gains to inform public policy and practice.



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

## BUDGET

|                    |                      |  |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>Contractor:</b> | <b>Fiscal Year:</b>  |  |
| <b>Program:</b>    | <b>Grant Period:</b> |  |

| <b>Income</b> [Include any other sources of funding] | <b>Pending</b> | <b>Secured</b> |           |
|--|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| UConn IMRP CIP Initiative                            |                |                |           |
|  |                |                |           |
|  |                |                |           |
| <b>Income Total</b>                                  | <b>\$</b>      | <b>\$</b>      | <b>\$</b> |

| <b>Expenses</b>   |                       |                                     |                               |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Personnel</b> [Please include title & justification with break-down] | <b>Program Budget</b> | <b>\$ amount requested from CIP</b> | <b>Date expense may occur</b> |
|   |                       |                                     |                               |
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|   |                       |                                     |                               |
|   |                       |                                     |                               |
| <b>Personnel Subtotal</b>   | <b>\$</b>             | <b>\$</b>                           |                               |
| <b>Non-personnel expenses</b> [supplies, travel, other]                 |                       |                                     |                               |
|   |                       |                                     |                               |
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|   |                       |                                     |                               |
|   |                       |                                     |                               |
| <b>Non-personnel Subtotal</b>   | <b>\$</b>             | <b>\$</b>                           |                               |
| <b>Expenses Total</b>   | <b>\$</b>             | <b>\$</b>                           | <b>\$</b>                     |



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

## ADDENDUM

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In May of 2014, the Children with Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Initiative instated seven Guiding Principles. They were developed from careful analysis of the Initiative's funded programs, knowledge gained through review of what is being done nationally, learning from those personally impacted, and frequent communication with professionals in the field.

1. Practices should be designed specifically with CIP needs in mind
2. Include CIP and their families in the processes of program development, implementation, and evaluation
3. The relationship between the child and incarcerated parent should be supported
4. Programs should reach children and families to get "self-referrals"
5. Stigma and isolation associated with incarceration should be reduced
6. Emphasis on connections, collaborations and coordination among agencies and community partners.
7. Evaluation and accurate data are critical for identifying evidence-supported practices.

For more information on the CIP Initiative, follow the "About CIP Initiative" link here: <http://ctcip.org/about-us/who-we-are/>.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CIP

One of the factors that Connecticut policymakers have focused on as an area for improvement is the impact of familial incarceration on youth. Growing research has demonstrated the link between parental incarceration and negative child health and wellbeing. Legislators have indicated a desire to meaningfully support children with incarcerated parents for the benefit of the child, families, communities, and state. How Connecticut's disparate rates of incarceration across neighborhood, municipal, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines impact this dynamic is another primary concern for policymakers.

Although the circumstances surrounding CIP certainly warrant attention, at this point there is no one agency or entity that either identifies or monitors these children or their families. As such, it has become increasingly apparent to policymakers that effective public policy must be





# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

systematically developed to support these children along a path to healthy and productive adulthood.

One of the certainties regarding these children is that the exponential rise in incarceration nationally over the past 30 years has increased the likelihood that a child in the United States will face at least some of their life with an incarcerated parent. Our Initiative has released [this](#) fact sheet. Below are some of its key points.

## *Demographics*

- 1 in 14 children have had a parent who has lived with them go to jail or prison.
- Approximately 10 million children have experienced parental incarceration at some point in their lives.
- One in 9 African American children (11.4%), 1 in 28 Hispanic children (3.5%), and 1 in 57 white children (1.8%) in the United States have an incarcerated parent.
- Approximately half of children with incarcerated parents are under ten years old.<sup>1</sup>

## *Impact*

- Parental incarceration is now recognized as an “adverse childhood experience” (ACE); however, it is distinguished from other adverse childhood experiences by the unique combination of trauma, shame, and stigma.
- Parental incarceration is independently associated with higher rates of learning disabilities, ADHD, behavioral problems, emotional dysregulation, and developmental delays in the child.
- A CTCIP study showed that the child loses many important supports when a parent becomes incarcerated, including but not limited to: basic financial support, help with personal problems, assistance with completing schoolwork, talking with teachers, coaches, etc., transportation, childcare, government assistance, and care for medical or special needs.
- Studies have shown that the absence or unavailability of a parent is emotionally equivalent to life-threatening for children.
- According to a 2015 survey, 2 in 3 families had difficulty meeting basic needs due to a family member’s incarceration and 70% of these families were caring for at least one child under 18 years old.

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<sup>1</sup> Hairston, C.F. (2007). Focus on the children with incarcerated parents: A overview of the research literature. Annie E. Casey Foundation.



# CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS (CIP) INITIATIVE

- Family contact through prison visits, phone calls and financial support have been shown to help an individual transition back into the community, thereby reducing recidivism and improving public safety.

A study released in September of 2014, conducted by Kristin Turney, PhD., of the University of California in Irvine, found significant health and behavioral problems in CIP. The most striking finding was that in some cases, parental incarceration was more detrimental to a child's well-being than divorce or the death of a parent. When considering these findings within the context of the United States having the highest rate of incarceration in the world, the forecast is alarming, and the need to reduce the prevalence of parental incarceration and mitigate the negative consequences is apparent.

The IMRP determined the below statistics that demonstrate the prevalence of parental incarceration in the United States when compared against other conditions of government-involved separation of parent and child.

In the U.S., it is estimated that...

**1 in 346** children has a parent deployed in the U.S. military

**1 in 191** children is in foster care

**1 in 28** children has a parent incarcerated

To review summaries of current and former CIP projects supported by the CIP Initiative, visit the Initiative's website at [www.CTCIP.org](http://www.CTCIP.org)

For more information on CIP, go to our website at [www.CTCIP.org](http://www.CTCIP.org) and the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated website at <https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/>