



PRESS RELEASE

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Center for Children's Law and Policy Launches Project to Improve Equity and Fairness in Youth Arrest and Diversion

Four Police Agencies Sought for New Law Enforcement Leadership For Equity Initiative

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Washington, D.C. – Today, the [Center for Children's Law and Policy](http://www.cclp.org) (CCLP) begins a nationwide search for four local law enforcement agencies to partner in the Law Enforcement Leadership for Equity Initiative, a new effort to enhance equity and address racial and ethnic disparities in arrest for youth of color.

The project is funded by a three-year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan.

“Law enforcement agencies are the gatekeepers of the juvenile justice system,” said Tiana Davis, CCLP’s Policy Director for Equity and Justice. “We are thrilled to have an opportunity to work with law enforcement professionals who are committed to creating a fair and equitable justice system.”

Efforts will help law enforcement agencies to improve fairness of juvenile arrest policies, combat implicit bias, and eliminate unnecessary arrests for youth of color, without jeopardizing public safety. The Initiative will build upon CCLP’s successful prior work with law enforcement agencies throughout the country, such as the Gainesville, Florida Police Department (GPD).

According to retired GPD Captain William T. Halvosa, who currently serves as the agency’s DMC coordinator, “Law enforcement needs courageous leaders who understand their role in combatting racial and ethnic disparities. They need to begin developing innovative and strategic partnerships that challenge outdated approaches that hurt poor and minority families and instead embrace programs that focus on prevention and effective intervention.”

CCLP will select four local law enforcement agencies for participation. Each agency will receive intensive technical support for data analysis, policy implementation, and training. Each agency will also receive up to \$10,000 to fund improvements that will enhance equity for youth of color and improve law enforcement partnerships with the communities of color they serve.

For more information on the Law Enforcement Leadership for Equity Initiative, including eligibility criteria and application instructions, please visit <http://www.cclp.org/the-law-enforcement-leadership-for-equity-initiative>. All application materials must be submitted by March 21, 2018.

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About the Center for Children’s Law and Policy. The Center for Children’s Law and Policy is a public interest law and policy organization focused on reform of juvenile justice and other systems that affect troubled and at-risk children, and protection of the rights of children in those systems. CCLP is one of the leading national organizations working to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice. For more information, visit www.cclp.org.

About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit www.wkkf.org.