



THE TOW FOUNDATION

Juvenile Justice Initiative

2010 GRANTS & GUIDELINES

Juvenile Justice Funding Guidelines

The Tow Foundation's investments are targeted toward projects and initiatives that hold the promise of improving the lives and prospects of youth involved in or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system and their families, as well as influencing the reform of the public systems with which they may be involved.

The Tow Foundation envisions a society where all people have the opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life and have a voice in their community. We strive for this by supporting nonprofit organizations to help vulnerable populations and individuals become positive contributors to society. We fund projects and create collaborative ventures where we see opportunities for reform and benefits for underserved populations. We feel it is our obligation to help others achieve success in their own lives. We strive to provide leverage to make possible far greater things than we could achieve alone.

To apply to The Tow Foundation, organizations must seek to achieve one or more of the following results for court-involved youth:

- Diversion from entering or going deeper into the justice system **
- Identification or development of a skill or interest that would improve their self-image and increase the likelihood of their success in the future
- Improved connection to and engagement with existing resources in their communities that can best help them address the issues they face
- Reduction in the number of youth removed from school or otherwise denied a quality education
- Improvement in the quality, coordination and breadth of the community-based programs that serve them
- Increased advocacy by and on behalf of these youth and their families that aims to build awareness and influence change in public policies related to the issues listed above

**Not all prevention programs will qualify for consideration

We invest in organizations with the following characteristics:

- Ability to produce measurable, long-term results
- Sustainability
- Potential for program replication
- Strong commitment to advocate and lobby policymakers within legal limits on behalf of their clients and services
- A track record of networking and collaborating with other nonprofits, government and the business community
- Strong leadership and a history of adapting to changing societal needs
- Engagement of staff and volunteers as ambassadors to advance their mission

The foundation encourages the use of innovative and leveraged funding strategies, such as challenge or matching grants, and other types of collaborative efforts.

As a general rule, multiple-year grants will be considered only for prior grantees.

Grant Application Procedures

The Tow Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals. If your organization fits the criteria outlined in our [Juvenile Justice Funding Guidelines](#), please send a letter of inquiry (maximum two pages) with an explanation of the mission of your organization and a brief description of the project for which you seek funding.

Foundation staff will contact you by mail or phone to discuss your project's eligibility, seek additional information or arrange an introductory meeting before you are invited to submit a full proposal. Once invited to do so, applications must be completed using our online format.

The Tow Foundation Board of Trustees meets quarterly. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, but cannot be timed for review at a specific board meeting.

Letters of inquiry will be accepted by mail only. Unless requested, please do not email, overnight mail or fax your information.

Trustees & Officers

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To be eligible for a grant, organizations must comply with the following:

- Have tax-exempt status under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code
- Serve the community without discrimination by race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disability

The foundation will not provide support for the following:

- Individuals
- Organizations lacking tax-exempt status
- Political causes, candidates or campaigns
- Capital campaigns
- Government

Staff

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Address all correspondence as follows:

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2010 Grants

AFRICAN CARIBBEAN AMERICAN PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (AFCAMP)

Hartford, CT
www.afcamp.org

\$40,000

Advocacy Training & Support to Families

To support outreach and training activities for parents of children with disabilities involved in or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice, special education, mental health or child welfare systems learn about and advocate on behalf of their rights and those of their children. This grant enables the staff to handle individual cases, all of which involve an education matter, and to conduct trainings and workshops in Hartford and New Haven. It also helps AFCAMP engage and educate key state decision makers about the needs of youth with disabilities and the linkage between academic success, school discipline policies and juvenile justice.

BRIDGEPORT CHILD ADVOCACY COALITION (BCAC)

Bridgeport, CT
www.bcacct.org

\$35,000

Unrestricted Funding

To provide general support for this advocacy agency, which is a coalition of 80 area organizations committed to improving the lives of Bridgeport's 35,000 children and their families through research, community planning, education and mobilization. BCAC's three task forces identify gaps in services and propose solutions relating to health, education and early care, and family economic empowerment. Focus areas for 2011 include family access to health care and health insurance, teacher recruitment and turnover, reduction in out-of-school suspensions, teacher and principal evaluations, job training and affordable housing. BCAC publishes an annual report, *State of the Child in Bridgeport*, and hosts the annual Bridgeport Children's Issues Forum to help influence public policies and improve services for children.

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Washington, D.C.
www.campaign4youthjustice.org

\$15,000

Unrestricted Funding

To support advocacy efforts to end the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating youthful offenders under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system and to win support of the U.S. Congress to reauthorize and strengthen the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act. This grant helps the Campaign support individual states, such as Connecticut and New York, that are interested in raising the age a juvenile can be prosecuted in adult court and reducing juvenile transfers to the adult criminal system.

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL (CREC)

Hartford, CT
www.crec.org

\$40,000

Truancy Court Prevention Project

To support this collaborative project, which provides a school-based truancy court using volunteer judges and offers case management services for youth who attend two middle schools in Hartford with high truancy rates to improve their attendance, academic performance and pro-social engagement. An educational specialist evaluates the needs of targeted truant youth and prepares their individual education plans. Case managers from the Village for Families and Children in Hartford work directly with these students and their families. An attorney from the Center for Children's Advocacy represents students who have legal and special education issues.

CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY (CCA)

Hartford, CT
www.kidscounsel.org

\$60,000

Unrestricted Funding

To support CCA's advocacy and oversight efforts on behalf of all children in the juvenile justice system, with particular emphasis on mental health, school discipline, truancy and girls issues. A current priority is improved discharge plans for youth returning to their communities from residential placement. This grant also helps CCA replicate a successful Hartford school-based truancy court in a Bridgeport school with local partners.

CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport, CT
www.cgcb.org

\$30,000

Strategic Intervention for High Risk Youth (SIHRY) Program

To support a family mentoring and enrichment program for youth ages 9 to 13 from the East Side of Bridgeport who are at risk of academic failure, truancy, criminal behavior and substance abuse. SIHRY family mentors provide a minimum of six months of services to youth, mostly Latino, identified by school staff, probation officers or police. They make home visits, monitor the youths' academic performance and behavior in school, link families to local services, attend school and treatment planning meetings and take youth and families to cultural and recreational activities to enrich their lives. The University of Colorado's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence is evaluating SIHRY as a potential evidence-based "Blueprint Model Program."

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER AT THE BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Bedford Hills, NY

\$40,000

The Teen Program

To provide transportation for prison visits and enrichment activities for the adolescent children of inmates at this women's prison. The program is designed to preserve and strengthen the family ties between incarcerated mothers and their children. Staff and volunteers address the youths' educational needs to help them stay in school and provide recreation and counseling services. They conduct parenting classes for the mothers and help them stay connected with their children. In addition, the staff and volunteers work to strengthen the relationship between the children's caregivers and the mothers.

CLIFFORD W. BEERS GUIDANCE CLINIC

New Haven, CT
www.cliffordbeers.org

\$50,000

Intensive Outpatient Services for Youth with Problem Sexual Behavior

To support the Juveniles Opting for Treatment to Learn Appropriate Behaviors (JOTLAB) therapeutic services for youth ages 8 to 17 who are referred by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families or Juvenile Court for problem sexual behavior. Most of the youth have juvenile or adult criminal records. Each youth receives trauma-informed individual, group and family therapy; social skills development; supervised recreational activities; alternative therapies, such as biofeedback, mindfulness and yoga, and life skills counseling during a minimum 18 months of treatment. This grant also supports the extended day treatment program for males ages 13 to 17 with borderline intellectual functioning and a new in-home service for those youth not ready for the outpatient program or returning from residential placement.

COMMUNITY MEDIATION

New Haven, CT
www.community-mediation.org

\$20,000

Juvenile Review Board Mediation Program

To provide mediation services that engage juvenile offenders and their victims prior to the offenders' appearance before the Juvenile Review Board (JRB). The JRB is a panel of community volunteers that reviews first-time or low-level delinquency cases referred by police or Probation as a diversion from court. Mediators meet with the youth and victim (or co-defendant) to allow both parties to share their stories and clarify issues. If an agreement is reached to resolve the conflict, the mediators present this information to the JRB for consideration in the case. Community Mediation will document the impact of mediation services on the outcome of JRB cases with the goal of replicating these services at other JRB sites around the state.

CONNECTICUT BALLET

Stamford, CT
www.connecticutballet.com

\$30,000

Unrestricted Funding

To support the expansion of the Juvenile Justice Outreach Program in order to offer performances and dance and drumming classes at five state-funded juvenile residential facilities, including the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the state's most secure facility for youth under age 17. This grant also supports accelerated community-based training and mentorships for a select group of talented youth who are identified while participating in a juvenile detention or residential program when they are discharged back to Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport.

CONNECTICUT JUVENILE JUSTICE ALLIANCE (CTJJA)

Bridgeport, CT
www.ctjja.org

\$50,000

Unrestricted Funding

To strengthen CTJJA's advocacy, communications and youth and family organizing efforts to promote juvenile justice reform in Connecticut. CTJJA's priorities include monitoring the implementation of the Raise the Age law that returned 16-year olds to the juvenile system in January 2010 and will return 17 year olds in 2012, ensuring

appropriate services are put in place to address the needs of these older youth, addressing the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system, and advocating for changes in school disciplinary policies that lead to the overuse of suspensions, expulsions and arrests. CTJJA also advocates the expansion of community-based services for status offenders (for example, runaways and truants) and provides research and support to local juvenile justice coalitions based around the state.

CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES (CLS)

Middletown, CT
www.connlegalservices.org

\$50,000

Stop the School-to-Prison Pipeline (STOPP) Project

To provide legal advice and representation in partnership with New Haven Legal Assistance Association (NHLAA) for children and youth who are suspended, expelled or referred to Juvenile Court for disciplinary issues by Waterbury or New Haven schools and to advocate reform of school disciplinary policies within those districts and statewide. CLS and NHLAA attorneys help youth obtain the educational services and accommodations to which they are entitled and, wherever possible, help to overturn suspensions and expulsions. They also represent those youth involved with Juvenile Court on disciplinary matters related to their school issues and advocate statewide reform of zero tolerance policies and disparate treatment of students of color and youth with disabilities. CLS and NHLAA provide trainings for court, school, and police personnel, as well as parents, on students' rights and what schools are required to provide them in order to help improve outcomes for youth.

CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

New Haven, CT
www.ctkidslink.org

\$35,000

Fellowship in Juvenile Justice and Related Issues

To support a fellowship program for a recent college graduate that offers hands-on policy work experience in the areas of juvenile justice, foster care, mental health, and education. The fellow conducts research on critical juvenile justice, child welfare, and school disciplinary policies and practices to help inform legislators, government officials, and advocates; collects data and prepares reports; attends Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance meetings, and helps Connecticut Voices' staff prepare and present testimony before the Connecticut legislature. Among the program goals are the reduction in truancy, dropout, pushout and school arrest rates and training of youth to advocate for themselves.

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport, CT
www.ccgb.org

\$25,000

Janus Center for Youth in Crisis

To provide short-term shelter, counseling, mediation, and other services to youth ages 11 to 17 at risk of involvement with the judicial system and their families. Typical issues include truancy, defiance of school rules, indecent or immoral conduct, running away, or being beyond control of the family. This respite and diversion program was created to address the families' needs and prevent commitment of the youth to detention or another out-of-home placement.

CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES OF NEW YORK (CANY)

New York, NY
www.cany.org

\$5,000

Drama Therapy Training Program

To design and demonstrate a trauma-informed drama therapy training program and curriculum for public and private clinicians working with youth involved in the mental health and juvenile justice systems. The goal is to encourage the use of drama therapy as part of the continuum of services for children and youth offered in both state and privately operated facilities and outpatient programs.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT CENTER

Wilton, CT
www.ctresolution.org

\$45,000

Juvenile Mediation Program

To provide mediation services at four juvenile courts and for two Juvenile Review Boards around Connecticut to resolve conflicts between low-level offenders and the victims of their crimes and divert the cases from the courts. The offender must take responsibility for the harm done and comply with the terms of the agreement or the case is returned to court for prosecution. This grant also supports conflict resolution and mediation trainings for schools and after-school providers to help reduce the number of suspensions, expulsions and arrests.

DOMUS FOUNDATION

Stamford, CT
www.domuskids.org

\$50,000

Family Advocate Program

To support the Domus Family Advocate Model, a partnership among the school, family and advocate that helps youth make successful life transitions by removing barriers to academic success. Family advocates build trusting, caring relationships with youth and families and help them identify and make progress toward agreed-upon goals that will keep students engaged with the educational process while developing their social and emotional skills. They conduct monthly home visits, attend school and out-of-school meetings and link parents and students with comprehensive services.

FSG SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS

Boston, MA
www.fsg-impact.org

\$60,000

New York State Juvenile Justice System Reform

To bring together key local and state agencies and stakeholders, including education and law enforcement, to discuss and create consensus around a vision for New York's juvenile justice system by March 2011. The goal is to achieve joint accountability toward common goals and to create a common vision that will help align priorities, coordinate activities and data sharing, and contribute to the transformation of New York's approach to juvenile justice to improve outcomes for youth and families without risking public safety. This vision will lead directly into a statewide strategic planning and implementation process. The project is funded collaboratively by eight private foundations and the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services.

FSW

Bridgeport, CT
www.fswinc.org

\$50,000

Youth Business Center

To provide case management, clinical services, career exploration opportunities, and job-readiness and financial literacy training for youth ages 12 to 18 on probation or parole or at high risk of delinquent behavior. The youth participate in and receive stipends for apprenticeships at the Youth Business Center in such areas as boat-building, guitar-making, music and video production, cosmetology, photography and computer design. Youth learn how to fill out job applications and properly conduct themselves on job interviews and in the workplace. Those who advance in the program are offered paid apprenticeships or employment.

FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Hartford, CT
www.familiesin crisis.org

\$35,000

Fatherhood Initiative

To support a caseworker to provide parenting classes and individual and family counseling for fathers ages 16 to 20 committed to the Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire, an adult prison, and to provide aftercare services when they transition back to their communities from prison. The caseworker meets with families during the fathers' incarceration and also accompanies the fathers on visits with their children after they leave the institution. Case management services are provided for a minimum three months pre-release and three months post-discharge. Fathers who participate in the program are allowed contact visits with their children and the children's mother, which is not allowed for other inmates.

FAMILY REENTRY

Norwalk, CT
www.familyreentry.org

\$40,000

Beacon Ex-Offender Mentoring Program

To support one-on-one and group mentoring by trained ex-offenders with youth ages 8 to 17 who are involved in or at risk of involvement with the justice system. The mentors are successful participants in Family ReEntry's Fresh Start prisoner reentry program who have a growing interest in community leadership and want to divert young people from a life of judicial involvement. They participate in a 20-hour training program to prepare them to work with youth and serve as positive role models. Mentors and youth meet at least twice weekly during and after school. Activities include homework help, field trips, counseling and recreation.

GROUNDWORK BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport, CT
www.groundworkbpt.org

\$25,000

Green Team

To support selected Bridgeport high school students to participate in the summer component of this landscape maintenance training and environmental restoration program for high-risk youth. The program aims to keep youth in school, advance their life and job-readiness skills, and prepare them for employment in the horticultural field. The paid summer internships are part of a two-year, school-based horticulture

program that provides youth with teaching and service learning opportunities and hands-on landscaping and gardening experience through projects designed to enhance public spaces, including a national park, urban gardens and hiking trails. Students develop a strong work ethic and leadership skills and learn how to be a member of a team.

HALL-BROOKE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Westport, CT
www.hallbrooke.org

\$40,000

Justice for Juveniles Behavioral Health Treatment Program

To provide mental health and family support services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. This grant enables the agency to provide eight weeks of intensive outpatient counseling and case management followed by two years of aftercare on a graduated basis to monitor recidivism, hospitalization, school performance and compliance with aftercare plans.

HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL OF MID-FAIRFIELD

Norwalk, CT
www.hscct.org

\$40,000

Briggs High School Health Center

To support the health and mental health staff at the school-based health center at Briggs High School, an alternative school primarily serving at-risk, uninsured and court-involved youth in Norwalk. Services include physical exams, immunizations, dispensation of medication, crisis intervention, counseling, weight management, and nutrition classes. This grant enables the health center to provide services for 25 hours a week, including before and after school. Approximately 1,500 student visits are documented annually. Staff also provides medical care to babies in the school-based nursery.

JINGLES FOR JUVENILES

New Haven, CT

\$1,500

Holiday Gifts for Children in Detention Centers

To purchase gifts for children who are detained during the holiday season at three state-operated juvenile detention centers and provide materials for other holiday celebrations throughout the year.

JUVENILE LAW CENTER (JLC)

Philadelphia, PA
www.jlc.org

\$30,000 (first installment of a two-year, \$60,000 grant)

Juvenile Life Without Parole Advocacy Campaign

To support advocacy and litigation work that builds on recent success in limiting juvenile life without parole sentences. This grant enables the JLC to work to frame legal arguments for the field that will support new Eighth Amendment challenges to life without parole or extremely long sentences in felony murder and murder cases and transfers to the adult criminal system. JLC seeks to ensure that the criminal justice system is aligned with principles of adolescent development, honors human rights, and gives youth access to education, physical and behavioral health care and other supports they need to be productive adults.

KIDS IN CRISIS

Cos Cob, CT
www.kidsin crisis.org

\$30,000

Safe Haven for Teens

To support the Teen House emergency shelter for youth ages 12 to 17 dealing with such issues as family conflict, abandonment, abuse, neglect or court involvement. Youth who reside at the 10-bed short-term shelter receive education, healthcare, counseling, advocacy with the court, and other services.

NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE NETWORK (NJJN)

Washington, DC
www.njjn.org

\$10,000

Fiscal Policy Center

To create a resource center for juvenile justice advocates around the nation. This center will provide state-specific data that document the high cost of incarceration and the cost/benefit of current and prospective juvenile justice reforms in an effort to curb wasteful spending practices and spur state-based policy changes to improve outcomes for youth. The center will create adaptable web-based tools for use by states, a public information campaign and a forum for peer-to-peer support. Anticipated outcomes include increased spending by states on community-based services and development of more champions for reform.

NEW YORK JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE OF PHILANTHROPY NEW YORK

New York, NY
www.philanthropynewyork.org

\$2,000

New York Juvenile Justice Initiative

To support the salary of a part-time coordinator to facilitate the work of a coalition of foundations under the auspices of Philanthropy New York to improve juvenile justice policies and practices in New York and to coordinate the meetings and program activities of this group. FJC is the fiduciary of this grant.

NUTMEG BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Hartford, CT
www.nutmegbigbrothersbigsisters.com

\$40,000

Mentoring Program for Children with Incarcerated Parents

To support a one-on-one mentoring program for children whose mothers or fathers are incarcerated. The goals of this mentoring program are to improve the children's confidence level and academic performance, as well as prevent delinquent behavior. This grant provides the local match of a federal grant.

OUR PIECE OF THE PIE (OPP)

Hartford, CT
www.opp.org

\$50,000

Pathways to Success Program

To provide academic, job-readiness and support services for high risk youth ages 14 to 24, many of whom have been out of school or involved in community violence or juvenile justice. Youth development specialists help youth create an individualized

plan to achieve their goals to complete high school, go on to college or trade school, graduate from a two- or four-year college, receive a vocational certification and/or secure and retain a job. Youth also participate in OPP's youth businesses, including boat-building, arts, multi-media and technology.

PUBLIC ALLIES CONNECTICUT

Bridgeport, CT
www.publicallies.org

\$35,000

Unrestricted Funding

To support the Nonprofit Leadership Program that provides leadership training and nonprofit work experience for young adults ages 18 to 30 through a 10-month apprenticeship. Allies also participate in weekly leadership trainings and conduct team service projects that help to build the capacity of their host organizations and benefit the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport communities. The Public Allies program was designed to help train the next generation of nonprofit leaders. Goals include increased public awareness of the Allies' work and development of stronger alumni programming and advocacy efforts.

REGIONAL YOUTH ADULT SOCIAL ACTION PARTNERSHIP (RYASAP)

Bridgeport, CT
www.ryasap.org

\$25,000

Unrestricted Funding

To enable RYASAP to strengthen its leadership team, provide technical assistance to local juvenile justice coalitions around the state, create a fund development plan and enhance its work with youth and families through parent advocacy and engagement efforts. RYASAP is the host of many local initiatives, including the Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force, the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance and Public Allies.

WATERBURY YOUTH SERVICE SYSTEM

Waterbury, CT
www.waterburyyouthservices.org

\$50,000

Entrepreneurial Program

To provide life skills education and job-readiness training in organic gardening and the construction trades for high risk youth ages 13 to 18, some of whom are truant or first-time juvenile or youthful offenders. The youth learn the basics of trades, including sheetrocking, plumbing, electrical work, woodworking and painting. In addition, they design and sell original products and invest profits into the program. Youth also get tutoring and participate in graphic arts and journalism instruction.

WESTCHESTER MEDIATION CENTER

Yonkers, NY
www.clusterinc.org

\$30,000

Restorative Justice Project

To facilitate group conferences where disputes between adolescent offenders and the victims of their crimes can be mediated and to help divert these cases, some of which involve weapons, from the court. Offenders must take responsibility for the harm done and make financial or other restitution, including a letter of apology or community service. This grant also supports a Parent/Teen mediation program to help resolve family conflicts before they require court involvement.

YOUTH CONTINUUM

New Haven, CT
www.youthcontinuum.org

\$50,000

Skills for Life Construction Program

To engage high risk youth ages 16 and 17 in the construction of a house — from planning and design through completion — for a low-income family identified by Habitat for Humanity, a partner in this project. During Phase 1, youth participate in a six-week training that covers Habitat's Homebuyers Education Program, architectural planning, finances and safety. During the 7 to 12 month construction phase, youth participate in daily group discussions about safety and the tasks ahead, learn how to use tools and read construction plans, and undertake various trades. After the youth complete the program, they are coached about finding potential careers and introduced to apprenticeship opportunities. Case management, educational support, and job coaching continue for up to 12 months.

YOUTH RIGHTS MEDIA

New Haven, CT
www.youthrightsmedia.org

\$40,000

Unrestricted Funding

To engage high risk urban youth in media projects that help raise public awareness of issues impacting their lives and communities. Youth learn technical skills and produce public service announcements and a documentary on topics of their choice that they feel are relevant to their lives. The current focus is on high school graduation, dropout and pushout rates in New Haven schools. The spring documentary is screened around the state, after which youth take questions from the audience. This grant also supports youth organizing efforts and training on their legal rights.

YOUTH TRANSITION FUNDERS GROUP (YTFG)

Chicago, IL
www.ytfg.org

\$10,000

Unrestricted Funding

To support this coalition of national and regional foundations. YTFG's mission is to improve the lives of our nation's most vulnerable young people ages 14 to 24 and help them become successful adults. YTFG's three workgroups focus on juvenile justice, foster care, workforce development, teen parents, and out-of-school and struggling students. This coalition advocates reform of the public systems that impact these young people's lives. YTFG's report, *Connected by 25: Effective Policy Solutions for Vulnerable Youth*, informs grantmakers, public policymakers and strategic partners of the value of YTFG's reform agenda.

No Child is Beyond Help



THE TOW FOUNDATION

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