



## **Request for Proposals & Application Guidelines**

# The Juntanza Fund

Youth Igniting Global Social Change

### **The Opportunity:**

The Comic Relief US (CRUS) Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is launching a new fund, *Juntanza*, that provides grants to youth-led social change campaigns and programs in the United States, Colombia, Cambodia, Kenya, and Somalia. *Juntanza* means a union to help each other and achieve a common goal and originates from the practices of Afro-descendant communities in Colombia. This call for proposals invites youth-led organizations and projects to apply for a grant to address the issues of hunger, education, and mental health while lifting up the intersections of racial and gender equity for young people in these target regions through service projects or advocacy. More information on current YAC members can be found [here](#).

**Grant Amounts:** The Juntanza Fund will make grants of \$5,000-\$10,000 USD for up to a one-year term to youth-led programs, organizations, and campaigns. Examples of what we fund can be found in the pages that follow.

**Geographic focus:** United States, Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya, and Somalia

**Funding Areas:** Education, Hunger, Mental Health. Throughlines: Racial and Gender Equity, Youth Leadership Development (see details in the Appendices on page 4).

### **ISSUE AREAS & GUIDELINES**

#### Access to Quality Education

Education is one of the greatest pathways to lift individuals and communities out of poverty. It equips historically marginalized groups with the opportunity to transform exclusionary systems. The CRUS Youth Advisory Council seeks to fund youth-led organizations or programs working to improve access to quality education for children and youth in historically excluded communities in the stated regions. The organization or program selected must have an intersectional approach that also advances gender and racial equity, while addressing access to quality education. For example, a huge issue that came to light this year in COVID and

education is the “digital divide” for girls and women, who often have less access to technology and the internet than boys and men.

### Addressing Child Hunger

Exacerbated by the economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger and malnutrition are increasing rapidly within communities facing poverty in countries like Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya, Somalia, and the United States. In the US, one in four children could face hunger this year. Globally, estimates suggest that 215 million people will be chronically hungry due to the pandemic. The CRUS Youth Advisory Council hopes to fund youth-led organizations and programs addressing hunger and malnutrition for children and youth in historically excluded communities in the target regions. We seek to fund programs with an intersectional approach that advances gender and racial equity. This could include but is not limited to programs or campaigns that connect communities to food distribution programs, provide meals, focus on community-led gardening and/or use advocacy campaigns to address food insecurity.

### Mental Health

Mental health is a growing and critical issue amongst children and young people in our target regions, especially amongst BIPOC, LGBTQ+ (see appendices) and other historically marginalized groups. The CRUS Youth Advisory Council seeks to fund youth-led organizations and programs working to address trauma, mental illness, and adverse childhood experiences for children and youth in historically excluded communities, or campaigns that provide a safe space for children and youth to talk about their challenges, peer counseling training programs, sports programs promoting wellness, and advocacy to expand mental health care services to marginalized communities.

\*Intersections: We consider the issues of racial equity, gender equity, and youth leadership to be critical in any strategy that seeks to address education, hunger, or mental health issues. Your proposal should demonstrate an understanding of these intersections in your community and how you address one or more of these intersections through your project. Examples include, but are not limited to, projects focused on increasing girls’ access to education, supporting youth to lead food drives in schools, or improving mental health access in indigenous communities. Please see this [link](#) for a definition of intersectionality or view this short TED Talk [video](#) with Dr. Kimberle Crenshaw, who coined this widely used term.

While applying for one of these three pillars of Access to Quality Education, Addressing Child Hunger, or Mental Health, the proposal must also include a focus on one or more of these throughlines; racial equity, gender equity, or youth leadership development. **Applications open on June 17th and can be submitted [here](#) by August 6th, 2021.**

### **Eligibility:**

- Applicants for the fund should be a group of three or more young people (under 25 years old) sponsored by a registered nonprofit or registered as a nonprofit with a youth- run and led program.

- The program must be focused on supporting youth from low-income backgrounds (as defined in the context of where the program is operating). For example, in the US this might be for youth who are on free and reduced price school lunch; internationally it might be an established poverty level for that country (e.g. under \$2/day).
- The sponsoring organization must be registered in either the US, Colombia, Cambodia, Somalia, or Kenya and have a bank account that can receive funds from the US. In the US, this would be a 501c3 IRS status. In Colombia, this would require a “Certificado de Existencia y Representación Legal”. In Cambodia, this would require a “Certificate of Registration of Domestic Association of Non-Governmental Organization” or “Registration Letter from the Ministry of Interior”. In Kenya, this would require a “Certificate of Registration with the Non-Governmental Organizations Board”.
- The sponsoring organization must have (see definition below for sponsoring organization):
  - An annual budget (showing income and expenses)
  - An effective governance with an Advisory Council or Board of Directors
  - A demonstrated commitment to the safeguarding of children or child protection policy and vulnerable adults<sup>1</sup> (see definition below)
  - A demonstrated commitment to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion<sup>2</sup> (see definition below)

**The Juntanza Fund does not fund the following:**

- Individuals (you must partner with a registered nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor)
- Lobbying or partisan political activity
- Research projects with no follow-up action
- Retroactive expenses (pre-dating application submission)
- For-profit companies and/or limited liability corporations

**GRANT PROCESS**

- 1) Use the checklist on [the application form](#) to confirm that you’re a good fit for the Fund.
- 2) Mark the deadline on your calendar: August 6th.
- 3) Complete the application form [here](#).
- 4) Selected Grant Recipients will be notified in mid-September.
- 5) Funding will be provided to grant recipients within a month of signing the Grant Agreement or within a month of the start of their program.
- 6) Project Start Dates are between October 1, 2021 - January 15, 2022.
- 7) Plan to attend a mid-term focus group with your peers to talk about your progress.
- 8) Plan to send a final report with photos telling the story of your work and what you accomplished during the grant period.

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<sup>1</sup> See Comic Relief’s [Child & Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy](#) for more background

<sup>2</sup> See Comic Relief’s [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement](#) for more background

## APPENDICES

### FUNDING PRIORITIES

#### ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

##### **The Opportunity:**

More than a quarter of a billion children and young people have been “left behind” and are totally excluded from education systems around the world; the COVID-19 pandemic has made the problem worse. As much as a year’s worth of academic progress by disadvantaged children in the Global South may have been lost due to school closures. In the US, Black, Indigenous, and other non-Black students of color attend schools that are statistically more likely to be under-resourced, outdated, and in many cases hazardous to their health. Cambodian children are not achieving learning standards appropriate for their age. The ethnic population in Colombia has the lowest literacy rate in the country, while 6 out of 15 people belonging to ethnic groups in Colombia cannot read or write. In Kenya, more than 1.2 million primary-school-age children do not attend school, with the largest inequity affecting marginalized groups like children with disabilities, children living in pastoral and nomadic communities and in urban [informal settlements](#).

##### **What we seek to fund:**

Education is one of the greatest pathways to lift individuals and communities out of poverty. It gives power to historically marginalized groups to transform the systems that oppress them. The CRUS Youth Advisory Council seeks to fund youth-led organizations and programs working to improve access to quality education for children and youth in historically excluded communities in the stated regions. We seek to fund programs with an intersectional approach that advances gender and racial equity. For example, a huge issue that came to light this year in COVID and education is the “digital divide” for girls and women who often have less access to technology and the internet compared to boys and men.

#### CHILD HUNGER

##### **The Opportunity:**

Food is a basic necessity that humans need to survive; the amount of young lives lost to hunger and malnutrition is 150 million too many. Exacerbated by the economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger and malnutrition are taking over communities in poverty in countries like Cambodia, Kenya, and the United States. In Kenya, 26% of children under five years are

stunted and 4% suffer from wasting and malnutrition, while significant disparities exist across counties affected by recurring drought and [poverty](#). In Cambodia, one in three children suffers from chronic malnutrition, causing devastating effects on their physical appearance and capabilities. The US is the leading country for food waste, with approximately 40 million tons of food wasted every year. That's 219 pounds per person. Despite the enormous amount of food waste, 41 million Americans still face hunger, with 13 million children and families of single parents who can't qualify for federal food assistance. BIPOC Youth are at more risk for severe malnourishment. African American households face hunger at twice the risk of white households.

**What we seek to fund:**

The CRUS Youth Advisory Council seeks to fund youth-led organizations and programs working to address hunger and malnutrition for children and youth in historically excluded communities in the stated regions. We seek to fund programs with an intersectional approach that advances gender and racial equity. This could include, but is not limited to, programs or campaigns that connect communities to government supported hunger relief programs, meals support, or awareness campaigns on food insecurity issues and advocacy pathways to pursue policy solutions.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

**The Opportunity:** Mental health greatly affects one's ability to thrive, especially for historically marginalized youth who often face other issues unique to their identity. Before the COVID19 pandemic, mental health problems such as depression and anxiety were on the rise in children ages 6 to 17, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Research shows that social isolation can make these symptoms worse. In the United States, one in six young persons aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year, while 60% of youth with major depression do not receive any mental health treatment, even in states with greater access. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death of people aged 10-34 in the US and is the 10th leading cause of death in the US. The landscape of mental health challenges and access to care in Cambodia, Colombia, and Eastern Africa is also a serious issue. Youth and vulnerable populations in these regions have high rates of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to high rates of violence from things such as war, gang activity, domestic abuse, and trauma from past events. Mental health also provides a challenge to children on the move who have been relocated from their homes due to war or conflict.

**What we seek to fund:**

Mental Health is a growing and critical issue amongst children and young people within the United States, Cambodia, Colombia, and Eastern Africa, and especially amongst BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and other historically marginalized communities. The CRUS Youth Advisory Council seeks to fund youth-led organizations and programs working to address the mental health support needed for children and youth in historically excluded communities in the stated regions. We seek to fund programs with an intersectional approach that advances gender and

racial equity. This could include, but is not limited to, programs or campaigns that focus on education, awareness, safe spaces, and improving access for young people to get the health care they need. This does not include programs or campaigns that put young people in charge of someone's mental health care.

## Key Terms:

- **RFP** = Request for Proposal (a document outlining directions for grant applicants to apply for funding; it outlines funding guidelines)
- **Sponsoring Organization** = In this specific context, all funding must be made directly to a registered nonprofit organization. The established organization would be responsible for ensuring that the funds are properly managed. The Sponsoring Organization must meet the requirements outlined above.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion** = see [definition provided by the University of Michigan](#) as an example of definitions for these terms.
- **Historically marginalized / excluded communities** = communities that have been victims of segregation, persecution, discrimination, slavery, colonization, and other forms of oppression. Examples include: BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color); religious minorities; women; LGBTQ+ people; members of certain castes; veterans; differently abled people; among others. For an example of a DEI policy, [click here](#).
- **Child & Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding** = The practice of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults includes having appropriate policies and mechanisms in place to prevent abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation of these populations. Additionally, they include a reporting and investigation process for alleged incidents, organizational standards and values, guidelines around interaction with these populations, and use of media. For an example of a safeguarding policy, [click here](#).