



Trump Administration Cuts Funding for Effective Lifesaving Programs in King County

For immediate release:

Media Contact: Rachel Sottile, President & CEO rsottile@ccyj.org, Eileen Schuetz, Development of Director, eschuetz@ccyj.org

Seattle, WA. -- On Tuesday, April 22, the Office of Justice Programs and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, part of the Department of Justice, immediately terminated hundreds of grants critical to improving public safety and reducing violence in this country. The DOJ targeted nonprofits, research institutions, substance use organizations, and victim advocacy groups that play a critical role in prevention efforts.

With this action, the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) had over \$4 million taken away; funds that have been providing critical support to communities and partners who work diligently to keep our youth safe through Community Violence Interruption (CVI) programs. CVI uses credible community members to work with high-risk young people to stop violence before it happens. Research shows these programs are some of the most effective violence-reduction strategies: a South Bronx neighborhood saw a 63% reduction in shootings thanks to this work.

The sudden cessation of continued funding means we are unable to be reimbursed for some work already completed and have been forced to terminate employees and discontinue vital subcontracts with community providers causing immediate stoppage of this important work.

Abruptly upending the years of planning with community, law enforcement, educational, and state and local government partners, who invested in building the necessary infrastructure to perform this critical work, is wasteful and violates our contractual agreement.

The administration has failed to provide a proper legal basis to justify its harmful actions, which will devastate proven public safety strategies and destabilize communities.

The Center for Children & Youth Justice is currently working on the next steps, and we plan to vigorously fight the funding cuts in court.

CCYJ President & CEO Rachel Sottile says, “The current administration promised the American people it would prioritize safety and security, yet actions to cut Community Violence Intervention (CVI) funding will make communities less safe. These cuts reverse years of

bipartisan progress — from Democrats and Republicans — to support evidence-based, community-led solutions. At a time when we need unity, this decision politicizes public safety and punishes what works”

The Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ) is the only statewide organization focused solely on reforming Washington state’s child welfare and youth legal systems. Founded by Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.) nearly 20 years ago, CCYJ has pioneered, developed, and advocated for countless innovations that have led to more compassionate, equitable, and effective support for Washington children, youth, and families.