



March 1, 2010

Dear Community Leader:

Advocates for Youth is pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for community-based, Muslim youth-serving organizations and institutions. Advocates for Youth is a national organization dedicated to creating programs and advocating for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates provides information, training, and strategic assistance to youth-serving organizations, policy makers, youth activists, and the media in the United States and the developing world.

Almost half of all new STI infections in the United States occur in young people under age 25. Additionally, at the end of 2006, in 45 states with reporting, almost 46,000 young people ages 13-24 were living with HIV, comprising about sixteen percent of all HIV infections. But experts believe young people may suffer from up to 30 percent of all cases of HIV in the United States.

Even though public health programs have attempted to address the needs of many marginalized youth communities, the Muslim youth community continues to remain invisible. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United States and Muslim youth are facing myriad of challenges including an immigrant hostile environment, Islamophobia, and a general lack of understanding of what it means to be "Muslim" from the mainstream communities. To address the specific needs of Muslim youth around reproductive and sexual health, Advocates created the Muslim Youth Project. The Muslim Youth Project provides a forum for organizations working with Muslim youth to highlight their voices and bring their experiences to the fore-front.

Through the Muslim Youth Project, your organization may receive strategic capacity building assistance, including publications and materials; written and electronic correspondence; telephone consultations; on-site training; and/or a seed grant in the amount of \$5,000 to implement an HIV/STI and teen pregnancy prevention project. Services offered through this initiative are tailored to fit the needs of your organization.

Please see the attached materials for more information about this opportunity, including eligibility and criteria for selection. The application form and/or proposal are due by **March 31, 2010, 5:00 p.m. EDT**. Please e-mail and/or mail or fax applications to Urooj Arshad, Program Manager, Youth of Color Initiative, Advocates for Youth, 2000 M Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20036. Fax: (202) 419-1448. urooj@advocatesforyouth.org Please call to confirm the receipt of your application.

Working together, we believe that we can strengthen efforts to address the reproductive and sexual health needs of Muslim youth. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with your organization to broaden and increase the positive impact we ALL can achieve in the lives of our youth. If you need further information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 419-3420 or at urooj@advocatesforyouth.org

Sincerely,

Urooj Arshad
Program Manager, Youth of Color Initiative

Description of Available Services for Advocates for Youth's Muslim Youth Project

The **goal** of Advocates for Youth's Muslim Youth Project is to build the capacity of community-based, youth-serving organizations and institutions to provide science-based, culturally relevant reproductive and sexual health programming for Muslim youth 13 to 24 years old.

Level I: General Resources and Capacity Building Assistance on Reproductive and Sexual health Programming

Level I services are available to all Muslim youth serving organizations. Services are designed to build effective reproductive and sexual health programming for Muslim youth 13 to 24 years old.

1. **Resource Materials.** Your organization will receive quarterly informational mailings of materials on reproductive and sexual health programs.
2. **Technical Assistance.** Your organization may request ongoing technical assistance via telephone, e-mail, and/or fax. Topics include: science-based sex education and HIV, STI, and teen pregnancy prevention programming (including life skills); cultural competence; HIV, STI, and teen pregnancy prevention programming for lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth; parent-child communication; peer education; community planning groups; youth-adult partnerships to promote youth's involvement in prevention programming; youth-friendly services and organizational development, and new media among others. In addition, you will have access to Advocates for Youth's online database of over 18,000 peer-reviewed journal articles on adolescent sexual and reproductive health.
3. **Electronic Newsletter.** Your organization will receive a quarterly (four times a year) electronic newsletter, highlighting reproductive and sexual health issues for Muslim youth.
4. **Listserv.** Your organization may participate in a listserv for Muslim youth serving organizations hosted by Advocates for Youth, to share information and resources.

Level II: General Resources, Capacity Building Assistance, Training and Seed Grant for Muslim Youth Project

Level II services include all of the general resources and capacity building assistance, as described above, as well as a tailored workshop and training on effective reproductive and sexual health programming for Muslim youth 13 to 24 years old and a seed grant of \$5000.00

1. **Training.** Training may be tailored for staff members, peer educators, and/or community members. Advocates for Youth will cover all expenses of the trainer, including travel, lodging, honorarium, and training materials. Partners are expected to cover meeting logistics, room rental, refreshments, and other associated costs. Training topics include: science-based sex education and HIV, STI, and teen pregnancy prevention programming (including life skills); cultural competence; HIV, STI, and teen pregnancy prevention programming for lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth; parent-child communication; peer education; community planning groups; youth-adult partnerships to promote youth's involvement in prevention programming; youth-friendly services and organizational development and new media, among others.
2. **Seed Grant.** Your organization may receive a seed grant, in the amount of \$5,000, for the purpose of conducting a reproductive and sexual health project for Muslim youth 13 to 24 years old. The goals of the project must be to raise awareness of reproductive and sexual health issues for Muslim youth and to empower them to get involved in prevention programming. The funding may be used to conduct a variety of activities, including developing youth-friendly public service announcements, videos, and/or brochures; organizing youth forums; and/or establishing a peer education program, to name a few. In addition, Advocates for Youth will not fund one time events. It is anticipated that funded projects will

become self-sustaining by leveraging additional funds for use once the project period has ended. The selected partner will be responsible for completing the activities described in its proposal. The project period is from May 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

Please indicate your interest in participating in this project, by returning the attached application form by March 31, 2010. Please call to confirm the receipt of your application. Awards will be announced by April 15, 2010.

Application Form
Advocates for Youth
Muslim Youth Project

Organization _____

Contact Name _____

Title/Position _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State and Zip code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Organization Web site: _____

Please check the level of service you are applying for:

Level I Services (Return this form only.)

- We would like to receive the following services from Advocates for Youth:
 - Resource Materials
 - Technical Assistance (telephone, e-mail, and/or fax)
 - Electronic Newsletter
 - Listserv

Level II Services (Return this form and a proposal for a seed grant for reproductive and sexual health project. See attached guidelines.)

- We would like to receive the following services from Advocates for Youth:
 - Resource Materials
 - Technical Assistance (telephone, e-mail, and/or fax)
 - Electronic Newsletter
 - Listserv

Plus Free Workshop(s) or Training(s)

Plus Seed grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the purpose of conducting an HIV/STI and teen pregnancy prevention project.

- We are not interested in participating in the project at this time. However, please keep up on your mailing list.

Please return by e-mail and/or fax or mail by March 31, 2010, 5:00 p.m. EDT to:

Urooj Arshad
Program Manager, Youth of Color Initiative
Advocates for Youth
2000 M Street, NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20036
Ph: (202) 419-3420
Fax: (202) 419-1448

urooj@advocatesforyouth.org **Please call to confirm the receipt of your application**

Advocates for Youth
Muslim Youth Project

**Proposal Guidelines for Level II Services
Reproductive and sexual health Project Seed Grant
Project Year: May 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011**

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Youth of Color Initiative, the applicant must:

- Be a United States 501(c)(3) Muslim youth-serving, community-based organization (if not a 501(c)(3), can also work with a fiscal agent with a 501(c)(3) status).
- Work collaboratively with Advocates for Youth.
- Agree to fulfill all expectations for participation.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Proposals will be evaluated based on the applicants' history of working on reproductive and sexual health issues (however, the organization does not necessarily have had previous experience working on these issues), geographic location within a Muslim community; demonstrated motivation and capacity to serve young people; commitment to youth's involvement; solid background working effectively within the community; strong leadership; organizational commitment to working within an intersectional framework addressing race, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability and staff's capacity and readiness to implement the proposed work plans. The target population for the proposed project is Muslim youth 13 to 24 years old.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Proposals should be no more than five (5) to seven (7) single-spaced typewritten pages in length have 1" margins on all pages, top bottom, left and right, and be typed in 12 point font. Your proposal should include a project narrative which contains organizational background information, local needs, community demographics, staff capacity, and training needs. Please provide the following:

A. Organizational Background (one page)

Describe the history and background of the organization. Include information on reproductive and sexual health programming. Detail, as appropriate, how the organization has:

- developed specific reproductive and sexual health programming targeting Muslim youth;
- developed youth programming (not focused on reproductive and sexual health);
- worked in partnership with other local groups on reproductive and sexual health programming Muslim communities;
- worked within an intersectional framework addressing race, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.

B. Local Needs/Demographics (one page)

Provide an overview of reproductive and sexual health issues in the local area and describe the local need for the project. Include information on issues impacting adolescent sexual health in your local area.

C. Capacity (one page)

Describe the organization's capacity to support reproductive and sexual health efforts (see Criteria for Selection). You may address the following areas:

- public education
- technical assistance and training
- coalition building
- community mobilization
- intersectional framework addressing race, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability

D. Training Needs (½ page)

Describe the type of training/workshop you would like to receive, including potential audience; goals and objectives; and setting of training. Training topics may include, but are not limited to:

- science-based sex education
- HIV, STI, and teen pregnancy prevention programming (including life skills)
- cultural competence
- HIV, STI, and teen pregnancy prevention programming for lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning young women
- parent-child communication
- peer education
- community planning groups
- youth-adult partnerships to promote youth's involvement in prevention programming, and
- youth-friendly services
- organization development
- coalition building
- new media

E. Goals/Objectives/Activities/Timeline/Evaluation Plan (two pages)

Describe project goals, objectives, activities, timeline, and evaluation plan of the proposed project. Your evaluation plan should include process evaluation (e.g. attendance log; number of youth/staff trained, etc.) Additionally, you should include short-term outcomes (e.g. changes in knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of youth, etc.). Objectives should be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-phased). For each objective:

- list activities that will be implemented
- provide a timeline for accomplishments

For example:

Goal: By March 31, 2011, our organization will have raised awareness about HIV prevention issues among Muslim youth 13 to 24 years old.

Objective: Upon completion of the project, our organization will have developed and implemented a peer education program for 20 Muslim youth 13 to 24 years old.

Activity 1: By May 15, 2010, our program staff will have developed and disseminated an application to recruit 20 Muslim youth for the peer education program.

Activity 2: By June 15, 2010, our program staff will have selected and trained 20 Muslim youth to serve as peer educators.

F. Budget (one page)

- Include an itemized budget and budget justification for the proposed project
- Fringe benefits and equipment related line items will not be funded
- Over head cost should not exceed more than 10% of the proposed budget
- Salaries (excluding youth stipends) should not exceed more than the third of the total proposed budget

G. Letters of Support (2-3 pages)

- Include a signed letter of support and commitment from the organization's executive director.
- Include one to two letters of support from organizations that have collaborated with your organization in the past. The letter should include ways in which your organization will be supported if funded by Advocates for Youth.

Deadline for Proposals

Proposals must be e-mailed and/or postmarked or faxed by **March 31, 2010, 5:00 p.m. EDT**. Please submit the proposal to:

Urooj Arshad
Program Manager, Youth of Color Initiative
Advocates for Youth
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Washington, DC 20036
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urooj@advocatesforyouth.org

Please call to confirm the receipt of your application.

**Advocates for Youth
Muslim Youth Project**

Application Check List and Tips for a Successful Proposal. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

A complete application for the Muslim Youth Project should include all of the following:

- Project narrative:** Containing organizational background information, local needs, community demographics, and staff capacity and training needs.
- Work plan/ timeline:** Outline specific project goals, objectives, and activities.
- Evaluation plan:** Outline process evaluation and short-term outcomes.
- Budget and budget justification:** Provide a plan for the coordination of grant expenditures and a description of the budget items with a justification of the costs by showing their relationship to the project activities.
- Brief biographies of key project staff:** Limit to one page each and do not include staff résumés.
- Letters of support and commitment:** Include a signed letter of support and commitment from the organization's executive director and one to two letters of support from organizations that have collaborated with your organization in the past. The letter should include ways in which your organization will be supported if funded by Advocates for Youth.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

To ensure that your proposal meets the aforementioned criteria and guidelines effectively as possible be sure to address the following:

- **Project narrative:** Have you described how your project will meet the needs of the target population?
- **Documented need:** Have you provided information that this project will address an unmet need or fill a gap in services in the community?
- **Work plan:** Have you outlined a clear and practical approach and a preliminary plan for implementing goals, objectives, and activities? Have you used SMART objectives?
- **Community impact:** Have you shown that funding will help the target population access services and/or strengthen the community's efforts in addressing reproductive and sexual health issues?
- **Expected results:** Have you stated project results or outcomes in measurable terms so that you and others can document, measure, and evaluate your success?
- **Youth involvement:** Have you stated how young people will be involved with the design, implementation and evaluation of the proposed project?
- **Intersectionality:** Have you demonstrated your organization's commitment to working within an intersectional framework addressing race, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability?