



## JAMS Foundation-ACR Initiative for Students and Youth 2020 Recipients Announced

On January 6, 2020, the JAMS Foundation/ACR 2020 grant program began with the submission of 130 Project Descriptions. The focus for 2020 was:

*The reduction in anti-social behavior in the school building as well as outside the schoolhouse, e.g. field trips, on the playground etc. and an increase in the development of conflict resolution education skills in and with youth that modifies the normative culture and enhances positive school climate in elementary school(s).*

ACR reviewers reduced that number to 12 and those organizations were invited to submit a full grant. Nine organizations responded and after an evaluation process, four grants were recommended to the JAMS Foundation Board of Directors. The following organizations are the recipients of the 2020 JAMS Foundation-ACR Initiative for Students and Youth Grant:

### ***Kids First Law Center Cedar Rapids, IA***

**Project:** This is a restorative justice program in 3 elementary schools (K-5). The program was launched in August 2019 after being used in middle school for several years. A facilitator attends each school one or two days a week to facilitate the conflict resolution issues using a restorative justice model. The requested funds would be used to add a facilitator in each school half-day, every day. The 3 schools have an enrollment of 1063 and 3153 disciplinary referrals due to conflict-related incidents for the 2018-19 school years.

### ***Harris County Department of Education- Center for Safe and Secure Schools Houston, TX***

**Project:** The title of the project is the Center for Safe and Secure Schools (CSSS) #RollingwithRestorative – Conflict Resolution Program. The program will train teachers, counselors, school personnel, and students in conflict resolution and support implementation of these practices during their interactions with youth, parents and school personnel through restorative practices models

Congratulations to these two organizations. There is a lot of great work being done. It is unfortunate that we cannot provide funding for more projects.