

FY27 ACHIEVEMENT CENTER ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT (APS) Pre-Conference and Technical Assistance Session

Administered by Progressive Life Center

HARMONY BALANCE INTERCONNECTEDNESS AUTHENTICITY

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Today's Session

Purpose

Review the FY2027 APS, program categories, application requirements, evaluation process, and key dates.

Who should attend

Organizations considering an application to provide programming for DYRS Achievement Center youth and young adults.

What applicants should leave with

A clear understanding of program fit, required documents, submission steps, and the FY27 transition timeline.

Questions about the APS or application support: applications@plcntu.org

Please use the FY2027 APS as the controlling source for complete requirements and definitions.



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DYRS and the Achievement Center

Mission and Organization:

Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)

- DYRS is the District of Columbia agency responsible for the supervision, custody, and care of young people detained or committed by the DC Family Court.
- DYRS' mission is to give youth the opportunity to become more productive citizens by building on the strengths of youth and their families in the least restrictive, most homelike environment consistent with public safety.

Achievement Center setting:

- 2101 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE, Washington, DC. Youth participate in structured activities, workshops, job fairs, family nights, career exploration, workforce development, and educational opportunities.

Programming framework

- Achievement Center programming is grounded in the Positive Youth Justice (PYJ) framework and supports youth development, strengths, and community connection.

Progressive Life Center (PLC)

Progressive Life Center provides quality mental health and social services to individuals, families, organizations, and communities in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

APS administration

PLC administers the FY2027 APS solicitation and coordinates applicant communications, application review activities, and award transition steps.

Grant oversight

PLC monitors grantee progress through communications, reports, site visits, and review of required documentation.

Grantee support

PLC serves as the application point of contact and coordinates onboarding and contract execution with DYRS and awarded subgrantees.



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FY2027 APS: Purpose and intended impact

The APS seeks organizations that will equip justice-involved youth with skills, training, and opportunities to succeed in the workforce and generate sustainable income.

Youth ages 14–16

Build foundational soft skills, work readiness, life skills, and career exploration to spark early interest in future pathways.

Young adults ages 17–24 (category-specific)

Provide vocational and technical training, apprenticeships, on-the-job learning, and pathways that support a learning-to-earning transition.

Programs should emphasize employability, efficiency, measurable outcomes, and real placement or progression opportunities.

APS Programs

1 | Credentialed vocational

Ages 17–24 • Up to $60,000
8–16 weeks • Up to 150 youth
Recognized credential required.

1 | Technical skills

Ages 17–24 • Up to $60,000
4–12 weeks • Up to 10 youth
40+ training hours; 40% applied.

2 | Work readiness

Ages 14–16 • Up to $30,000
4–12 weeks • Up to 10 youth
Life skills, career exploration, financial literacy.

3 | Leadership & civic engagement

Ages 14–16 OR 17–21
Up to $30,000 • 4–12 weeks
Up to 10 youth; one age group at a time.

4 | Music, art & creative expression

Ages 14–16 OR 17–21
Up to $30,000 • 4–6 weeks
Up to 10 youth; one age group at a time.

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Category 1 | Credentialed vocational training

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AGES 17–24 | UP TO $60,000

- Program duration: 8–16 weeks
- Maximum: 150 youth participants per program
- Hands-on vocational, occupational, or workforce training
- Must result in a nationally or industry-recognized credential, certificate, or occupational trade certificate
- Credential must be portable, job-related, attainable during the program, and meaningful to employers
- Describe credential name, issuer, requirements, training hours, exam costs, prerequisites, and employment pathway

Employment connection

Show a viable pathway from training to employment, apprenticeship, continued training, or post-secondary education.

Minimum outcomes

Recruitment and enrollment; attendance (at least 80% of training sessions); credentials earned; and certification exam pass rate.

Category 1 | Technical & employment skills training

AUTHENTICITY INTERCONNECTEDNESS BALANCE HARMONY

AGES 17–24 | UP TO $60,000

- Program duration: 4–12 weeks
- Maximum: 10 youth participants
- Teach a defined technical or occupational skill set tied to an occupation, industry, or employment pathway
- Provide at least 40 hours of structured technical instruction and applied practice per participant
- At least 40% of technical training hours must be hands-on/applied
- Include a structured curriculum, learning objectives, instructional sequence, methods, and qualified instructors

Examples of technical skills

Carpentry, automotive repair, culinary arts, landscaping, building maintenance, digital media production, computer hardware, sewing, or facilities maintenance.

Minimum outcomes

Recruitment and enrollment; attendance (at least 80% of sessions); and a defined completion standard demonstrating an acquired technical skill or competency.

Category 2 | Work readiness, career exploration & life skills

AGES 14–16 | UP TO $30,000

- Program duration: 4–12 weeks
- Maximum: 10 youth participants
- Build practical life skills for personal, educational, and employment settings
- Explore diverse career paths, high-demand occupations, and lesser-known jobs
- Include workplace exposure, guest speakers, tours, job shadowing, or career fairs
- Include foundational financial literacy and economic empowerment

Life skills

Communication, conflict resolution, problem-solving, goal setting, time management, accountability, emotional regulation, teamwork, leadership, and digital literacy.

Career & financial readiness

Career assessments and planning; workplace communication; budgeting, banking, savings, credit, wages, taxes, and entrepreneurship.

Minimum outcomes

Enrollment; attendance (at least 80%); and demonstrated skill or competency.

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Category 3 | Leadership & Civic Engagement

AGES 14–16 OR 17–21 | UP TO $30,000

4–12 weeks | Up to 10 youth

- Cultivates confidence, responsibility, and meaningful community contribution
- Youth identify community needs and participate in projects that address them
- Activities may include service-learning, youth-led improvement projects, neighborhood beautification, food or clothing drives, and environmental projects
- Applicant must specify one age group; the program will not serve both age ranges at one time

Minimum outcomes

Number of youth recruited and enrolled; attendance (at least 80% of program sessions); and number of youth who complete their registered civic engagement activity.

Program emphasis

A structured, youth-centered experience that allows participants to practice leadership and contribute to their communities.

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Category 4 | Music, art & creative expression

AUTHENTICITY INTERCONNECTEDNESS BALANCE HARMONY

AGES 14–16 OR 17–21 | UP TO $30,000
4–6 weeks | Up to 10 youth

- Offers culturally responsive, youth-centered creative and cultural enrichment
- Mediums may include visual arts, music, dance, theater, creative writing, and digital media
- Supports artistic expression, cultural identity, community storytelling, critical thinking, and collaboration
- Applicant must specify one age group; the program will not serve both age ranges at one time

Minimum outcomes

Number of youth recruited and enrolled; attendance (at least 80% of program sessions); and a measurable completion standard that includes participation and a demonstrated acquired skill or competency.

Program emphasis

Help young people see themselves as creators, leaders, and cultural contributors, using creative tools to encourage dialogue and positive community change.

Youth participation, retention & engagement supports

DYRS will provide youth referrals; applicants should also expect to collaborate in recruitment and show how they will engage, retain, and support youth who may face barriers to participation.

Remove participation barriers

Transportation assistance; meals and refreshments; participant incentives or stipends where allowable.

Provide what youth need

Work clothing, uniforms, footwear, tools, equipment, PPE, training materials, supplies, and credential/testing fees as applicable.

Connect to next steps

Identification/documentation assistance; employer engagement; job placement; internships; apprenticeships; and work-based learning.

Applicants should build the necessary successful supports into the program design and budget. Do not assume youth can participate without addressing logistical and other barriers.



Applicant eligibility & program locations

Eligible applicant types

Nonprofit organizations (including 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)); faith-based organizations; universities/educational institutions; and private enterprises.

Program location

Priority is given to programming at the DYRS Achievement Center, 2101 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE. Community-based sites may be proposed and require DYRS approval.

If proposing a community location, describe the facility address, access, days/times available, capacity, accessibility, amenities, and safety/supervision protocols. If the organization does not have a dedicated facility, explain how services will be delivered through partnerships, mobile programming, or community sites. Staff must complete required background clearances before direct work with youth.



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Application content & required documents

APPLICATION FORMAT

- Narrative: maximum 4 pages (budget, budget narrative, and cover page excluded)
- Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced
- Address project idea, target population, organizational capacity, monitoring & evaluation, budget, and budget narrative
- Submit all application materials together in one email
- Use descriptive file names for attachments

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Required APS cover page
- Current Certificate of Good Standing (within 6 months before submission)
- Current-year IRS W-9
- Tax exemption affirmation letter, or acceptable alternative evidence
- Current fiscal year budget and budget-to-actual comparison
- Most recent audited/reviewed financials, or unaudited financials
- Indirect cost rate agreement or signed calculation explanation
- Separation of duties policy/statement
- Letters of support; partner documents if applicable
- SAM registration evidence if federally funded; signed PCA

Budget, funding & reimbursement

Award ceilings

Up to $60,000 for credentialed vocational and technical skills training. Up to $30,000 for work readiness, career exploration, financial literacy, leadership/civic engagement, and creative expression.

Cost principles

Costs must be allowable, reasonable, allocable to the grant, consistent, and adequately documented. Budget narrative must explain each line item, calculation, and purpose.

Reimbursement

Grants are generally cost-reimbursement. Costs must be paid before reimbursement is requested, with proof of cost incurred. No payments until the award package and purchase order are established.

There is no matching-funds requirement. All available APS funds may be allocated early; number and amount of awards are subject to change. Programs must conclude by September 30, 2027.

Application review & scoring

Project idea	20 points
Target population	20 points
Organizational capacity & key personnel	20 points
Monitoring & evaluation	20 points
Budget	10 points
Budget narrative	10 points

Total: 100 points | PLC may invite selected applicants to interviews/presentations or pre-award site visits.

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Post-award reporting & monitoring expectations

PROGRAM & PERFORMANCE

- Workplan and monitoring/evaluation plan, including curriculum and instructional methods
- Daily data entry into FAMCare for enrollment, attendance, activities, outcomes, and milestones
- Monthly or mid-program progress reports describing outputs, progress toward targets, changes/challenges, mitigation steps, and upcoming activities
- Final report due 15 days before program end, including impact data, datasets, and assessments

FINANCIAL & COMPLIANCE

- Monthly expense report with supporting documentation for cost reimbursement
- Timely, accurate invoices and substantiation of costs
- Maintain documentation supporting allowable and allocable expenses
- Cooperate with communications, report reviews, on-site monitoring, and audits
- Certificate of insurance and assurance of continued truth/accuracy upon award acceptance
- Complete required clearances before any direct work with youth

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FY2027 APS transition timeline | solicitation to award

November 2, 2026	APS/RFA released; social media distribution
November 5, 2026	Applicant pre-conference / technical assistance
December 4, 2026 • 4:00 PM ET	Cycle 1 application submission deadline
December 7, 2026	Application completeness and eligibility review
December 8–11, 2026	Evaluator application review and scoring
December 14–16, 2026	Applicant interviews
December 17, 2026	Consensus scoring, budget review, recommendations, and final approval
December 18, 2026	Official award notifications



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FY2027 APS transition timeline | onboarding to launch

Week of December 21, 2026	Award acceptance and clearance process begins
Week of December 28, 2026	Final program readiness checks and launch preparation
January 5–6, 2027	Subgrantee onboarding, contract execution, orientation, DYRS Provider Fair, and program coordination
January 11, 2027	Program launch











QUESTIONS & APPLICATION SUPPORT

applications@plcntu.org

Application deadline: December 4, 2026 at 4:00 PM ET

Submit all application documents in ONE email to applications@plcntu.org.

Review the full FY2027 APS for complete requirements and conditions.

LOCATIONS IN:
NEWARK, DELAWARE
WASHINGTON, DC
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
KENSINGTON, MARYLAND
LANDOVER, MARYLAND
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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