

## 2026 J. Russell “Russ” Jennings Scholarship and Mentoring Award

The J. Russell “Russ” Jennings Scholarship and Mentoring Awards are designed to provide justice-involved young people with support to start and finish a two-year educational or vocational technical program. The awards honor Russ Jennings, a lifelong youth justice leader, who believed in young people and generously donated the first funds with the hope of creating opportunities for them to be successful. This award continues his and our commitment to helping justice-involved young people reach their full potential.

<b>Award amount:</b>	\$15,000 for tuition, books, supplies and related necessities upon request
<b>Mentoring:</b>	Support of a mentor with lived experience via monthly or more frequent calls and texts, one in-person visit and other activities as available
<b>Duration:</b>	Two years
<b>Eligibility:</b>	Available to all current residents of a CIYJ partner agency’s program
<b>Requirements:</b>	Completed application package (see below). If selected, recipients must sign a letter of promise to connect with the mentor and complete monthly progress forms
<b>Deadlines:</b>	Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2026. Applicants will be notified in May. The scholarship funds and mentors will be immediately available.

We share the stories of our recipients to demonstrate the need for this kind of support and the positive impact it can have to help us raise funds for future awards. Recipients choose how they would like to be identified and may choose to remain anonymous. If you know someone who would like to get involved in our awards program or donate to support this work, please contact Executive Director Tim Baymon at [tbaymon@improvingyouthjustice.org](mailto:tbaymon@improvingyouthjustice.org)

### THE COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET MUST INCLUDE:

1. Completed Application Form (the second page of this document).
2. An essay explaining how the award will help you pursue your career and your dreams. (250 words)
3. One or more letters of recommendation that speak to the applicant’s ability to finish the program and stay connected to the mentor.
4. Verification of acceptance into educational or vocational program.
5. Completed [Program Completion Plan](#) with as much detail as possible. We understand much may be unknown but want to be sure there is a thoughtful plan to use the funds.

## Application Form

### **Applicant information**

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility or program name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for facility or program contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number to reach the applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

At least one email address is required for communications throughout the two years. If possible, the applicant provides their own email address as well as the email address of a staff they trust.

**Completed applications may be submitted via mail, email or web upload. All are due by April 1, 2026.**

Mail:

Center for Improving Youth Justice  
350 Granite St., Suite 1203  
Braintree, MA 02184

Email:

[help@improvingyouthjustice.org](mailto:help@improvingyouthjustice.org)

Subject line: Jennings Scholarship application

Web upload

<https://improvingyouthjustice.org/scholarships/upload>