



**The Legal Aid Society**  
of ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Condliffe,

The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Attorney for the Child Unit (LASROC) is pleased to write this Letter of Support to Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) in support of the request to Monroe County for the Youth Justice Peer Project. The project is part of a collaborative effort between CCA and Rise Up Rochester to provide wrap around reentry, transition, and violence prevention services in Rochester. LASROC is an integral referral source for that portion of the project that would provide trained peer support services for court involved children and youth ages 10-20. LASROC's young clients could benefit from a compassionate, credible adult who can support them and their families when a child is arrested, removed from their home, aging out of care, or transitioning back to the community from out of home placement.

With Monroe County's support, LASROC Attorneys for the Child would have a designated referral source to a voluntary peer support program that will be driven by a youth advisory board, and tailored to the individual needs of participating children and youth. Trained, adult "justice peers," people with lived experience of the systems LASROC's clients are navigating, would be matched with youth referred into the program and could provide the instrumental human support it is simply not possible for attorneys to provide – accompaniment to medical or educational appointments, engagement in pro-social activities, systems navigation, and credible mentorship.

CCA is seeking matching funds from foundations, as well as other County funding streams. LASROC is uniquely positioned as the agency representing a majority of the youth coming through the family court system to both make timely referrals, and to recommend former clients who may have an interest in becoming valuable (paid) members of CCA's Youth Advisory Board, which will co-design the day to day operations of this project.

LASROC, Attorney for the Child Unit strongly supports this application to Monroe County for ARPA funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stephen R. Weisbeck'.

Stephen R. Weisbeck, Esq.  
Director, Juvenile Justice Program  
The Legal Aid Society of Rochester

Carla M. Palumbo, Esq., President & CEO