Youth Development

as regards to the

New Orleans Rotary Fund, Inc. Grant

Opportunity Youth – A Definition – “Young people ages 16 to 24 out of work are forgotten by society. Whether they leave high school without a diploma, or graduate high school and attend college, they lack the preparation needed to obtain a decent job in a 21st century economy. Ignoring them costs us billions of dollars every year in lost productivity and social services, and negatively impacts our own futures.

Youth who are out of school and out of work, dubbed “opportunity youth,” hold enormous potential to become key leaders in our society – given proper opportunities and tools. This report shares the voices of these young people who struggle to finish school and enter the workforce.”

 The Annie E. Casey Foundation

**While NORFI** seeks to support the idea of assisting Opportunity Youth programs, **NORFI** also strongly believes in and advocates forpreventing youth from ending up in this designation by catching them earlier (0 – 16 year olds).

**NORFI** understands *youth development* refers to intentional efforts to provide opportunities for youth to enhance their interests, skills, and abilities in a positive manner. Programs should seek to educate and engage youth in productive activities that focus on building upon what they “possess” as opposed to what they “lack.”

**NORFI** seeks either to support *interventions* with the Opportunity Youth age group ***and/or*** to *support programs that prevent* younger children from entering into this group in the first place.

**NORFI** grant applications should meet the following emphases within their program:

1. Programmatic focused request only– no capital requests encouraged
2. Empowerment of youth through life skills building – some examples include:
	1. education skills,
	2. soft skill preparation,
	3. employability, and/or
	4. entrepreneurial education
3. Have a well-defined target population – age range, socio-economic standing
4. Exhibit well-defined outcomes and goals expected for the program
5. With defined target population and expected program outcomes noted in your application, the organization will be required to report back to NORFI as to successes and challenges of the grant funded program.
6. Discuss the plan for sustainability of program beyond grant funding

**NORFI** grants must meet the following basic requirements:

1. Serve youth within the age span of 0-21 years.
2. The program should be located within Orleans Parish, primarily.
3. The 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization must be in operation for at least 3 years.
4. The organization should have a fiscally sound track record