



Access to Justice Grant  
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## A CHILD FOCUSED JOINT PARENTING COACHING GRANT PROGRAM

Submitted By:  
Kansas Alliance for Nonprofits and The Layne Project, Inc

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1. **Project Title:** BeH2O A Child Focused Joint Parenting Coaching Program
2. **Project Narrative:**

Kansas Alliance for Non-Profits (KAN) is a 501(c)(3). Its mission is to strengthen nonprofits & support collaborative solutions in Kansas. KAN is the fiscal sponsor for The Layne Project, Inc (TLP), as TLP moves towards obtaining 501(c)(3) to extend its reach to families without the resources to access its first in class, innovative, comprehensive and trauma-informed array of services. This project aligns with KAN's mission by assisting with grassroots initiatives and addressing community challenges.

TLP's mission is safeguarding childhoods through fostering family connections. The best predictor of whether children fare well during and following parental separation is the duration and degree of conflict. Conflict is natural and inevitable, but combat is optional.

The American Bar Association defines Divorce Coaching as a dispute resolution process, *“a flexible, goal-oriented process designed to support, motivate, and guide people going through divorce to help them make the best possible decisions for their future, based on their particular interests, needs, and concerns.”* [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/dispute\\_resolution/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/dispute_resolution/)

The Johnson County Kansas Family Court Pathways Project explores triage and differentiated case management in domestic relations court. *“Family courts have a monumental task. Judges and staff are asked to help families navigate a legal system not designed to resolve family disputes....The Pathways Project sorts cases into management tracks aiming to deliver*





*the right services to the right families at the right time.*” Johnson County, Kansas Pathways Project.

Early interventions have many benefits for the court, for the parties and for the children. Johnson County Court’s efforts are a part of a larger national effort. The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IIALS), the Family Justice Initiative FIJ), and the Cady Initiative all published reports focused on improving family court process and outcomes. In the fall of 2022, a group of judges, family law attorneys, alternative dispute and mental health professionals, and other partners met to discuss ways to improve the family court and its process. In the Spring of 2023 Johnson County Courts introduced the Pathway Triage System. Within this system, through an initial questionnaire cases screen for Pathway 1 if the parties report that they have no disputes; for Pathway 3 if any of the following are present IPV, DV, protection orders, law enforcement involvement, alleged substance misuse, mental health issues, resist and refuse dynamics, long distance parenting plans, a party is pregnant, a third party is claiming custody or parenting time, or requests for *ex parte* temporary orders are made, and Pathway 2 if they neither fall in Pathway 1 nor 3. From Spring 2023 to Spring 2024, of 1788 cases 34.4% or 615 families fell into Pathway 3.

The goal of the Pathway Triage System is to have a final pretrial conference within 150 days of filing and a trial within 180 days of filing. A future goal is to implement a Pathway 4 for certain post decree matters. Pathway 4 is intended to provide an early opportunity to order the right services to the right families at the right time.

Time is often the enemy of effective interventions. Swift action, comprehensive and





intensive parent education, in combination with innovative trauma-informed programming and coaching are necessary to achieve lasting and impactful changes for these families. Providing all families access to a transformational alternative dispute option such as BeH2O will help reduce the duration and collateral damage of litigation, help the courts to effectively deliver better outcomes for families, improve court efficiencies and increase court user satisfaction.

Our courts can do what is necessary to get the right families, the right services, at the right time; however, if the families do not have the financial means to access these services it is all for naught. In Johnson County, KS or other surrounding counties there is no comprehensive, intensive alternative dispute resolution process or program available to families at free or reduced rates, as such families have no true access to justice.

TLP was established in 2008, and since that time has served families in Johnson County and surrounding counties. In 2015, TLP began teaching an eight-week co-parenting curriculum and ran the program for nearly five years. After receiving feedback from participants, the eight-week program was rewritten by Trina Nudson in 2020 and TLP began offering BeH2O which combines psychoeducation, co-parenting coaching, and alternative dispute resolution. TLP has served approximately 150 families through BeH2O over the past four years.

BeH2O is a sixteen-week child focused joint parenting coaching program, that includes, includes joint, individual, and group meetings, and child inclusion, and provides collectively forty-six hours of psycho-education, and coaching to families, ultimately providing an opportunity for coparents to constructively resolve conflict and end litigation related to child custody and parenting time. Given the level of involvement and comprehensive nature of the





program, there is a significant initial cost investment of \$3500.00, but ultimately, the overall benefits and cost savings to the families and the judiciary is far more. This proposal will allow families to access this program despite their financial means, as well provide necessary research to support the growth of this program throughout the Kansas courts and beyond.

### 3. Project Design

#### A. Implementation Plan

**PHASE ONE** July 2024: upon receiving approval for the grant, TLP will immediately notify Johnson County, Wyandotte County, Leavenworth County, Miami County, and Douglas County domestic courts of the grant funding available and eligibility requirements, as well as provide a form order for Judges to complete and submit to TLP administration upon ordering BeH2O. TLP will finalize research questionnaires with Professor Karey O'Hara of Arizona State University (ASU) who has agreed to research BeH2O.

**PHASE TWO** August 2024: the first BeH2O grant funded class will begin August 19. TLP will submit research questionnaires to and complete intakes for all participants in the August 19 class. TLP will begin the first grant funded class.

**PHASE THREE** (ongoing): TLP will start classes every eight (8) weeks, and by December 2024, TLP will have initial research results for the first BeH2O grant funded class, and by February 2025 TLP will have results for the second grant funded class.





**PHASE FOUR:** April 2025 Professor Karey O’Hara and Trina Nudson will co-author and publish research article identifying the results of the research.

**PHASE FIVE** May 2025 Trina A. Nudson and Karey O’Hara will present research and model for BeH2O at the National AFCC Conference.

**PHASE FIVE** June 2025 TLP will offer a training to other jurisdictions and providers on how to implement BeH2O within their own jurisdictions.

B. Management Structure

Kansas Alliance for Non-Profits (KAN) is fiscal agent of The Layne Project, Inc. The Layne Project, Inc will administer the grant. Trina A. Nudson owns The Layne Project, Inc and will be personally responsible for administrating the Program along with her team of administrative staff, Amy Piccini who has been employed by The Layne Project, Inc as an office manager since September 2022. Trina Nudson regularly consults with Cindy Miles, Executive Director of KAN on a regular and ongoing basis. General content of Trina’s resume follows:

## Experience

### January 2008 – Present

Owner/ Attorney • My Child Advocate, PA

*Reinventing the face of law by opening a one-of-a-kind boutique client centered practice law firm that primarily focuses on representing the best interest of children in high conflict custody disputes.*

*Evolving a brand and proven process that transforms the focus of child custody litigation from being right to getting it right.*

*Inspiring and educating multi-disciplinary sectors on creative and innovative ways to bring a child’s voice into the courtroom.*

*Collaborating and engaging with professionals spanning over multi-disciplines to investigate and gather information to recommend and advocate for a path forward for families.*





*Managing and overseeing professional and administrative staff and collaborating with various vendors and providers to offer best in field service delivery.*

*Providing mediation, case management, parent coordination, custody evaluation, and legal services in high passed, high conflict court proceedings.*

**January 2008 – Present**

Owner/ CEO/ Director of Service Provision/ Divorce Coach • The Layne Project, Inc

*Revolutionizing Court Involved Social Services in Johnson County, KS through establishing, branding, executing, running, and growing a family friendly, trauma informed, comprehensive social service agency.*

*Envisioning, developing, authoring, branding, promoting, executing, and growing exclusive experiential curriculums to include BeH2O sixteen-week co-parenting curriculum, Pause a twelve month family cohesion curriculum, and Lokahi a sixteen week psycho-education group for children going through family transition.*

*Creating and fostering a company culture rooted in our company values of resilience, open-mindedness, competence, and keeping it real.*

*Leading, coaching, mentoring, and learning from our team*

*Evolving as a business owner and community leader*

*Providing internal and external continuing education*

*Collaborating with mental health providers, the court system and other community stakeholders*

*Implementing and executing running our company on the Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS) throughout the agency*

*Creating, finetuning, and developing best practice and proven processes throughout each division of our agency*

**May 2019 – Present**

Kanas Supreme Court – Kanas Lawyers Assistance Program

*Promote, run, and facilitate the Kansas Resiliency Group for Attorneys*

## Education

**University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 1994 - 1998**

*Bachelor's in Social Work, Bachelor's in Human Development & Family Life*

**University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 1994 - 1998**





*Juris Doctorate*

**Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS Fall 2006**  
*Domestic Mediation Certificate*

**Washburn Law School, Topeka, KS Fall 2006**  
*Certificate in Domestic Case Management*

**Children Beyond Dispute, Spring 2017**  
*Certificate in Child Inclusive Mediation*

**Certified Divorce Coaching Institute, Summer 2017**  
*Certified Divorce Coach Certification*

**CINERGY, Fall 2017**  
*Conflict Management Training*

**New Ways for Families Coach Certification Program, Fall 2023**  
*New Ways for Families Coach*

## Leadership

*I have envisioned, branded, and grown two innovative, one of kind businesses that have helped solve a community problem and changed the landscape of court involved work in Johnson County, KS. I have authored and implemented family and co-parenting curriculums. My Child Advocate, PA won the top 25 of under 25 award through Thinking Bigger in 2019. In 2021 The Layne Project, Inc won the Emerging Business of the Year through the SBDC. I am certified divorce coach, certified mediator, conciliator, parenting coordinator, and case manager. My companies run on EOS and our company culture has been transformed through the Arbinger Institute. I am the chair of the Johnson County Bar Association Family Law Section. I have created and presented local and national workshops, as well as created a discussion guide that accompanies the Tommy film written and produced by Darren Mort and utilized within the Australian Family Court system. I thrive on creativity, high energy, face paced, and do not buckle under pressure. I grow through adversity and see challenges as an opportunity for growth. I learn from my peers, mentors, clients, and staff. I am humbled and grateful for every challenge I have faced and take time to celebrate the simple pleasures.*

4. **Funding Amount Requested:** \$117,810.00

5. **Project Alignment with Priority Areas:**

*Projects that propose innovative alternative dispute resolution strategies to aid in early*







*resolution of Kansas district court cases.*

*Coaching is on the innovative cutting edge of Alternative Dispute Resolution. BeH2O seeks to lead to not only early resolution but also proactively addressing the “frequent-flyer” to litigation phenomenon in domestic cases.*

6. **What Type Of Cases Will This Project Address:** *Specifically, this grant will address domestic cases where child custody is at issue.*
7. **Is This a New Project:** *This is not a new project in that The Layne Project, Inc created BeH2O in 2020 and has served over a hundred families since that time. It is new in that we have not had a grant funded program to allow true access to justice by providing the program to those families who cannot afford it, and though we have done research in house, this project will be researched by Arizona State University.*
8. **Operation of Similar Project:** *The Layne Project, Inc has been running BeH2O since July of 2020, and prior to that ran an eight-week coparenting program from 2015 – 2020. In house research asked 67 participants to BeH2O, to compare their co-parenting relationship before and after completing the BeH2O program. Before completing the program, 40.3% of the participants described their co-parenting relationship as “extremely hostile,” 16.4% “hostile,” 10.4% “moderately angry,” 26.9% indicated “avoidant,” and 4.5% as “cold.” One participant described their coparenting relationship prior to the program as civil and no one described it as friendly. Upon completing BeH2O, 7.5% described their coparenting relationship as “extremely hostile,” 14.9% “hostile,” 4.5% “moderately angry,” 20.9% “avoidant,” and 10.4% indicated “cold.” The results showed 34.3% of participants now described their coparenting relationship as “civil” and 7.5% as friendly. TLP is also currently offering BeH2O at low or no cost to families in need contingent on available funding and are in the process of sending two families through the program at no cost. This is funded through private donations.*
9. **What Eligibility Criteria Will Apply to Determine Who Will Receive Services Through Your Project:** *The District Court Judges will determine which domestic court cases would qualify to receive BeH2O at no cost. To qualify for access a parent must make 150% of the poverty level.*
10. **How Many People Do You Expect to Serve Through This Project During the Grant Period?** *30 families/ 60 parents*
11. **If There is a Greater Demand For Project Services Than You Can Meet, What Criteria Will You Use to Prioritize Who Receives Services?** *We will start a waiting list, increase*





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*class sizes, hire more facilitators, solicit more donations from the community, and begin new classes every six to eight weeks.*

**12. *If You Are Proposing Offering Services At The Self-Help Center, Please List the District Court Self-Help Center Location(s) and Number of Hours You Would Provide At the Center On a Monthly Basis.*** N/A

**13. *If You Are Willing To Provide Remote Legal Services At District Self-Help Centers Throughout the State, Please List the Number of Hours You Would Provide on a Monthly Basis?*** N/A

**14. *How Will Your Project Results Be Evaluated?*** Professor Karey O'Hara of ASU has committed to evaluating the implementation and outcomes of the BeH2O program. Her role will include using a single-case experimental design to rigorously assess the program's effects on child and parent health and wellness. This evaluation will not only provide critical feedback for ongoing program refinement but also contribute to the broader knowledge base regarding effective interventions for families in distress. In addition, TLP will track families rate of resolution of pending issues without the necessity of a trial after the conclusion of BeH2O.

**15. *Have You Ever Received Access to Justice Grant Funds For this Project in the Past?***  
No.

**16. *What Is The Total Estimated Cost for This Project During the Grant Period From All Funding Sources?*** \$126,810.00

**17. *If This Project Will Not Be Fully Funded By ATJ Grant Funds, What Are Your Other Sources of Funding For the Project?*** Private donations.

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**18. Project Budget Breakdown- In the Chart Below, List Project Totals For Each Category, Suning Whole Dollar Amounts.**

| Item                                                               | ATJ                 | Other             | Total               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Personnel Costs</b>                                             |                     |                   |                     |
| Professional Salaries                                              | \$60,000.00         |                   |                     |
| Support Salaries                                                   | \$ 9,600.00         |                   |                     |
| Employee Benefits (taxes, outsourced HR)                           | \$ 6,960.00         |                   |                     |
| Total Personnel Costs                                              | \$76,560.00         |                   |                     |
| <b>Non-Personnel Costs</b>                                         |                     |                   |                     |
| Capital Expenditures                                               | -                   | -                 |                     |
| Non-Capital Expenditures                                           | \$15,500.00         | \$6,000.00        |                     |
| Supplies                                                           | \$ 7,500.00         |                   |                     |
| Travel                                                             | -                   | -                 |                     |
| Insurances                                                         | -                   | \$3,000.00        |                     |
| Audit & Fiscal Sponsor                                             | \$11,000.00         |                   |                     |
| Telephone/Communications/Computer audiovisual and Software systems | \$4,850.00          |                   |                     |
| Other –research support                                            | \$2,400.00          |                   |                     |
| Total Non-personnel costs                                          | \$41,250.00         | \$9,000.00        | \$50,250.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                                                       | <b>\$117,810.00</b> | <b>\$9,000.00</b> | <b>\$126,810.00</b> |

**19. Budget Narrative- Explain How You Will Use the Requested Funds For Each of the Categories Shown Below. If A Category Does Not Apply, Write “N/A.” If You Will Use Funds To Pay Salaries, Include the Names and Titles of Employees or Contractors Who Will Be Funded Through the Grant (if known).**

**a. Personal Costs**

- i. Professional Salaries: \$60,000.00 a year would go towards paying Trina A. Nudson, JD, LBSW, who is fully responsible for overseeing, facilitating and administrating the Grant Funded BeH2O Program, and the salary of an additional part time facilitator (approximately a total of 20 – 25 hours per week)..
- ii. Support Salaries: \$9600.00 a year would go towards paying Amy Piccini approximately 8 – 10 hours per week.
- iii. Employee Benefits: employment tax, outsourced HR fees, SSI

**b. Non-personnel costs**





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- i. Capital Expenditures: *n/a*
- ii. Non-Capital Expenditures: *office space, training space, office maintenance, utilities cleaning*
- iii. Supplies: *ordinary office supplies, teaching materials, \$1500.00*  
Cost per individual participant \$100 per person, \$6000.00  
*workbooks, journals, books, and experiential activity supplies*
- iv. Travel: *n/a*
- v. Insurances: *n/a*
- vi. Audit/Fiscal Sponsor: *TLP has secured a fiscal sponsor to oversee the project, the fiscal sponsor will be responsible for overseeing the grant funding and auditing cost is 10% of the grant award.*
- vii. Telephone/Communication: *internet, computer usage, phone usage, zoom software, calendaring software, audio visual. This number was calculated based on using 15% of the expenses TLP utilizes for these services, as this project will incur about 15% of the agency's available resources and time to administer. [Telephone \$1200.00, Internet \$300.00 Copier/fax machine/audiovisual equipment \$1200.00, computers and software programs \$2150.00]*
- viii. Other – *contract research support systems*

