

Jay Pennell serves as our Grant Writer. Jay is a retired Juvenile Justice (JJ) Specialist from the State of Maine. He moved to Florida to never need to shovel snow again.

As a Licensed Social Worker, he worked for the State of Maine as a Juvenile Probation Officer/Supervisor for 20 years before being selected as the JJ Specialist where he learned both ends of the Grant Writing business. As a Specialist he learned to write for and draw down \$400,000 a year in Title II grants from the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

Working with a 35-person board appointed by the Governor the JJAG served as a Federal watch regarding Maine's Juvenile Justice System. Part of this was writing smaller grants to local communities to allow them to serve youth and families in the justice system. This allowed him to work with Maine's Native American communities, Immigrant and refugee communities and Mainers in general including its LGBTQ population.

Retirement in Florida has meant being able to volunteer to help write grants for Venice Pride Inc. to help improve outcomes for the youth and the adults in the LGBTQ community.

Jay can be reached at info@veniceFLpride.com.

Updated 08/27/2022