



### Planning Grants

**Q) May a school corporation or charter school request a budget modification for use of prior planning grant funds in connection with preparing a Round II proposal?**

**A) Yes.** If a school district or charter school decides that a budget should be modified from the one approved and attached to a planning grant agreement, then a request for a budget modification can be made by email here: [education@lei.org](mailto:education@lei.org).

**Q) May a school corporation or charter school request an extension of time for the use of planning grant funds from Round I in connection with preparing a Round II proposal?**

**A) Yes.** Those school districts or charter schools which identify that planning grant funds from Round I will remain after December 31, 2017, and wish to use those funds in connection with preparing a Round II proposal, may request for an extension by emailing an explanation for the extension here: [education@lei.org](mailto:education@lei.org). An extension may be authorized through June 30, 2018.

### Round II (Implementation) Grants

**Q) How many implementation grants will be awarded in Round II? How much funding is available?**

**A)** Although there is no set number of implementation grants that will be awarded, the Endowment estimates that a total of up to \$10 million may be awarded in Round II. The number and total dollar amount of implementation grants will be determined based upon a number of factors, including the quality of implementation proposals received and the amount of funding requested by school corporations and charter schools.

**Q) Can we get the cover sheet emailed to us?**

**A)** The [Cover Sheet](http://www.lillyendowment.org/ed_ci.html) is available here: [http://www.lillyendowment.org/ed\\_ci.html](http://www.lillyendowment.org/ed_ci.html).

**Q) May a school corporation or charter school apply for a Round II implementation grant without having applied for a Round I planning grant?**

**A) Yes.**

**Q) What is the timeframe for implementing a proposed program or strategy and may grant funds be expended in differing amounts during the years covered by a grant?**

**A)** Implementation grant proposals should describe programs or strategies that may take up to four years to complete. Therefore, grant funds may be spent during a timeframe ending on or before June 30, 2022. Each grant will be awarded in an amount covering all years included in a successful proposal, but after an award is made all or any portion of the grant funds may be expended at different times as set forth in the applicant's proposed budget (which may call for differing portions of the grant being expended in different years, provided that all grant funds are spent on or before June 30, 2022). Some applicants may fully expend their grants in less than four years.

**Q) Will a scoring rubric for evaluating grant proposals be provided to potential applicants?**

**A)** The Endowment will not provide a scoring rubric. Applicants are encouraged to see "Grantmaking Criteria" on pages 9 and 10 of the [Request for Proposal](http://www.lillyendowment.org/ed/counsel/Round%20II%20RFP.pdf) for factors that will be taken into consideration by the Endowment in grantmaking decisions (<http://www.lillyendowment.org/ed/counsel/Round%20II%20RFP.pdf>).

**Q) Does the Endowment have specific feedback and comments for school corporations or charter schools that applied but were not funded in Round I?**

**A)** No. In December 2017, the Endowment hosted briefing sessions around the state with respect to Round II. At these sessions, the strengths of Round I proposals that received implementation grants were addressed. Speakers also discussed gaps found in many of the requests that were not funded. Comments on specific proposals, however, were not provided and would not be appropriate during this Round II, which is a competitive process.

**Q) Must a school corporation or charter school address all the domains noted in the various comprehensive counseling models (academic, college, career and social and emotional counseling needs of K-12 students) in order to apply for funding under this initiative?**

**A)** No. The Endowment expects every school corporation or charter school that seeks a Round II grant to articulate its commitment to moving eventually toward a comprehensive counseling model. We understand that for many school corporations and charter schools, however, adopting a comprehensive counseling model may not be feasible in the near term and we know that the funding available under this initiative is not sufficient by itself to support a comprehensive model. Those school corporations and charter schools that demonstrate a commitment to developing a comprehensive counseling model within a reasonable period of time may be favored in this competitive initiative.

**Q) Does the Endowment recommend specific plans or practices that should be adopted to sustain a counseling program or strategy?**

**A)** There are a variety of plans and practices that school corporations and charter schools may implement to sustain the programs and strategies developed through this initiative. Examples include taking advantage of the flexibility available under various funding streams to shift existing resources within the school corporation or charter school from another area to the counseling program; developing and executing a fundraising strategy (including applying for grants and awards from other funding sources) to support the new counseling program; and engaging mental health providers, local colleges and universities, private or public agencies, community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to assist with new programs or activities. Several proposals funded in Round I showed diminishing reliance on grant funds awarded by the Endowment during the years covered in the proposals, supplementing counseling program budgets more and more over time with external resources (including in-kind support from program partnerships). In short, there are many paths to sustainability, but the Endowment has not recommended any specific sustainability plans or practices.

**Q) What if a school corporation or charter school cannot sustain staffing proposed in a proposal?**

**A)** It will be important to demonstrate in a proposal how any feature of a program that needs to be maintained will be sustained. Proposals with clear and realistic sustainability plans will receive more favorable consideration.

**Q) Is the letter of endorsement and approval a requirement?**

**A)** Yes. Each proposal must include a letter of endorsement and approval from the leader of the school corporation or charter school to show institutional support for the proposed program and to provide assurance that the proposed program conforms to all applicable laws and regulations.

**Q) Can funding for career and technical education (CTE) counselors be included in an applicant's implementation grant proposal under this initiative?**

**A)** Yes. If it is determined that a compelling way for your school corporation or charter school to address the aim of the initiative is to include services provided by CTE counselors, then funding for such services may be requested.

**Q) Does it pose a problem if our community has begun to implement some of the action steps identified in our Round II proposal?**

**A)** No. However, we encourage you to describe specifically what implementation actions are underway and how they will be supported and sustained if a Round II grant is awarded.

**Q) Can an individual charter school that is a part of a charter school network apply for funding?**

**A)** No. An individual charter school operated by a charter school organizer\* that operates more than one charter school in Indiana may not separately apply for a grant under this initiative. Instead, an organizer that operates multiple charter schools must file a single application on behalf of all of the charter schools in Indiana that it operates and that will participate in the initiative. The organizer will be treated in the same manner as a school corporation and will be eligible for the same amount of planning and implementation grant funding for which a school corporation with the same total Indiana average daily membership (considering all of the organizer's schools participating in the proposal) is eligible.

\* Under Indiana's charter school law, a charter school "organizer" is the nonprofit entity that holds the charter and operates the charter school.

**Q) May applicants have access to samples of successful proposals from Round I?**

**A)** No.

**Q) Should a school corporation or charter school include general background or historical context in the proposal?**

**A)** Yes. In the program narrative, the Endowment encourages applicants to use stories, examples and illustrative details to provide greater clarity regarding why the proposed program is needed and compelling and how it will address identified student counseling challenges.

**Q) Should external parties provide letters of support?**

**A)** Round I grantees often included strong evidence of broad support or involvement by community organizations, government and business leaders, colleges and universities, and many other external stakeholders through letters of support. These can be helpful in demonstrating the levels of involvement of external parties in the preparation and the extent of assistance they will provide to implement and sustain the proposed program.

**Q) Should applicants assume that the reviewers will go back to Round I applications and compare them to applications in Round II?**

**A) No.** Round II applications will stand on their own.

**Q) Will implementation grants be paid at one time or in increments?**

**A) In all likelihood,** implementation grants will be paid in full to all recipients.

### Joint Proposals

**Q) May a group of school corporations or charter schools submit joint implementation grant proposals?**

**A) Yes.** School corporations and charter schools may submit a joint grant proposal; however, any grants awarded with respect to such proposals will be made to the individual school corporations or charter school organizer within the joint proposal.

**Q) Will joint proposals be favored over proposals from individual school corporations or charter schools?**

**A) All proposals must address the aim of the Endowment's initiative: "to increase significantly the number of K-12 students in Indiana who are emotionally healthy, realize academic success, graduate from high school, obtain valuable postsecondary credentials, certifications and degrees necessary for meaningful employment, and are prepared to compete and prosper in the global society in which they will live and work." The most compelling proposals will be those that address effectively the particular needs of a school district or charter school in a sustainable manner. Joint proposals may be appropriate in circumstances where economies of scale are realized or resources are redistributed to maximize efficacy.**

**Q) Do the school corporations or charter schools in a joint proposal complete only one cover sheet for the joint proposal?**

**A) No.** Each school district or charter school must complete a cover sheet, even those within joint proposals.

**Q) Must the school corporations or charter schools in a joint proposal be close in geography to one another?**

**A) No.** There is no requirement that school corporations or charter schools be within a close geographic proximity (*e.g.*, within the same county or adjacent counties) to one another in order to participate in a joint proposal.