



Youth Program Resilience Fund

Request for Information

For many years, Lilly Endowment has been committed to helping youth in Indianapolis and throughout Indiana reach their full potential by fostering healthy development through programs conducted by community-based organizations that enhance and complement what young people learn and experience in their homes and schools. The Endowment's grantmaking has supported youth-serving organizations focused on child protection, education success, social development, leadership, character development and more, with a special concern for helping vulnerable youth and families facing compelling challenges. It has been important to the Endowment that such organizations are strong, well-led, collaborative and engaged in best practices and that their youth-development professionals are well trained and supported so that together they can effectively serve Indiana youth.

Youth-serving organizations are threatened by a range of negative economic consequences flowing from the COVID-19 pandemic. The public health requirements for operating their programs safely present numerous challenges to their financial models and affect the design, nature and scale of their programs. Increasingly, these organizations are being forced to cut services and lay off staff, and they may, in some cases, need to close their doors at a time when the youth they serve need them more than ever. Prior to the pandemic, nearly one in five of the 1.5 million youth in Indiana were living in poverty, many facing multiple challenges. The economic impact of COVID-19 on families, the closure and uncertain status of when and how schools will reopen, and the potential mental health challenges caused by social distancing and other aspects of the pandemic aggravate existing problems and make the important work of youth-serving organizations even more critical.

Considering these challenges and because of the vital role played by Indiana youth-serving organizations, the Endowment is offering a new funding opportunity, the Youth Program Resilience Fund (YPRF). **The aim of YPRF is to help address some of the unique**

challenges of Indiana youth-serving organizations relating to the COVID-19 pandemic so they can better serve the needs of youth, ages five to 18, in accordance with public health guidance.

The Endowment has made available up to \$20 million to support youth-serving organizations through YPRF. This amount will be able to help only a fraction of the thousands of youth-serving organizations in Indiana, and those that receive funding will very likely need to find additional funding or modify programs in order to fully address the challenges presented by COVID-19. However, the Endowment is hopeful that this fund will be able to provide some level of support and reinforcement to the state's diverse array of much-needed youth programs.

Youth Program Resilience Fund Request for Information

To better understand and to help address the impact of COVID-19 on youth-serving organizations, the Endowment invites Indiana youth-serving organizations to apply for support from YPRF. In their applications, organizations will be required to describe their programs or services and explain the additional expenses they have incurred or will incur to reopen or increase their capacity to serve youth in accordance with current public health guidelines.

Through YPRF, the Endowment intends to support organizations that address one or more of the following priorities:

- Preserving and enhancing the welfare and safety of youth
- Providing safe and enriching environments for youth programs
- Identifying and addressing the social and emotional needs of youth
- Stemming youth learning loss
- Supporting parents or caregivers of youth who are continuing or returning to work

Although the Endowment is interested in the positive development of all youth, it has a special interest in removing barriers for youth who face the following challenges:

- Are in low-income families and qualify for free and reduced-price lunch
- Are members of communities of color or immigrant populations that are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and other health and social challenges
- Are at high risk of lacking adequate adult supervision, care or protection
- Have physical or developmental disabilities
- Are exposed to adverse childhood experiences in the home or community that impact healthy development, including violence, substance abuse, mental health illnesses and disorders, parental incarceration, or other traumatic experiences

Eligibility

Except as noted below, community-based, youth-serving organizations that conduct programs for youth in Indiana and that are public charities described in Internal Revenue Code (Code) sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) (other than Type III supporting organizations described in clause (i) or (ii) of Code section 4942(g)(4)(A)) are eligible to apply for funding through YPRF. Eligible organizations may include independent organizations, multi-service organizations with youth programs, locally based affiliates of national organizations, child welfare agencies, and faith-based organizations. Eligible organizations may have one location or several sites at which they provide their programs and services. Although the Endowment recognizes the important role schools and government agencies play in supporting youth and families, they are not eligible for funding from YPRF.

How the Youth Program Resilience Fund Works

Youth-serving organizations are encouraged to apply for YPRF funding by describing the programs and services they intend to conduct for youth between September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021 and the additional expenses they will incur or have incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. **Below are examples of expenses that may be covered by YPRF grants. This is not an exhaustive list. It is meant to be a guide to consider in developing the descriptions to be included in the applications.**

General Operations: Expenses relating to a range of operational needs including, but not limited to, retention of existing staff, adding new staff to maintain appropriate ratios or serve smaller groups due to COVID-19, volunteer expenses, rent/mortgage expenses, insurance, utilities, costs to reopen, planning efforts and training, staff healthcare and wellness care, other workforce supports, and other general costs of operations.

Supplies and Equipment: Personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and sanitization supplies, extra materials required for social distancing, and other related expenses needed for programs serving several youth in-person in various ways.

Modest Site Modifications, Scaling/Expansion: Costs to make environmental improvements, sanitation and safety enhancements, and/or accommodations for safe program or service delivery.

Contractual and/or Consultant Assistance: Programs and services provided by individuals or organizations that may be needed to help organizations meet challenges presented by COVID-19, such as mental health supports, special training for staff and other services.

Technology: Expenses relating to computers/devices and software for on-site and off-site staff and program/ service participants and costs to expand technology capacity for organizations to provide remote programs and services.

Youth-serving organizations must submit their applications **online no later than noon EDT on Monday,**

August 10, 2020. The Endowment will review all submitted information and at its sole discretion will determine the level of support, if any, it will provide from YPRF to help address some of the additional COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses identified by applicants. All submissions from eligible organizations will be reviewed, but not all organizations will receive funding. Geographic location will be considered to provide broad availability of YPRF support to youth organizations throughout the state. Indiana Youth Institute will work with the Endowment to offer optional online information sessions for youth-serving organizations interested in applying to the YPRF during the week of July 20, 2020. Details will be on the [Endowment's website](#).

Funding Considerations

Funding decisions will be made based on the extent to which the above-mentioned YPRF priorities and special interests are addressed, as well as to the extent to which:

- The youth-serving organization clearly articulates how COVID-19 resulted in special needs for support from YPRF.
- The youth-serving organization describes its capacity to deliver high-quality programming or services and provides evidence of credible, external validation of such capacity (for example, through accreditation, documentation of program effectiveness or significant funding support from public and private sources).
- The number of youth to be served and the frequency and amount (for example, number of hours per youth per week, number of weeks per year) of services are significant.
- The nature of the program delivery and its methods of interacting with participants are in demand generally and locally.
- The incurred and projected costs are proportional to the scale and intensity of the organization's programs and services.

Application Instructions

Applications for YPRF consideration must be submitted via the Endowment's website by Monday, August 10, 2020, at noon EDT. One-inch margins and 12 pt. fonts are required and page limits for various application components must be observed.

In addition to the online form and uploads, a complete application must include the following six components:

1. **Narrative description of the youth-serving organization and its youth program(s):** A narrative description of no more than three pages to provide reviewers an understanding of the youth-serving organization's programs and operations, including general information about the organization's mission, programs and services offered and their frequency of delivery, number of youth served, number of program sites and the extent to which the organization addresses the YPRF priorities and considerations mentioned above (including the need for support from YPRF as a direct result of COVID-19 pandemic, evidence of external validation of capacity and quality of programming, evidence of demand for the organization's programs or services, and a description of youth served with an

explanation of the extent to which they align with the Endowment's special interests described in this RFI).

2. **Rationale for incurred or projected COVID-19-related expenses:** A one-page description of the costs to address COVID-19-related challenges associated with delivering the organization's programs and services. The description should explain how the costs are proportionate to the scale and intensity of the program. Examples of eligible expenses (such as operations, supplies, site modifications, scaling/expansion, contractual/consultant assistance, and technology) are described above.
3. **Financial impact of COVID-19:** If applicable, please provide a brief description of how and to what extent COVID-19 has caused a loss of revenue.
4. **Annual budget for the current year and financial statements for the organization's most recently completed fiscal year:** Audited financial statements are preferred, but unaudited financial statements or similar information will be considered.
5. **Tax information:** An IRS tax status determination letter and a completed copy of the Endowment's exempt status information form which can be downloaded from the website.
6. **Board of Directors list:** One-page list of board member names, roles on board, and business or community affiliation.

Please save all documents as a single PDF and submit through the online application form on lillyendowment.org.

Email any questions about this grant initiative to yprf@lei.org.