



# Christian Parenting & Caregiving Initiative

November 2022

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is submission of the Interest Form required?

No. The submission of the Interest Form from your organization is not required. Lilly Endowment, however, strongly encourages organizations to submit the Interest Form and upload a one-page Letter of Interest. These items will help the Endowment know about your interest and prepare to receive your proposal. Please submit your Interest Form and Letter of Interest by December 5, 2022, through the [Christian Parenting and Caregiving webpage](#) of the Endowment's website. If your organization is unable to submit these materials by the deadline, you may still submit a proposal by the proposal submission deadline of February 13, 2023.

### Should we wait for a response from the Endowment about our Interest Form before working on the proposal?

No. The Interest Form and Letter of Interest are intended to indicate your organization's intent to submit a proposal, not for a preliminary evaluation by the Endowment of the merit of potential proposals. Please go ahead and begin working on your proposal.

### May we speak with someone to discuss ideas, receive feedback on a proposal or obtain further clarification about this initiative?

No. The Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative is a national competitive initiative, and the Endowment anticipates receiving a high volume of proposals. Because this is a competitive initiative, Endowment staff is unable to provide feedback on ideas or proposals. Please carefully read the [Request for Proposals](#) and accompanying documents for guidance as you design your programs and prepare your proposals. Questions for clarification about the initiative may be directed to [christianparenting@lei.org](mailto:christianparenting@lei.org).

### What does the Endowment mean by children?

In the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative, the Endowment is using the term "children" to include biological, adopted and foster children and youth, usually living with parents and primary caregivers in home environments.

### What does the Endowment mean by caregivers?

The Endowment is using the term "caregivers" to include primary caregivers who provide direct care for children, usually in home settings. Caregivers would include extended family and friends, foster parents and others who play critical roles in raising children and youth.

### **What does the Endowment mean by research? Does this mean original research or research completed by other scholars or organizations?**

Through the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative, the Endowment seeks to encourage organizations to identify recent research from a variety of disciplines related to child development and parenting and draw on findings from that research in designing programs to support parents and caregivers. The Endowment is especially interested in programs that make connections between findings from recent research and time-honored Christian practices (e.g., hospitality, testimony, household economics, forgiveness, singing, keeping sabbath, generosity, etc.) to help parents and caregivers share their faith and values with their children. Some organizations may wish to engage in original research projects, and others may wish to draw on findings from recent studies done by others. Both approaches are encouraged.

### **What does the Endowment mean by evaluation, and what are the Endowment's expectations?**

Evaluation entails the activities built into the organization's program to gauge its progress toward the program's intended outcomes. Evaluation also is intended to help organizations learn from their work so that they can refine their programs to make them more effective. The Endowment considers carefully the organization's evaluation plan in reviewing its proposal. Most evaluation plans include quantitative and qualitative measures to gauge the effectiveness and impact of the organization's program.

### **What types of outcomes and performance indicators are appropriate for inclusion in an organization's proposal?**

Outcomes and performance indicators can be qualitative or quantitative and should be indicative of (that is, clearly pointing toward) what the organization plans to achieve as a result of its proposed activities, for example what change that will be achieved as a result of the program funded by the grant.

### **What are the Endowment's expectations regarding sustainability?**

Through the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative, the Endowment seeks to help organizations, design, launch, refine and sustain programs that advance the initiative's aim. Therefore, organizations should submit proposals to develop programs that they will be able to sustain, if successful, beyond the end of the grant period. As described in the [Request for Proposals](#), the Endowment encourages each organization to apply for an amount appropriate to its capacity, the needs of the proposed program and the organization's ability to sustain its program. Organizations should have no expectation that Endowment funding will be available for its program beyond the grant period. In the proposal, describe the organization's sustainability plan and how the organization will continue the program with other funding sources.

### **May an organization submit multiple proposals?**

No. Each organization may submit only one proposal that presents the organization's best idea.

### **May multiple organizations work together to submit a proposal?**

Yes. Organizations may work collaboratively to design a program and prepare a proposal. While the Endowment encourages collaborative endeavors, only one lead organization may submit a proposal requesting a grant for a collaborative program. If the proposed program involves other collaborating organizations, letters of support from the leaders of the other organizations or agencies must be submitted with the application.

**May an organization submit a proposal for a program that would work with congregations in different denominations and/or in a variety of Christian traditions?**

Yes. The Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative seeks to encourage charitable organizations to develop and/or strengthen programs that support Christian parents and caregivers and Christian congregations in the United States. An organization may submit a proposal for a program that would work with parents and caregivers, as well as congregations, in different Christian denominations, if such a program is appropriate for the organization's mission.

**May an organization submit a proposal for a program that would work with congregations outside of the United States?**

Charitable organizations in the United States are eligible to apply for the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative, and proposed programs should be for activities that support Christian congregations in the United States. Programs directed to congregations or populations outside the United States are not the focus of the initiative.

**May a single congregation apply?**

The Endowment encourages organizations to give careful thought to the scale of the organization's proposed program. Funding decisions will take into consideration the reach of the program and its potential positive impact on significant numbers of parents, caregivers, congregations, ministry professionals or congregational volunteer leaders. If a congregation is interested in applying and may not have the capacity to develop a program that would involve other congregations or organizations, the Endowment encourages you to identify potential collaborators with whom your congregation may work to develop a Christian Parenting and Caregiving program.

**May an organization with a current grant from the Endowment submit a proposal in the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative?**

Yes. An organization with a current grant from the Endowment may submit a proposal. Organizations that received grants in the first invitational round of the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative in 2022 should not apply again, however.

**May an organization provide a subgrant to another organization?**

Yes. An organization may provide subgrants to, or fund contractual relationships with, collaborating organizations that will implement program activities. The amount of funds the organization will distribute to collaborating organizations should be indicated in the budget submitted with the proposal.

**May an organization use grant funds to advocate for legislation that supports the mission of a church and/or the improvement of life for citizens (e.g., affordable housing, alleviation of poverty, education of children)?**

No. The Endowment grant funds cannot be used for lobbying or political activities per federal tax regulations. Please consult your organization's legal counsel for clarification.

### **When should we propose to start the grant period?**

The Endowment anticipates notifying organizations of funding decisions in the summer of 2023. Organizations should discern and propose to the Endowment when they would like to start their program after that time. Funding decisions will be based to an important degree on the capacity and readiness of the organization to develop and sustain the proposed program.

### **Does the Endowment anticipate offering this opportunity again next year?**

No. The Endowment has no plans to offer this opportunity next year.

### **Is there a page limit for appendices?**

No. But the Endowment strongly encourages organizations to include key information about the proposed program and the capacity of the organization to carry it out in the proposal narrative (12-page limit). The Endowment also encourages organizations to be judicious in appending additional materials to their proposals.

### **Will the Endowment provide guidance about how to prepare the grant budget?**

Please see the Guide to Budget Preparation, which is provided on the [Christian Parenting and Caregiving webpage](#) on the Endowment's website. The guide includes helpful information to assist organizations in preparing their budgets. Please consult with your organization's financial officers for guidance when preparing your budget.

### **Are indirect costs allowable for inclusion in proposal?**

Yes. The Endowment allows organizations to request funds for indirect costs in their proposals. Indirect costs should not exceed 10 percent of the total request to the Endowment. Please see the Guide to Budget Preparation, which is provided on the [Christian Parenting and Caregiving webpage](#) on the Endowment's website for more guidance on indirect costs.

### **Where can we get information about formatting proposal documents as a PDF?**

The Endowment asks organizations to upload their proposals through the website as a single PDF file. Please consult your IT support for advice, if needed.

### **Where can we learn about related grant opportunities?**

Please see the [Endowment's website](#) for more information about other grant initiatives. For more information about the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative, please refer to the [Request for Proposals](#) or the news release regarding the initiative, which may be accessed through the [Christian Parenting and Caregiving webpage](#) on the Endowment's website.