



Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2023

Lilly Endowment is pleased to announce Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana (SYPI), a competitive initiative to help advance the academic, physical and social development of Indiana youth. Through SYPI, the Endowment seeks to support and strengthen eligible youth-serving organizations that provide programs and services to youth (ages five through 18) in communities throughout Indiana.

The Endowment expects grant amounts to range **from \$60,000 up to \$1 million. Proposals are due by 12 p.m. EDT on May 1, 2023**, and must be submitted through the **online application form** on the Endowment's website. Funding decisions are expected to be made during fall 2023.

Background

For many years, the Endowment has been committed to helping foster the healthy development of Indiana youth by supporting the programs of community-based organizations that enhance and complement what youth learn and experience in their homes and schools. The Endowment has funded youth-serving organizations whose programs focus on child protection, academic success, social development, leadership, character development and other purposes. The Endowment has been especially interested in supporting programs that help youth and families that face compelling challenges. It has been important to the Endowment that these youth-serving organizations are strong, well-led, collaborative and engaged in best practices and that their youth-development professionals are well trained and supported so they can effectively serve Indiana youth.

The Endowment recognizes that the work of Indiana's youth-serving organizations has become even more essential to youth, families and communities in light of the academic, social and physical tolls exacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and other societal challenges. These factors have made the work of youth-serving organizations more complex and demanding. Unfortunately, many youth-serving organizations are finding it difficult to staff programs to fully meet demand, provide timely professional development for their staffs, develop new programs that are responsive to emerging needs of youth and raise funds to support their youth programs.

Considering these challenges and the vital role played by Indiana youth-serving organizations, the Endowment is offering a new funding opportunity for many of these organizations through the SYPI initiative. Through SYPI, the Endowment has made available up to \$45 million to support youth-serving organizations through three broad categories of funding support: program, capacity building and capital.

This initiative will be able to help only a fraction of the hundreds of youth-serving organizations in Indiana, and those that receive grants through SYPI will very likely need to find additional funding to address the many challenges they face. However, the Endowment is hopeful that this initiative will be able to provide some level of meaningful support and perhaps help foster innovation and growth and enhance the effectiveness of the state's diverse and much-needed youth-serving organizations.

Priorities & Special Focus

Given the urgent need to advance the academic, physical and social development of Indiana youth, the Endowment through SYPI is offering grant funding on a competitive basis to youth-serving organizations whose programs further one or more of the following **purposes that are priorities of this initiative:**

- Enhancing the welfare and safety of youth.
- Identifying and addressing the social and emotional needs of youth.
- Delivering educational experiences for youth that supplement classroom learning.
- Developing character traits and leadership skills in youth.
- Providing safe and enriching out-of-school time learning environments for youth.

Through SYPI, the Endowment expects to support organizations that serve a wide range of youth. However, **the initiative has a special focus** on youth who are in low-income households, are members of communities of color, or are from immigrant families and youth who lack adult supervision and protection, or are or have been exposed to trauma or other adverse childhood experiences. The Endowment will view more favorably applications from organizations that serve a significant number of these youth.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding under SYPI, an organization must meet the following criteria.

1. It must be an established youth-serving organization that currently provides programs directly for youth (ages five through 18) in Indiana; it must have provided these programs for at least three full years as of December 31, 2022; and it must be a public charity 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)).
2. It must offer programs that serve one or more of the purposes indicated as priorities for this initiative as described above.
3. It must offer programs that solely serve youth ages five to 18 or, if it offers programs for individuals in other age groups, it must demonstrate that its youth programs address an unmet need for youth in its local community (county, city or town) that no other organization solely serving youth addresses. For example, a church that serves people of all ages that is the only provider of afterschool programming in its county would be eligible for SYPI.

The following organizations are ineligible for SYPI funding, regardless of whether they meet the above criteria: K-12 schools, school foundations, higher education institutions, youth sports leagues and

government agencies. Although the Endowment recognizes the important role these organizations play in fostering positive youth development, they are not within the scope of this initiative.

Additionally, the following national organizations and their affiliates are ineligible to receive funding through this initiative, as they have received similar funding under a separate Endowment grant opportunity in 2022: Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, Girls Inc., Junior Achievement USA, National FFA Organization, YMCA of the USA and YWCA USA. Other national youth-serving organizations with Indiana affiliates may be considered for SYPI funding. In these cases, the national organization will need to apply on behalf of the local affiliates.

Organizations that have questions about their eligibility for participation in SYPI may contact Endowment staff with such questions at strengtheningyouth@lei.org.

Funding Considerations

The Endowment recognizes that youth-serving organizations have many different needs and therefore intends through SYPI to provide three different funding opportunities. Accordingly, the Endowment will consider applications from Indiana youth-serving organizations seeking SYPI funding in one or more of the following categories:

- **Program grants** that help to expand or enhance existing programs for Indiana youth or initiate new programs to serve their emerging needs. Examples include but are not limited to a pilot program to address an emerging need, expanded programming to serve more youth or add new locations to increase access, a new high-quality curriculum, new materials and supplies to enhance a program and new staff or contract support to ensure programs are fully implemented.
- **Capacity-building grants** that strengthen youth-serving organizations' operations. Examples include but are not limited to sustainable staff retention and attraction efforts, consultant support for fundraising, strategic planning, program evaluation, marketing and communications, data collection and evaluation, health records systems, a new financial management system, software and subscription purchases, board development and staff professional development.
- **Capital grants** that help youth-serving organizations renovate their physical plants to provide safe and stimulating environments for youth or help the organization purchase needed equipment. Examples include but are not limited to playground or safety equipment, computer equipment, a bus or van to transport youth, wiring for internet access, musical instruments, minor building and grounds improvements (kitchen and room renovations including fixtures and furnishings), security fences for cooling equipment and updates to the property to ensure health, safety and ADA compliance.

An eligible youth-serving organization may submit only one application through SYPI. It may request funding for multiple purposes on the application: program, capacity building and/or capital. Any youth-serving organization, regardless of its chosen funding proposal category or categories, must clearly articulate in its application the nature of its programs and how an SYPI grant will help strengthen the organization and help it achieve the priorities (listed on page 2) for youth through program, capacity building and/or capital support. Applications will consist of a proposal narrative, budget and budget

narrative, letters of support, and supplemental information, such as research to strengthen the case for support, and tax information.

In reviewing applications and determining funding recommendations, Endowment staff will take into consideration the extent to which the organization has demonstrated the following:

- It has the capacity to deliver high-quality programming or services, as evidenced by credible, external validation (for example, through accreditation, documentation of program effectiveness and/or ongoing funding support from public and private sources).
- The number of youth it serves is significant for its community and the frequency and amount of services are sufficient to achieve the intended impact (for example, number of hours per youth per week or number of weeks per year).
- Its programs and services are in demand by youth and their families in the organization's service area.
- The amount of the requested grant is proportional to the scale and impact of the efforts to be funded by the grant.
- It achieved significant program or service outcomes during 2021 and 2022.
- It addresses one or more of the SYPI priorities and serves or strives to serve youth who are a special focus for this initiative (as described on page 2).
- It has the ability and commitment to sustain programming and impact after funds from a grant are expended.

The Endowment will also take into consideration the extent to which the organization has received funding from the Endowment in recent years. It is unlikely that an organization will be favorably considered for SYPI funding if it receives significant regular support from the Endowment or has recently been awarded a substantial grant from the Endowment for any purpose. Organizations that have received funding from the Endowment in the past three years, except through the Summer Youth Program Fund (Indianapolis) or the Endowment's Youth Program Resilience Fund (2020), should contact the Endowment to determine their eligibility for SYPI funding at strengtheningyouth@lei.org.

Funding Amounts

Organizations may request grants for program, capacity building and/or capital support for activities to be implemented during a period of up to three years. Grant amounts requested must be appropriate for the intended impact, which would include, among other things:

- The extent to which the purposes that are a priority of the initiative are addressed in the proposal.
- The number of youth currently served and projected to be served with possible grant support.
- The number of youth to be served that are a special focus of SYPI.
- The duration and intensity of programming for youth (i.e., days per week, hours per day).
- The outcomes of current programs and the projected outcomes of the proposed programs.

The Endowment expects grant amounts to range from \$60,000 up to \$1 million. An organization can apply for an amount equal to the average of its operating expenses during the last three years (2020, 2021

and 2022) but no greater than the \$1 million limit for this grant opportunity across all categories (program, capacity-building and capital).

Application Guidelines & Submission Checklist

The Endowment will accept grant proposals **until 12 p.m. EDT on May 1, 2023**. Funding decisions are expected to be made during fall 2023.

The Endowment reserves the right to adjust the requested grant amount, based on, among other things, the factors mentioned above, and the total amount allocated and available for the SYPI initiative relative to the number and quality of applications received.

Please use the information below to guide the development of your funding request. A complete application must include the following seven items in the order listed below and uploaded as a single PDF through the [online Application Form](#) on the SYPI webpage.

- **Proposal Narrative:** This narrative should include the following information and not exceed eight pages:
 - A description of the organization’s challenges, needs and opportunities to serve youth more effectively in its community, supported by data on youth served and the needs of youth and families in the local community or communities served by the organization.
 - A description of the organization’s key programs and services, outcomes and successes and of any external validation of quality it has received (see page 4) during the last two years (2021 and 2022).
 - A compelling case for and description of activities to be undertaken with program, capacity-building and/or capital support based on an assessment of the organization’s challenges, needs and opportunities. This description shall also indicate which purposes that are a priority of this initiative will be addressed and provide information about any youth who are a special focus of SYPI who will be served through the proposed activities (see page 2).
 - A description of proposed outcomes to be achieved with the use of SYPI grant funds.
 - A clear timeline for the proposed program, capital or capacity-building activities.
 - A list and description of the organization’s top five funding sources for the current year and amounts they provided to support the organization’s youth programs and the sources and amounts of other funding, if any, secured or anticipated to partially support the activities that would be supported by the requested grant.
 - A plan for sustaining any proposed efforts that will require ongoing support. The organization should clearly describe its ability and commitment to sustain programming and impact after funds from a grant are expended.
- **Proposal Grant Budget:** [See fillable template.](#)
- **Grant Budget Narrative:** This is a detailed description of your proposal budget.
- **Letters of Support:** No more than three letters that include a description of how the organization has been impactful should be submitted.

- **Tax Exempt Determination Letter:** [See sample letter.](#)
- **Endowment Tax Form:** [See form.](#)
- **Current Board-Approved Financial Statements or Audit**
- **(Optional) Supplemental Information:** If desired, organizations may submit up to 10 pages of additional appendices to support the application. Examples may include landscape studies, area statistics, strategic plans or other related documents.

Questions & Technical Assistance

As part of SYPI, the Endowment has provided grant funding to Indiana Youth Institute (IYI), a statewide intermediary organization that provides data, training, consultation and other resources to Indiana youth-serving organizations. IYI will offer initiative-specific workshops, technical assistance and other supportive information for organizations participating in SYPI. Organizations can find information about IYI at iyi.org.

Visit the Endowment's SYPI webpage at lillyendowment.org/strengtheningyouth to stay up to date about information related to this initiative and download copies of this RFP and other supporting resources. The webpage will include a link to IYI's online resources and contact information for organizations seeking further technical assistance.

Questions regarding SYPI can be directed to Endowment staff at strengtheningyouth@lei.org.