



Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana

Frequently Asked Questions

As of 3/10/2023

In this frequently asked questions (FAQ) supplement, Lilly Endowment is pleased to share answers to several frequently asked questions regarding the Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana (SYPI) initiative. Many other matters are addressed in the SYPI Request for Proposals (RFP), which can be found at lillyendowment.org/strengtheningyouth, and the Endowment encourages all interested youth-serving organizations to review both the RFP and these FAQs carefully in considering submission of a request for funding under this initiative.

Background

What is the purpose of this initiative?

SYPI is 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.

How many grant dollars in total will be distributed through SYPI?

The Endowment expects to make SYPI grants totaling up to \$45 million to help organizations expand and enhance their programs and services dedicated to youth in communities across the state.

When will the funding decisions be made?

Funding decisions are expected to be made during fall 2023.

Priorities & Special Focus

What are the priorities the Endowment is focusing on for this initiative?

As noted in the RFP, the Endowment will be offering grant funding to youth-serving organizations whose programs further one or more of the following purposes: 1) enhancing the welfare and safety of youth; 2) identifying and addressing the social and emotional needs of youth; 3) delivering educational experiences for youth that supplement classroom learning; 4) developing character traits and leadership skills in youth; and, 5) providing safe and enriching out-of-school time learning environments for youth.

Is the Endowment prioritizing any specific populations for this initiative?

Also as noted in the RFP, the Endowment may view more favorably applications for programs that will serve a significant number of youth who are in low-income households, are members of communities of color, are

from immigrant families, are in situations in which they lack adult supervision and protection, or are or have been exposed to trauma or other adverse childhood experiences.

Eligibility

Our organization is interested in applying but we are not sure if we are eligible. Where can we find more information?

Details regarding eligibility for a grant under this initiative can be found beginning on page 2 of the RFP at lillyendowment.org/strengtheningyouth.

If our organization serves multiple counties, can we apply for all counties?

Yes - in one application you may request funds to resource your programs in the Indiana geographies that you determine.

Our organization is outside of Marion County. Is there prioritization in terms of particular location within Indiana?

SYPI is a statewide initiative and is open to eligible organizations throughout the state. Geography is not prioritized.

The RFP lists three criteria for eligibility. Do we need to meet all three criteria or just one of the three?

To be eligible for funding under SYPI, an organization must meet all three eligibility criteria listed on Page 2 of the RFP.

Is an organization eligible if they serve and address an unmet need for very young children (ages zero to four) in their local community?

No. The initiative is to serve youth ages five to 18 years (school-age youth). The organization's core programming or services must be for what is considered school-age youth.

Does an organization need to serve all ages in the five to 18 age range?

An organization must offer programs that serve youth ages five to 18; however, the programs do not need to serve every age group within that range.

Our organization is a multi-service community center that has been serving youth in our community for decades, but our program solely serving school-aged youth started only recently. Are we eligible?

This type of organization may be eligible if it is able to provide data regarding its operating expenses devoted to programming for school-age youth for at least the last three full years (2020, 2021 and 2022). The amount of the grant requested would be based on the average expenses devoted to school-age youth programming for those three years. As a multi-service organization, the applicant should demonstrate that its youth programs address an unmet need for youth in the local community that no other organization solely serving youth addresses. (See the third eligibility criterion in the RFP, at Page 2.)

If the organization providing a youth program is not a public charity described in Internal Revenue Code (Code) section 501(c)(3), can it apply for a grant through an eligible organization as its fiscal agent?

The grant opportunity is for established Code section 501(c)(3) public charities that have youth programs which have operated for three full years. SYPI grants will be made to organizations that directly provide programming for youth, and not to fiscal agents that are not the youth service providers.

Can a totally volunteer, non-staffed organization apply?

If your organization meets the eligibility criteria outlined on Page 2 of the RFP, you can apply.

We are a new organization and do not have operating expenses for the past three years. Can we still apply?

No. An organization must be an established Code section 501(c)(3) youth-serving organization that is a public charity and that has provided youth-serving programs for at least three full years as of December 31, 2022, and has three years of financial statements.

Our program operated for decades under a parent organization that recently decided to continue the program through a new corporate structure. The program is now operated as a standalone organization without three years of independent financial statements. Can we apply?

This may be a rare case where prior history of program operations under the former parent organization may be credited towards the new Code section 501(c)(3) applicant - as long as the parent organization via a letter confirms that the new organization's activities are a continuation of the prior program and considers the new organization as the appropriate entity to continue the activities.

Can you further explain Item 3 in the Eligibility section of the RFP? We are a multi-service organization and have large youth programs that "solely serve youth ages five to 18 years." However, Item 3 in the RFP makes me wonder if we are eligible to apply.

SYPI is structured to provide a special funding opportunity for organizations that only serve youth. If your organization serves more than youth (besides ancillary activities that serve youth by, for example, engaging with the youth participants' families), you must demonstrate that there is no other organization that only serves youth in your local community (county, city or town). Therefore, even if your youth programs are large, you would need to be the only organization in your local community serving youth to be eligible to apply.

Our multi-service organization has a statewide footprint and is the largest provider of youth programs in a couple of areas of the state. The eligibility criteria state that there should be no other youth-serving organization which solely serves youth in the area if a multi-service organization seeks to apply. How do we know or demonstrate that no other organization in a county, city or town serves youth?

You should look to the particular circumstances surrounding your youth-serving program and the local community in which you work to determine if other organizations in the community are providers solely serving youth. To demonstrate your eligibility, you may include information such as statistics regarding your local community, research relating to nearby programs, or a letter from a city, county or town authority

describing the lack of child and youth services in your area. We do not assume that all geographies in Indiana have accessible youth services but are relying on applicants under the initiative to provide sufficient information about the needs in their areas.

Our organization has multiple programs that serve school-age youth populations for different purposes. Could we submit one application that helps to support multiple programs for this age range?

Yes - remembering that the initiative targets programs that serve youth ages five to 18.

Are in-school programs that are part of the school district eligible to apply?

No. If it is a program of the school, then the school is not eligible to apply. If the program is part of an eligible independent organization that provides school-based, school-integrated programming, however, the eligible organization may apply.

We've been offering services for over three years; however, we received our Code section 501(c)(3) determination from the IRS only in the last year. Are we eligible?

No. The initiative is designed to assist established Code section 501(c)(3) youth-serving public charities that have provided services under that tax status for at least three full years as of December 31, 2022.

Is our organization eligible to apply if we use a local church as our fiscal sponsor but we are not part of the church?

As described previously in the context of a fiscal agency, this grant opportunity is for established Code section 501(c)(3) organizations that are public charities and have youth programs which have been operated for three full years. SYPI grants will be made directly to organizations that directly provide programming for youth, and not to fiscal agents (or fiscal sponsors) that are not the youth service providers. In this case, your organization must meet the eligibility requirements independently of the church.

Are religious organizations eligible to apply?

Yes. Religious organizations meeting the criteria on Page 2 of the RFP are eligible to apply.

Do public education foundations or school districts qualify for this opportunity?

No. As noted in the RFP, K-12 schools, school foundations, higher education institutions, youth sports leagues and government agencies are ineligible for the SYPI funding, regardless of whether they meet the criteria listed in the RFP. These exclusions apply to public education foundations (i.e., school foundations) and school districts (i.e., K-12 schools).

Are government agencies or units eligible to apply?

No. Government agencies are not eligible to apply, and this applies equally to government units.

Are public libraries and friends of public libraries eligible to apply?

Public libraries are considered government agencies for purposes of this initiative and therefore are not eligible to apply. Friends of public library organizations might be eligible, but only if they meet all of the

eligibility criteria - we would expect that most such organizations do not directly serve youth and therefore would also be ineligible to apply.

May organizations who received similar funding under a separate Endowment grant opportunity in 2022 apply for this round of funding?

The following national organizations and their affiliates are ineligible to receive funding through this initiative as they received funding in round one: 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. This second round is intended to reach independent organizations and those with national affiliations that were not a part of round one. (See RFP Page 3.)

If an Indiana organization is affiliated with a national organization, who should apply for the grant?

If the national organization has ongoing influence or control over the budget, governance, and/or operations of the youth-serving program in Indiana, the national office should apply on behalf of its Indiana affiliates. If it is a looser affiliation connected only by initial start-up support, a license to use branding or similar non-continuing oversight relationship, the Indiana youth-serving organization is eligible to apply independently.

Funding Considerations

Can an organization submit more than one grant request?

No. An eligible youth-serving organization may submit only one application. It may request funding for multiple program activities in the application, however.

Is an organization eligible to apply if it received funding from the Endowment in recent years?

Organizations that received funding through the Endowment's Summer Youth Program Fund (Indianapolis), the Summer Youth Capital Fund, the Youth Program Resilience Fund and the holiday assistance grant initiative are eligible to apply provided they meet the other criteria. It is unlikely that an organization will be favorably considered for SYPI funding if it receives significant other regular support from the Endowment or has recently been awarded a substantial grant from the Endowment for any purpose. (RFP Page 4)

Is our organization eligible to apply if we received a grant from our local community foundation or United Way that was funded by Lilly Endowment?

Yes.

If our organization has received other support from the Endowment will that prohibit us from applying for this grant opportunity?

No. However, the Endowment will take into consideration the extent to which an 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, with the exceptions of grants made through the Summer Youth Program Fund (Indianapolis) and the Youth Program Resilience Fund (2020).

Does “sustainable staff retention” mentioned in the RFP include payroll? Can funds be used for staffing expenses?

Yes. Sustainable staff retention is related to any effort to maintain staff needed for your program. However, if grant funds are to be used for payroll and staffing expenses, your proposal should clearly explain how you plan to continue the efforts after the grant ends.

Would the construction of a new building qualify for potential grant money?

This is not a major capital expense opportunity. The amount for which you may apply is the average of your last three years of operating expenses. Therefore, please consider your maximum request per the guidelines, aligned with your funding goals, for the best and highest use of potential funding (capital expense or otherwise). Page 3 of the RFP provides some examples.

Although our organization meets many of the criteria, we are concerned we are not large enough with average annual operating expenses of \$55,000. Can we apply?

Organizations with budgets of any amount are eligible to apply. The initiative was structured, however, to provide an opportunity for eligible organizations serving a significant number of youth in the area, among other factors, as noted in the Funding Considerations on Page 4. The size of your budget may limit the number of youth you are able to serve and therefore may make your application less compelling in this initiative.

If our organization is seeking to apply to for multiple categories of funding (program, capacity, capital), does the total proposal need to equate less than \$1,000,000 or are the categories considered separate proposals?

\$1,000,000 is the maximum amount that can be awarded regardless of how the organization proposes to use the funds, or in how many different categories it proposes to use them.

If our average three-year budget is \$300,000, can we ask for that amount per each year of the grant, or is that the total ask?

The total amount requested, for all years of the grant, should not exceed \$300,000.

Our youth-serving organization had a disruption of service due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The three-year look back at financials will be skewed. Do you want typical years instead?

Please provide actual operating expenses for the last three years. You may include additional details in the grant budget narrative for the Endowment’s consideration that describe the disruption to funding due to the pandemic.

Can multiple nonprofits collaborate with those who operate under the same mission but in different locations?

Yes, multiple organizations can collaborate in submitting an application; however, while the Endowment values collaboration, it encourages organizations to consider both the advantages and disadvantages of a collaborative or joint application. Should two or more organizations collaborate and submit an application together, the amount to request would be based on the lead applicant’s average of its last three years of

operations. The funding would go to the lead applicant, which will also have reporting responsibility for all of the grant funds awarded. In such a case, the Endowment would receive one application with a single budget. The budget should include all the expenses for conducting your proposed program or project in all locations.

Application Guidelines & Submission Checklist

What should I include in the proposal narrative?

On Page 5 of the RFP there is a detailed list of information that should be included in the proposal narrative.

How long can the narrative portion of the application be? Does it include the online form?

As noted in the RFP, the narrative portion should be no longer than eight pages in length and does not include the online portion section in the page count.

Can you provide an example of the requested tax-exempt determination letter?

You can find a sample letter on the SYPI website at lillyendowment.org/strengtheningyouth.

What are you looking for in the letters of support?

No more than three letters of support from other organizations can be included in the application describing how the applying organization has been impactful in the community. It is helpful for a supporters to describe in this letter how the proposed program or project will be effective and additive to the community. If applicable, a supporter should describe in this letter the role it plans to play in the proposed programs or projects (e.g., financial supporter, collaborator).

Does the grant application require submission of an independent audit?

No. The application should include the most current board-approved financial statements or audit.

Our organization serves youth ages zero to 19; however, our budget is not broken down by programs provided to different age groups, as the same basic services are provided to all. Should we present the organizational budget as is for all ages, or show expenses only for the percentage of caseload for those five to 18-years-old?

To the extent possible, your budget should focus on the expenses needed to carry out the youth program with a focus on the program needs for five to 18-year-olds. If you are able to break out these costs, please explain how you have done so in the budget narrative.

Should we structure our project and budget in the form of a three-year timeline?

The project and budget may be structured over a period of up to three years, understanding that some projects may take less time and the project description and budget need only cover that shorter period where appropriate. There is a budget template on the website at lillyendowment.org/strengtheningyouth to help you construct your budget.

Can the request for funding carry across multiple fiscal years? Is the funding required to be spent by a certain period?

Grants would cover a three-year period with an anticipated start in late 2023 or early 2024. It is understood that expenses may be within one or multiple years depending on the type of project and expenses. It will be up to the organization to determine how to budget and expense grant funds, but it is expected that all grant funds would be expended by the end of the three-year period.

Can the proposal be written for matching funds to secure additional support?

SYPI grants do not require matching funds; however, you should include information about other funding sources (top five) in your proposed budget as described in the “Application Guidelines and Submission Checklist” section in the RFP.

There was reference to this being a three-year grant cycle. If our project is shorter (e.g., a software implementation), do we propose a shorter cycle? Or do we just continue reporting on impact for the full three-year time designated?

As noted previously, we understand that some projects will take less time to complete. Indicate the timeline for each project in your application - the period for reporting on impact should be at least as long as that timeline, but may extend beyond that in certain cases.

Should a letter of intent be submitted?

No. A letter of intent is not required.

Questions & Technical Assistance

When and where are the regional Indiana Youth Institute (IYI) information summits?

March 20, 2023, French Lick Springs Hotel, French Lick, Indiana

March 21, 2023, Ivy Tech Community Campus, Indianapolis, Indiana

March 22, 2023, Sammlung Platz Event Center, Nappanee, Indiana

Additional local clinics will be held at several locations throughout Indiana. To learn more and to register for any of the IYI sessions, visit iyi.org/strengtheningyouth.

Where on the Endowment website can I find the RFP and application?

You can find the RFP, up to date information and the application at lillyendowment.org/strengtheningyouth.

General

What reporting requirements are involved with the grant?

Grant reports generally would be on a six-month basis with a final report due one month after the grant term ends.

How is funding disbursed? Is it awarded in total, is it reimbursed based on proof of expenses, or is it divided into portions given out across the grant period?

Funding is planned for disbursement in total once a grant agreement is signed by both the grantee and Endowment.

Is this a one-time grant?

Yes. Currently, there are no plans for another SYPI initiative.