



Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow

Phase VIII (GIFT VIII)

Frequently Asked Questions

The following frequently asked questions (FAQs) are meant to provide additional guidance to community foundations regarding the funding opportunities available through Lilly Endowment's Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow Phase VIII (GIFT VIII) initiative. For full details on the requirements for each of GIFT VIII's funding opportunities, please refer to the GIFT VIII [Request for Proposals](#).

General Guidance

If a community foundation decides it is not able or willing to pursue one or more of GIFT VIII's funding opportunities, will its ability to participate in future GIFT initiatives be affected?

No. While the Endowment hopes GIFT VIII's funding components can benefit each community foundation's efforts to enhance its community's quality of life, participation in any component of GIFT VIII will not be required as a condition for participation in any future GIFT phase the Endowment might offer, provided the other eligibility criteria for such phase are met.

Matching Fund Grant Guidance

What qualifies as a matching fund for GIFT VIII's Matching Fund Grants component?

Qualifying matching funds must consist of contributions of cash or property (e.g., marketable securities, cash equivalents and real property), including irrevocable pledges that are required to be paid to the community foundation by December 31, 2027, and the present value of irrevocable deferred gifts (e.g., charitable remainder trusts). Qualifying matching funds also include payments received during the GIFT VIII matching period on pledges executed on dates after the end of the GIFT VII matching period (October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2021) and prior to the commencement of GIFT VIII.

Can contributions from community foundation board members qualify for purposes of both GIFT VIII's Matching Fund Grant and Board Engagement Grant?

Yes. Board member contributions will qualify for both GIFT VIII's Matching Fund Grant and Board Engagement grant opportunities; this is an exception to the Endowment's general prohibition regarding double matches by the Endowment.

Will contributions from charitable endowments, trusts, private foundations, and educational funds, among other non-governmental organizations dedicated to charitable and/or public purposes, qualify as matching funds?

It depends. Grants from non-governmental organizations dedicated to charitable and/or public purposes that are made in the ordinary course of their operations may qualify as matching funds for GIFT VIII, as determined by the Endowment on a case-by-case basis.

Will contributions from governmental sources qualify as matching funds?

No. Contributions received from governmental sources will not qualify as matching funds.

Will contributions received from a donor advised fund (DAF) qualify as matching funds?

It depends. Contributions from a DAF held by a commercial firm (e.g., Fidelity Charitable Services) made in the ordinary course of its operations may qualify as matching funds, as determined by the Endowment on a case-by-case basis.

Distributions from a DAF that is held or controlled by an Indiana-based community foundation will not qualify as matching funds to that or any other community foundation, even if such distributions are made in the ordinary course of operations for the DAF.

If a community foundation chooses to allocate a portion of its GIFT VIII Matching Fund Grant to the Community Projects and/or Programs (CPP) and/or Internal Capacity Building (ICB) options, can funds contributed by the community foundation itself to support projects, programs and/or capacity-building activities qualify as matching funds?

No. Qualifying matching funds raised for both the CPP and/or ICB options must be from external sources and designated for the specific projects, programs and/or capacity-building activities identified in the community foundation's Matching Fund Grant proposal.

If a community foundation receives an unrestricted contribution from a donor, would that contribution qualify as matching funds for the CPP and/or ICB options if the community foundation elected to direct those funds to projects, programs and/or capacity-building activities that were funded through those matching options?

Yes. Unrestricted contributions received by the community foundation would qualify as matching funds for the CPP and/or ICB options if the community foundation elected to direct those funds to projects, programs and/or capacity-building activities that were funded through those matching options.

If a community foundation allocates a portion of its Matching Fund Grant to support local projects and/or programs through the CPP option, would a contribution to a permanently restricted fund held by the community foundation (e.g., agency endowments) qualify as matching funds if it is intended to support and/or sustain the community project and/or program being funded?

Yes. If the community foundation receives donor contributions to permanently restricted funds that are intended to support the projects and/or programs being funded through the CPP option, those contributions would qualify as matching funds. If a community foundation plans to establish and/or solicit contributions for a permanently restricted endowment for projects and/or programs funded through the CPP option, it must describe the rationale and purpose of the fund in its Matching Fund Grant proposal.

Please note that a community foundation is not required to allocate its Matching Fund Grant to such permanently restricted funds, but instead may use the Matching Fund Grant for current expenses of the associated project and/or programs. For example, if the community foundation received \$100,000 from

donors to establish a maintenance endowment for a new public park, those contributions would qualify as matching funds even if the community foundation elected to allocate \$100,000 of its Matching Fund Grant for current expenditures relating to the park's construction and/or amenities.

If a community foundation allocates a portion of its Matching Fund Grant to support local projects and/or programs through the CPP option, would contributions made to organizations other than the community foundation qualify as matching funds?

No. Only contributions directly received by the community foundation to support local projects and/or programs funded through the CPP option will qualify as matching funds. For example, if a community foundation elected to use its Matching Fund Grant to support a local human service agency's programming, funds received by the agency would not qualify as matching funds.

After a grant has been awarded, can a community foundation modify how it allocates its GIFT VIII Matching Fund Grant between the Unrestricted Endowment Building, CPP, and/or ICB options?

It depends. While a community foundation must designate in its Matching Fund Grant proposal how it intends to allocate its grant between the three matching options, it can request to modify the allocation during the grant period. In such cases, the community foundation should contact the Endowment for further guidance. The Endowment will consider each modification request on a case-by-case basis.

Community Leadership Grants Guidance

Does the Endowment expect each community foundation to assume a specific type of leadership role in either phase of GIFT VIII's Community Leadership Grants component?

No. As noted in the GIFT VIII [Request for Proposals](#), the role a community foundation may play leading efforts to enhance the local quality of life will vary from one foundation to another given differences in operational capacity, expertise, organizational priorities, and local needs and culture. Some community foundations may be well-suited to direct local initiatives while others may demonstrate leadership by playing a supporting role in partnership with other organizations. The Endowment encourages each community foundation and its board of directors to identify its responsibilities, capacities and opportunities within the context of its local landscape to inform the type of leadership role it takes in addressing local issues.

Can a community foundation submit multiple applications for Phases 1 and/or 2 of GIFT VIII's Community Leadership Grants component?

For each phase of GIFT VIII's Community Leadership Grants component, a community foundation may submit or collaborate on up to two (2) proposals including one or both of the following: 1) one proposal for the county the community foundation serves; and/or 2) one joint/regional proposal for a multi-county region. A community foundation may not submit two (2) proposals specific to the county it serves, nor may it participate in two (2) proposals for a multi-county region. Additional guidance on joint/regional proposals is described below under its own section heading.

Phase 1 Planning Grants

Can a community foundation that has already engaged in community planning activities skip the Community Leadership Grants Phase 1 planning period or use its eligible planning grant funds for other purposes and still be eligible to submit a Phase 2 Implementation Grant concept paper?

No. A community foundation must participate in Phase 1 of the Community Leadership Grants component to be eligible to participate in Phase 2. A community foundation's engagement in a planning process in the county it serves and/or in a planning process for a multi-county region will qualify the community foundation to participate in Phase 2.

What types of planning activities can a community foundation undertake using its Phase 1 Planning Grant?

Phase 1 Planning Grants are meant to support externally-focused planning and assessment activities that engage broad and diverse stakeholders and are relevant to each community foundation's local context. Planning grants may be used for a variety of purposes, including, but not limited to:

- Community discussions, interviews and meetings with a diverse cross section of local stakeholders and residents to deepen the community foundation's understanding and prioritization of its county needs.
- Engagement of consultants to synthesize and assess existing community plans and/or facilitate the development of new plans.
- Reflection on key lessons learned from the community foundation's participation in GIFT VII and/or other community leadership efforts.
- Project feasibility studies.
- Site visits to other communities.
- Conferences or seminars covering topics and/or strategies that are relevant to addressing local challenges or opportunities (e.g., affordable housing, workforce development, education).
- Development of a concept for Phase 2 of the Community Leadership Grants component.
- Supplies needed to conduct planning activities.

Can Phase 1 Planning Grant funds be used to support another local and/or regional organization's planning activities?

Yes. If a local organization (e.g., economic development organization, local arts group, parks department) is engaged in planning activities that align with the community foundation's objectives for its Phase 1 Planning Grant, the community foundation may use its planning grant to support that planning process. However, the community foundation should describe in its proposal how it intends to be actively engaged in supporting those planning activities. For example, the community foundation could be responsible for convening groups of local stakeholders and residents whose input would be valuable to those planning activities.

Is there a certain time period a Phase 1 Planning Grant should cover?

Phase 1 Planning Grants are intended to support robust planning activities in late 2023 and early 2024 ahead of the Phase 2 Implementation Grant submission deadline on April 30, 2024. This said, a community foundation can use the planning grant for a period of up to one year to engage in activities that further

its understanding of local needs, such as stakeholder convenings, resident outreach and community assessments, among others.

What level of detail should a community foundation include in its Phase 1 Community Leadership Planning Grant proposal?

Planning grant proposals should address the GIFT VIII guiding questions on page 8 of the GIFT VIII [Request for Proposals](#) and provide a high-level overview of a community foundation's goals for the planning period and the activities it plans to execute to accomplish them. While the proposal should describe the activities the community foundation plans to execute during the planning period, this description does not need to be certain on every detail. For example, the proposal may describe a community foundation's plans to engage a consultant to conduct a community assessment; however, the proposal would not need to identify the specific consultant who will be hired.

Phase 2 Implementation Grants

Can an organization other than a community foundation be the recipient of a GIFT VIII Phase 2 Implementation Grant?

No. GIFT VIII eligibility guidelines specify that only Indiana community foundations that have satisfactorily participated in a previous GIFT phase or program may participate in the initiative; however, there may be appropriate situations where a community foundation's concept paper involves regranting and/or providing financial support to other organizations as part of its community leadership strategy to address local challenges and opportunities.

Can a community foundation propose using Phase 2 Implementation Grant funding to support existing community foundation leadership initiatives or activities, such as those begun during GIFT VII?

Yes. A community foundation may propose to further enhance or expand existing work, including those activities implemented during GIFT VII. However, the Endowment encourages each community foundation to contemplate the GIFT VIII guiding questions and use the Phase 1 planning period to assess whether community stakeholders still believe the community foundation should prioritize addressing the opportunities or challenges addressed through GIFT VII grant activities or other community leadership efforts.

How much funding can a community foundation request as part of Phase 2 of GIFT VIII's Community Leadership Grants component?

A community foundation can request Phase 2 Implementation Grant funding based on the population of the county it serves. Eligible grant amounts range from up to \$5 million for smaller counties to up to \$20 million for Indiana's most populous county.

There is no prescribed funding formula to determine the amount requested; however, the budget included with a concept paper should be scaled to the anticipated impact of the proposed project and/or program being proposed. The Endowment expects to make grants in a range of amounts. Accordingly, larger funding requests will need to have an anticipated impact at a scale that justifies the amount of the funding request.

How many grants will be awarded through Phase 2 of the Community Leadership Grants component?

The Endowment has allocated up to \$60 million for Phase 2 grants. The Endowment is not targeting a specific number of grants to award; rather, the number of grants awarded will depend on the number and quality of concept papers submitted and full grant proposals invited, among other factors.

For what purposes can Phase 2 Implementation Grants be used?

Community foundations should consider a broad range of projects and/or programs and areas of focus they could address through this funding opportunity, including, among others, education (Pre-K, K-12, higher education), affordable housing, human services, economic and workforce development, arts and culture, early child care and youth programming. However, the Endowment encourages community foundations to be selective in prioritizing the challenges and opportunities they propose to address so that their efforts can be appropriately focused and strategic. Concept papers may include multiple and related programs and/or projects; however, proposed projects and programs that are complementary and part of a cohesive strategy will likely be viewed more favorably by the Endowment. Please note that any proposed grant activities must serve a charitable purpose.

What budget categories can be included in a Phase 2 Implementation Grant concept paper?

The Endowment expects Phase 2 Implementation Grants will be deployed to directly address high priority local challenges and opportunities and that grant expenditures may include, but are not limited to, program and administrative staff, equipment and supplies, consultants, capital investments, and regranted funds, among others, related to addressing the prioritized challenges or opportunities. A community foundation may allocate no more than 10 percent of its total funding request to its own overhead costs associated with implementing the proposed project and/or program. These expenditures can include, among other costs, staffing, supplies, rent and/or utilities.

The budget narrative included with the concept paper should describe each budget line item and explain how it was calculated, including any assumptions made.

Do activities or projects funded through Phase 2 of the Community Leadership Grants component need to continue beyond GIFT VIII?

No. The Endowment is open to concept papers that include one-time funding expenditures that would not need to be sustained. A community foundation also may submit a Phase 2 Implementation Grant concept paper that includes a proposed project and/or program that continues beyond GIFT VIII but is not required to do so. If a community foundation intends to continue the proposed project and/or program after the Endowment's grant has been expended, the community foundation's concept paper must include a credible plan that demonstrates how it expects to develop resources to sustain the proposed project and/or program. A community foundation should not expect the Endowment to provide additional funding for the proposed project and/or program beyond the GIFT VIII grant period.

May a portion of the Phase 2 Implementation Grant budget include funds to support the concept's future sustainability (e.g., endowment funds, asset development activities)?

The Endowment anticipates some Phase 2 concepts will be a one-time project and/or program that would not need to be sustained beyond the grant's implementation timeframe. However, some concepts may include a proposed project and/or program with an extended implementation timeframe. Except in

especially compelling situations, a community foundation should allocate no more than 15 percent of the Phase 2 requested funding amount for activities that support the ongoing sustainability of the proposed project and/or program. Community foundations invited to submit a full proposal should be prepared to address questions from Endowment staff about how the proposed project and/or program will be sustained beyond the grant period, if applicable.

Does a Phase 2 Implementation Grant concept paper need to identify external funders?

No. Commitments from external funders are not required at the concept paper stage. However, if the total funding request for a proposed project and/or program is greater than the community foundation's funding request to the Endowment, or the community foundation intends that the proposed project and/or program will be continued beyond the Endowment's grant period, the community foundation should explain in its concept paper how the foundation expects to develop resources to address any funding gaps and/or the financial sustainability of the proposed project and/or program. A community foundation invited to submit a full proposal will be required to present in its full proposal a credible plan to address any funding gaps or obtain the necessary funding to sustain the proposed project and/or program after the grant period ends. At the full proposal stage, commitments from external funders will be looked at favorably by the Endowment, if applicable.

Is there a certain time period a Phase 2 Implementation Grant should cover?

While the GIFT VIII [Request for Proposals](#) does not mandate a specific time period during which Phase 2 Implementation Grants must be spent, grant periods should not exceed five years. Regardless of the length of time during which grant funds will be spent, the Endowment expects that each grant will be paid as a single sum (rather than in parts paid out over multiple years). If a Phase 2 Implementation Grant covers a grant period of more than one year, the budget should detail how grant funds will be used each year during the grant period.

How soon should a community foundation begin to implement its proposed project and/or program?

Except in rare instances, the Endowment would expect that Phase 2 Implementation Grant activities would commence no later than the end of 2025.

How much detail will be required in the Phase 2 Implementation Grant concept paper?

As stated in the GIFT VIII [Request for Proposals](#), a concept paper for a Phase 2 Implementation Grant is meant to provide an overview of an especially compelling project and/or program that could address a more substantial, larger impact challenge or opportunity. A clear framework for the proposed project and/or program should be developed during the concept paper stage, but it is not necessary to have 100 percent certainty on every detail.

In its concept paper, a community foundation should present a statement of need that includes a rationale for the proposed project and/or program. This rationale should be corroborated by research findings, community assessments, statistical projections, and/or assessments of the work being (or not being) done to address the issue, among other things. The concept paper must also identify the core activities and strategies associated with the proposed project and/or program, the resources and collaborations needed

to execute those programs or strategies, and the anticipated timeline for their execution. In addition, the concept paper should describe what the proposed activities are expected to achieve and how success will be evaluated and measured.

Joint/Regional Proposals

What should a community foundation consider when deciding how and whether to collaborate on a joint/regional proposal for either phase of GIFT VIII's Community Leadership Grants component?

While joint/regional collaboration is not a requirement for GIFT VIII's Community Leadership Grants component, the Endowment encourages each community foundation to ensure it is knowledgeable of regional plans and efforts being developed and/or implemented in its respective region. In determining whether to participate in a joint/regional collaboration, each community foundation should consider its own capacity and the potential role it would play in executing regional efforts.

Collaborating community foundations that submit a joint/regional proposal will need to designate which one community foundation will serve as the grantee and provide the rationale for why the counties to be served by the joint/regional collaboration were selected (e.g., regional plans developed through READI, multi-county child care coalitions, cross-county trail networks). Additionally, the proposal should describe, among other things, each collaborating community foundation's key roles and responsibilities in executing grant activities and how the community foundations intend to work together to coordinate regional projects, programs and/or strategies.

How much funding can collaborating community foundations request through a joint/regional proposal?

In each phase of the Community Leadership Grants component, collaborating community foundations submitting a joint/regional proposal may request funding at a level that corresponds to the eligible funding for the collective population size of their multi-county region. Please refer to the GIFT VIII [Request for Proposals](#) for eligible funding amounts by county population size for both phases of the Community Leadership Grants component.

If a community foundation submits or collaborates on a joint/regional Phase 1 planning proposal, must it submit or collaborate on a joint/regional Phase 2 concept paper?

Community foundations may submit or collaborate on a joint/regional proposal in one or both phases of GIFT VIII's Community Leadership Grants component. If a community foundation submits or collaborates on a joint/regional Phase 1 proposal, it is not required to also submit a joint/regional Phase 2 concept paper. Conversely, if a community foundation does not submit or collaborate on a joint/regional Phase 1 proposal, it still may submit or collaborate on a joint/regional Phase 2 concept paper.

Board Engagement Grants Guidance

Does a board member need to make a single \$500 contribution for their community foundation to qualify for the Board Engagement Grant?

No. To qualify for the Board Engagement Grant, a community foundation must be able to document a cumulative contribution of at least \$500 paid during the period from January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, from each individual serving as a voting member of the relevant board or county committee during

the same period. Board members may make multiple contributions during that period to reach the \$500 contribution threshold.

Do board member pledges qualify for purposes of the Board Engagement Grant?

No. Qualifying board member contributions must be paid to a community foundation no later than June 30, 2025.

Do contributions to a community foundation made through a board member's personally owned business qualify for purposes of the Board Engagement Grant?

No. Contributions made directly from a business owned by a community foundation board or county committee member will not qualify as a contribution for purposes of the Board Engagement Grant.

Please email any additional questions to the Endowment at gift@lei.org.